

# MAMA Sez!

Volume 33, Issue 12

August, 2021

"Serving Delmarva Car Modelers for 30+ Years!"



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

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#### 2021 <u>Get-Together</u> Schedule

In the near-term, with our Greenbelt location unavailable (alternate locations are being considered, including the Fire museum), interested modelers may "show up" at the Fire museum on the schedule listed below (based on their comfort level), from 10 am to 2 pm:

- July 17th
- AMAugust 21st
- September 18th
- October 16th
- November 20th
- December 18th

Hope to see you there 🚍

#### STILL SWELTERING In Place—Summer IS Here!

Another "Gettogether" was held last
month on the traditional
MAMA meeting day at
the MD Fire Museum,
with no apparent response from MAMA's
"old" meeting place in
Greenbelt. With the current vaccination rate at a
level allowing the state to
"Re-open for business,"
it appears that the club
may need to pursue a

new meeting location. Anyone with ideas is directed to provide info to a club officer for vetting.

For current "Get-together" directions, please refer to the last page. And, yes, the preceding paragraph WAS repeated, but sadly, still current!



Poncho
Parade this month
is a bit different,
thanks in large
part to my lovely
wife and car-crazy
son. And, oddly
enough, STILL

Poncho-related!

I hope all of you are doing whatever is necessary to be safe, especially if you are in the target group—*Tim* ₩

Moebius' release of the 1965 Mercury Comet Cyclone kit brought to mind the story that led to my friend Jimmy getting rid of his Comet. His was actually a Comet Caliente. It was close to, if not already more than, 20 years old when he bought it and it was not what you'd call a pristine example. Not by any stretch.

I'm pretty sure that Jimmy's Comet had once been dark blue. Its paint actually looked more like it had been through a caustic bath followed by



an industrial chemical spill, but blue seemed to be the main theme of the prismatic compound swirls and streams.

My friend didn't own that car for very long, just a few months. We got it running well enough to serve as his reliable daily driver. Unfortunately, those trips back and forth to work took a rapid toll on one particular part of the car.

Driving home from work one day Jimmy caught a red light about a mile from home. His was the first car in line as he sat there, waiting for the cross traffic to clear the intersection and the light

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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.

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Dave Schmitt's "Dynamic Duo"!



More goodies from RMCM of MD



JAGUAR E-TYPE ROADSTER

Lotsa parts in that Revell kit!

Stock...or modified?!

Quite the lineup here!



Bob Dudek's "colorful" (Tamiya-hued) "Hemi-fied" '32





Don Krone has been busy, here, and...

...here! I'm kinda diggin' the 442 in the background, Don!



Paul Lee is another "busy bee"...

...adding a couple'a "Killer" Bugs!









Don Krone has been busy

Have a cookie, and seeya next month!

#### Scale Auto Enthusiast's Greatest Hits!!

Albeit it not in its heyday, rather more in a "final issue" format, this annual has a few articles of interest to me.

I guess it's technically a publication of Fine Scale Modeler, but we all know that the two publications were both products of Kalmbach. I don't know about you, but it'll always be Scale Auto to me.

I'd like to thank my son Nick for bringing this one home. He saw it on one of his trips to the bookstore, and felt that I would want to see it. Why, you ask?

It is a very good issue, including several how-tos on an assortment of cars. The articles that struck my fancy? Two articles by **Bob Downie** on **Firebirds**—the first from C1 Models, and the other the Missing Link '76 Firebird, both transkits. Sadly, the Firebird articles were a bit too challenging to get clean scans to

use here.

I **DO** have both kits, and look forward to see what Bob had to say, and hope that I can do them justice when I do finally take the plunge.

The other article by *Jeff Bloomhuff* was even more interesting, detailing the conversion of a '70 *GTO hardtop* into a *convertible*.

Thanks to Howard Weinstein for this idea! C'mon guys—find something in Scale Auto's vast library and send it along

to share with the membership. I'm sure you can find **SOME- THING**—this title is full of invaluable info—*Tim* 



Know what "GOAT" stands for? Greatest Of All Time, natch! © ₩



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A *Chevy Bolt EV* owned by a Vermont state representative *spontaneously caught fire* while sitting in his driveway last month.

Vermont Rep. Timothy Briglin told Automotive News his 2019 Chevy Bolt EV was charging in his driveway the night of June 30 when it suddenly caught fire. The vehicle was involved in a recall that 'GMC' issued earlier this year due to fire concerns, however, it already underwent repairs as part of the recall on June 9th.

"Fortunately, there were no injuries as a result of this incident," 'GMC' said in a prepared statement regarding the vehicle fire. "We have reached out to the customer and are actively investigating the incident and gathering additional information to understand the specific circumstances."

'GMC' recalled some Bolt EVs last year after it received numerous reports from owners of the vehicle's battery pack overheating and catching fire – typically while the vehicle was parked or charging. The automaker issued a recall for affected vehicles in April, which instructed dealers to inspect the battery packs of affected vehicles and install an onboard diagnostic software capable of detecting major problems with the battery before they occur. Dealers were also instructed to replace the battery entirely in some vehicles. It's not clear what kind of repairs were performed on Briglin's car.

Briglin told Automotive News that prior to the fire, he was enjoying his ownership experience with the vehicle.

"Clearly any consumer product has to be safe, and clearly the particular car that I owned had a catastrophic event," he said. "Prior to that, I'd had a very good experience with the electric vehicle."

'GMC' has also bought back some Bolt EVs involved in the recalls through a buyback program, while another owner was able to trade their vehicle in for a brand new 2022 Bolt EV at no extra cost. 'GMC' is only offering the buyback program in certain states.

Speaking of Bolts, 'GMC' is once again asking owners of 2017-19 Bolt EV crossovers to park them outdoors amid concerns the vehicles will spontaneously catch fire.

'GMC' received reports of two separate Bolt EV battery fires last month, both of which involved vehicles that had already been repaired as part of its widely publicized recall campaign for the battery-electric compact car. One of the fires involved a vehicle owned by a Vermont state law-maker, while the other involved a private citizen's vehicle located in New Jersey.

In a statement issued recently, 'GMC' said it is advising owners involved in the recall campaign to

#### **GOVERNMENT MOTORS**

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



#### AN AMERIKAN REVOLUTION



park their vehicles outdoors for the time being.

"General Motors has been notified of two recent Bolt EV fire incidents in vehicles that were remedied as part of the safety recall announced in November 2020," the company said. "Out of an abundance of caution, we are asking owners of 2017-19 Bolt EVs who were part of the recall population to park their vehicles outdoors immediately after charging and not leave their vehicles

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'GMC' Recall Ticker
# of Recalls
221 (!)
# of Vehicles Affected
53.740.261

#### Gov't (cont'd)

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charging overnight while we investigate these incidents."

'GMC' previously issued a recall of 69.000 2017-19 Bolt EVs after it received numerous reports from owners that their vehicle's battery pack overheated and suddenly caught fire. As part of the recall campaign, dealers were instructed to inspect the battery packs of affected vehicles and install an onboard diagnostic software capable of detecting major battery pack problems before they occur. Both of the vehicle fires in Vermont and New Jersev involved vehicles that were already repaired as part of the recall campaign, however, prompting 'GMC' to issue new safety guidance for owners of affected models.

"At 'GMC', safety is our highest priority, and we are moving as quickly as we can to investigate this issue," the automaker added.

'GMC' has also offered to buy back some Bolt EV models involved in the initial recall campaign, but the buyback offers are only being issued in states where certain Lemon Laws apply.

'GMC' has issued a recall for an *unknown number* of 2022 *Chevy Bolt EVs* and *Bolt EUVs* over an issue related to the driver airbag.

'GMC' has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in these vehicles. One of the two fasteners that secure the driver frontal airbag to the steering wheel may be missing or improperly torqued.

If all airbag fasteners are not properly installed, the airbag may not properly deploy, increasing the risk of injury in a crash.

Dealers will inspect the driver air-

bag fasteners, replace any missing fasteners and assure that both fasteners are properly installed. If proper torque can not be achieved, the driver airbag assembly will be replaced.

'GMC' has issued a product safety recall to replace an *unknown number* of Continental brand tires on *2019 Chevy Silverado* and *GMC Sierra 1500 pickup trucks*.

The vehicles affected by this recall were already part of a previous Continental recall to address overcured tires, however due to an omission in the initial service bulletin, dealers may have failed to identify and replace affected tires on 2019 Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra trucks that should have been involved in that campaign.

Continental Tires determined the tires involved in this recall may have been overcured during the manufacturing process. Overcured tires may experience carcass break in the sidewall with sudden air loss or could develop a belt edge separation which could lead to partial or full tread/belt loss. These conditions may increase the risk of a crash.

Dealers will inspect vehicles and replace tires that have DOT number and production mold number combinations that are identified in the Continental re-



call. The tires will be replaced at no cost to the vehicle owner.

'GMC' has issued a product safety recall for *TWO* (as in *ONE—TWO!*) 2021 Chevy Tahoe and *GMC Yukon* full-size SUVs over an issue related to the braking system software calibration.

A dealership technician may have programmed the vehicle's brake system control modules (BSCM) with the incorrect calibrations.

If the vehicle has the wrong BSCM calibrations, this could affect the performance of various vehicle safety systems, including electronic stability control, traction control and anti-lock braking. Additionally, this condition can cause these systems to perform poorly in certain low traction conditions and may lead to the total loss of trailer braking while towing. For this reason, vehicles with this condition have an increased risk of a crash.

Dealerships will be instructed to reprogram the BSCM module with the correct calibrations and data files. This will prevent the conditions listed above and ensure all of the vehicle's safety systems perform as intended.

'GMC' and NHTSA have issued a recall for 86 2020-21 Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra 2500HD trucks that were shipped

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#### C8 Watch

Michigan State Police reportedly took two suspects into custody in mid-July after a *high-speed chase* through Midtown Detroit resulted in the destruction of a brand-new 2021 C8. Thankfully, no injuries were reported.

Per a recent report from Click On Detroit, the C8 was reported stolen around 10 AM from a dealership in the northern Metro Detroit suburb of Novi. Police managed to track it using OnStar.

Law enforcement spotted the stolen C8 around 10:30 AM between Gratiot Avenue and Outer Drive, at which time the vehicle fled, initiating a high-speed chase with police.

The pursuit ended on Chrysler Driver between Canfield Street and Warren Avenue after the C8 crashed, sideswiping a van and colliding with several parked vehicles. Following the wreck, two perps fled on foot, but were shortly apprehended by police.

Per photos published by Click On Detroit, the stolen C8 looks totaled, broken into several pieces on the road. Finished in Black, the mid-engine sports car is missing a good portion of the front passenger-side fender, suspension, and wheels. The rear bumper looks as though it was torn off in the collision, while the airbags are deployed. Several of the vehicles on the street appear to be damaged as well.

The MSP Metro Detroit police published dash cam and body cam footage of the incident on social media. The footage opens with a dash cam view

of a police cruiser approaching the wrecked C8. Pieces of the car block the road, while smoke and steam can be seen drifting up from the torn body pieces. The video continues with a police cruiser cutting through an apartment complex in pursuit of a suspect.

With nearly 500 hp on tap, the temptation to push the limit in the C8 must be strong. Unfortunately, one 'GMC' dealer tech gave into that temptation by *street racing a customer's C8*.

Per a recent post to social media, user *tastysauce* explains that they brought their brand-new C8 to a dealer for an engine issue.

The new Vette owner captured the issue in a brief video.

According to the social media posts, the issue turned out to be a loose spark plug. No



big deal, and an easy fix. However, the 'GMC' dealer tech that performed the repair ended up taking the customer's C8 for an "extended test drive," even going so far as to engage in a street race with a Dodge Charger on the highway. Unbeknownst to the tech, the whole thing was captured on the Performance Data Recorder (PDR).

The PDR footage was later posted to social media, giving the world a front-seat view to the tech's poor decision making. Clocking in at about 19-and-a-half minutes, the video documents the speeding and accelerating hard, weaving through traffic and hitting triple-digit speeds on several occasions. Around the 10:50 mark, the C8 comes up on a Dodge Charger on a crowded freeway, and before long, the two idiots start slicing through traffic, at one point hitting 148 mph (according to the owner, the PDR



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#### T 'n T

"Ghost Ridin' the Whip—Gone Wrong." Some folks do the dumbest things to make strangers on the Internet think they're cool. That includes the Chevy Silverado owner featured here, who, in his quest to "do it for the 'Gram," ended up getting run over by his own Silverado pickup truck. Recently making the rounds on social media, this video is brief and brutal. It starts with a heavily modified Silverado pickup truck, which appears as though it's been "squatted"—that is, the suspension has been altered to add ride height in front and decrease ride height in the rear, giving it a considerable negative rake angle. The wheels and tires have also been modified with aftermarket components. The owner (we're guessing it's the owner, at least) exits the cabin and lets the truck move ahead in drive, propping the door open as he goes. It looks as though he wants to "ghost ride the whip," a popular stunt wherein the driver exits their vehicle and walks/dances next to it as it rolls forward without anyone behind the wheel. A passenger is also seen hanging out of the rear window. Things go OK at first, with



the owner posing next to his truck and dancing as it rolls. However, after throwing out a few moves, it looks like the truck starts to pick up a little

speed. The owner clearly isn't ready, and starts to fall behind before accidentally catching his foot underneath the rear tire. Unable to dislodge his foot, the dancing owner is thrown to the ground as his modified truck proceeds to run him over. We then hear a sickening snap as the owner's bones shatter under the heavy truck, all while the owner screams in pain. It's uncertain exactly what injuries he sustained, but rumor has it the femur is the culprit behind the snapping noise. Lesson learned don't try this at home, kids. Likes aren't gonna pay the medical bills. Ouch...No Flying Cars?!? Sci-fi fans that dream of ordering up a flying-car taxi service will be excited to learn that several major automakers, including 'GMC,' are actively working towards making that dream a reality. However, according to one 'GMC' exec, its unlikely anything will be launched prior to the 2030 calendar year. Per a post from Reuters, the VeePee of 'GMC's' Global Innovation team indicated that flying cars are still about a decade off. "I think that there's a long pathway here," Fletcher said at a recent Reuters event. "2030 is probably a real commercial inflection point." "It's a very nascent space," Fletcher added. "There's a lot of work to be done on the regulatory



ogy side." For now, existing flying car concepts feature things like zero emissions via batterypowered operation, as well as a vertical take-off and landing similar to a helicopter. The new flying cars could be used to transport either passengers, or cargo. Back in January, 'GMC' unveiled the Cadillac Vertical Take-Off and Landing Vehicle (VTOL) concept at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES). Described as an "allelectric, single-seat, wellappointed aircraft," the VTOL concept is said to be capable of achieving speeds up to 55 mph, providing quick transport for business types eager to get from Point A to Point B quickly, bypassing ground-level traffic. Hyundai is working on a similar concept powered by batteries and capable of transporting five to six people. Unlike 'GMC', the South Korean automaker expects urban air taxis could be operational as early as 2025, or perhaps even earlier. Toyota, Daimler, and Geely are also working on flying car services (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 🖷

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#### VFTB (cont'd)

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to change color. When the traffic light finally turned green, Jimmy moved his right foot from the brake pedal to the accelerator and revved the engine: the car sat still.

After few more tries, he got out and checked under the hood. Everything looked fine. Then he walked around to the side of the car and started to look underneath it. He didn't have to look too far: there was an enormous pool of transmission fluid on the road. flowing out from under the car on both sides. The automatic transmission had pretty thoroughly emptied itself while Jimmy waited for that green light.

After most of the cars that had been behind him changed lanes and sped by, a kindly fellow stopped and helped him push the car across the intersection and into a corner gas station parking lot. They got the car parked next to a phone booth (kinda tells you how long ago this happened) and Jimmy called a buddy with a roll back to take his Merc home. The buddy was busy towing another vehicle, so Jimmy would have to wait a bit for the free haul. No problem, it was a beautiful day.

While waiting for the roll back to arrive, Jimmy sat on the hood of his Comet, in that parking lot, facing and in full view of the intersection stained with a huge puddle of Mercon brand trans foo (that was our slang term for fluid), enjoying the summer weather. He laid back on that hood with his sunglasses on, eyes closed and feet dangling in front the ofgrille. Then he heard the crash. No tire screechor ing, horn honking. Just crash.

The traffic light had turned red again and an unwitting driver applied his

brakes in an effort to stop as he should. Problem was he was entering the ever spreading foo puddle and lost all traction. His car slid silently into the coming cross traffic at nearly a full 40 mph and T-boned another vehicle. There were no injuries, but the collision did make quite a mess. It was serious enough that rescue personnel and police arrived as well as the requisite tow trucks.

Still waiting on his buddy, Jimmy watched all the cleanup and report-taking activity to pass the time. Happily, the cleanup included a tow truck driver clearing the slippery foo from Facebook.com/BizarroComics the intersection. After the responding police officer's work with the involved drivers was finished, he noticed Jimmy across the intersection: sitting on his car hood where he'd likely have had a good view of the collision. So the officer walked across the intersection to ask Jimmy a few questions.

The officer asked Jimmy if he was there when the collision occurred and Jimmy replied that he was. The officer then asked if Jimmy had seen



it happen and he replied that he'd been lying back on the hood and was nearly asleep when the sound of the crash startled him awake. The officer's last question was about why Jimmy was sitting on his car hood in the gas station parking lot. Jimmy responded in all truthfulness that he was waiting to meet a friend who was on the way and then they were going to go to his house.

How fortuitous for Jimmy that his buddy with the roll back arrived after the police officer left—

Tim Powers



Len Feinberg & The Central Pennsylvania Model Car Club proudly present the:

## Super September Showdown

Model Contest & Vendor Show! 21 Class Trophies, PLUS Best in Show!

2021 Theme

Military Themed Cars & Trucks!







ANY Service Branch! ANY Style! ANY year! ANY scale!

September 12th, 2021 / 9AM- 2PM
Keystone Fire Hall / 240 N Walnut St, Boyertown, PA 19512
Admission is STILL JUST \$5 and covers your registration!

Please limit your entries to 10 per class per person. Food will be available on site.

For vendor info, contact Len at 610-923-7534 or fnplastics@aol.com. For trophy sponsorships & contest information, e-mail centralpmcc@hotmail.com or go to www.cpmcc.org



#### Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 7)

with an incorrect spare tire.

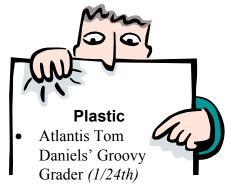
The vehicles were all ordered with either the 20-inch accessory road tire (RPO code REM) or the 18-inch accessory road tire (RPO code Q2V). Despite the 18-inch or 20-inch wheels, the trucks are equipped with a 17-inch spare tire.

Operating the vehicle with one 17-inch tire and three 18-inch or 20-inch tires can prevent the Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) from engaging. A vehicle with ABS may have reduced braking performance or may be prone to locking up the tires under heavy braking.

'GMC' dealers will be instructed to provide the owner with the appropriate spare tire and will apply a new spare tire information label. These repairs will be performed at no cost to the vehicle owner.

'GMC' will notify owners of affected vehicles and instruct them to make an appointment with their dealer. If owners are unsure whether or not their vehicle is affected by this recall, they can visit <a href="my.gm.com/recalls">my.gm.com/recalls</a> and type in their VIN to see any open recalls or other actions that may be active on it.

I really don't know if anyone over at 'GMC' has a clue anymore—Assorted sources ₩



- Atlantis Tom Daniels' Unreal Roller (1/24th)
- Atlantis '69 Nova (1/32nd)
- Atlantis '82 Camaro (1/32nd)
- AMT '64 Galaxie 500XL Craftsman Plus series
- MPC '82 "Turtle Wax" Dodge van (stock/custom)
- ◆ Salvinos' '72 "STP" Charger 등







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This month, we have something different—an unexpected surprise that came my way.

The wife and I were relaxing recently, when Nick mentioned the fact that the new Hallmark ornaments were out for 2021. She then decided to take a peek, and she came across a '71 Judge!

She told me about it, and without me saying a word, she ordered it then and there! She's a keeper!

I will say that it took an inordinately long time to arrive. The irony here is that Nick ordered and received one before mine arrived!!

With that said, the odd thing when it arrived was its color— Carousel Red. Even though it appeared to be orange in the box art picture, I half expected it to have

turned out to be Cardinal Red Nope, it was about as orange as you can get!

As is standard operating procedure, the rear plate depicts the year of issue.

Funny thing is that Debbie recently asked why I don't put any Pontiac ornaments on the Christmas tree!

So, let's continue bringin' 'em and showin' 'em-virtually! 'PoP' (Pontiacs on Parade!) Sickle signin' off! And don't for-

1971 PONTIAC® GTO™ JUDGE™ christmas tree ornament écoration pour l'arbre de noë get-MAMA may not need all these Ponchos, but I'm diggin'

'em—thanks!! Here's looking for a better year in '21—Tim



This is the newsletter of the Maryland Automotive Modelers Association

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MAMAs BoyZ do it in scale!

#### C8 (cont'd)

data readout was in fact 147.6 mph).

This isn't the first time we've heard about a 'GMC' tech getting crazy in a customer's C8 only to be outed by the PDR. In a previous video posted to YouTube by user Jaysmizle, the 'GMC' tech in question accelerated to 104 mph.

Guess that makes one less C8 on the highways. Thankfully, the other one survived—Assorted sources 🚔

#### Websites

Central PA Model Car Club:

https://www.freewebs.com/cpmcc/ LIARS Model Car Club:

https://www.liarsmodelcarbuilder s.com/

Philly Area Car Modelers:

http://www.pacms.org/

NNL East:

https://www.nnleast.com/

Carlisle Events:

https://www.carlisleevents.com

East Coast Indoor Nationals:

https://motoramaproductions.com/ east-coast-indoor-nats

Online Event Calendar:

www.NortheastWheelsEvents.com

If you would like to attend the monthly "Gettogether," here is the necessary info:



The Maryland Fire Museum is located off York Road (1301) at the Beltway I-695, Exit 26B, in Lutherville, 410-321-7500. Go north on York Road and make the first right to go behind the Heaver Plaza Office Building. Free parking is available, and it is handicap accessible. No RSVP is required.

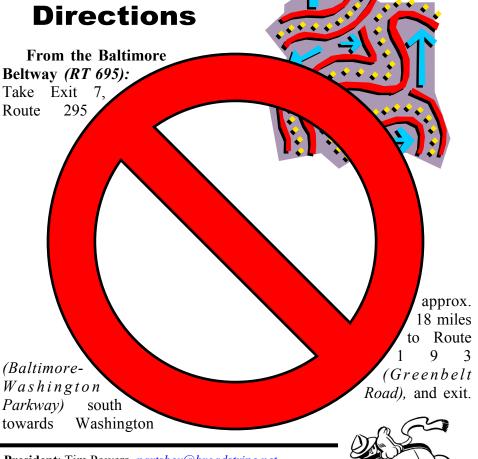
FYI—current Maryland COVID-19 guidelines will be respected and enforced.

Come join the fun!

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/



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