

This is the newsletter of the Maryland Automotive Modelers Association

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2022 MAMA 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 1 pm:

- √ January 15th
- February 19th
- ←March 19th
- April 16th
- May—No Meeting!
- June 18th
- √MJuly 17th
- AMAugust 20th
- September 17th
- October 15th
- November 19th
- December 17th

Hope to see you there 🖷

MAMA Sez!

Volume 34, Issue 12

August, 2022

"Serving Delmarva Car Modelers for 30+ Years!"



Dog Days of Summer!

Another great meeting, but for a different reason than size. When was the last time you went to a meeting and a *car show* broke out?! Refer to pages 4 and 5 for a brief recap of some of the neat stuff that showed up, and what you missed.

If you want to join us,, refer to the schedule below for dates and hours, and the last page

for museum location details.

raffle The raised **\$72.00**, while the door kicked in \$127.00. meaning that we more than made the rent. Thanks to the following donors: Steve M. Buter, Mike Costic, Meany, Lyle Willits, Ron Shirey, and Replicas & Miniatures Co. of MD. Thanks guys—we 'preciate it.

Despite Dave Toups choosing *Rick Donovan's Nova panel* as the *VeePee Pick*, there is no column, as I was awaiting details at press time.

Poncho Parade sees a split focus on both full-size and scale subjects.

I hope all of you are still doing whatever you feel is necessary to be safe—*Tim* **\(\infty\)**

Every time I see a dark blue '65 Chevy Biscayne two-door sedan, I think of how I spent my 14th birthday.

Before I can tell you about that I have to give you some background: the suburban neighborhood where I grew up there was a guy, about five years older than me, who lived just a block up the street, on the other side. His name was Randy and he was one of the bad kids. Not just tough and rough, but He hung around with the other bad kids,



smoked cigarettes and dope, drank beer, dropped out of school, and randomly got in trouble with the law.

I remember seeing him and another one of the bad kids running through the neighborhood one summer afternoon. I was just starting to roll out of my yard on my bike when I saw them. They weren't jogging, they were running like their lives depended on it, but they were laughing, too. Close behind them was an Anne Arundel County Police Officer, gun drawn, repeatedly yelling, "Stop or I shoot!" They really

(Continued on page 12)

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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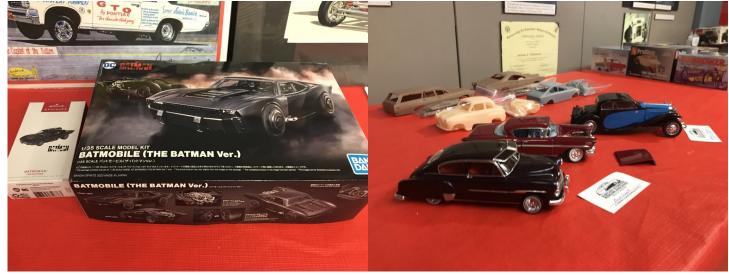






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Page 4 MAMA Sez!













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'GMC' and NHTSA have issued a recall for 23,734 2018-20 Buick Regals over an issue related to the power brake assist.

As a result of a potential vacuum-power brake assist failure, a software error in the factory electronic brake control module (EBCM) of affected vehicles may lead to a loss of power brake assist. These vehicles also fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard #135 related to "light vehicle brake systems" based on this condition.

A vehicle with no power brake assist may have a hard-feeling brake pedal with reduced braking performance, requiring more effort to slow the car down. A vehicle with reduced braking performance is at an increased risk of a crash, NHTSA says.

Technicians will be instructed to update the ECBM software in affected vehicles. This remedy does not require repair parts and will be performed at no cost to the vehicle owner.

'GMC' is recalling 242 2022



Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra full-size trucks over an issue related to the accessory Sport Bar.

The trucks are equipped with

the accessory Sport Bar, which features an integrated highmounted brake light that may not function. In addition, it may block the vehicle's existing factory highmounted brake light. As such, these vehicles may fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 108, "lamps, reflective devices, and associated equipment.

An inoperative rear high-

mounted brake light may reduce visibility to other drivers and increase the risk of a crash, according to NHTSA. As mentioned

above, a vehicle without this light will also fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.

Dealers will be advised to inspect the installation of the accessory Sport Bar and provide

the correct vehicle wiring, if necessary, to ensure the highmounted brake light is operating as intended. These repairs will be

GOVERNMENT MOTORS

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



ON OMERIKAN REVOLUTION



performed at no cost to the vehicle owner.

'GMC' has started a voluntary production emission recall for an *unknown number* of *2022 Chevy Malibus* over an issue related to the engine control module and factory high-pressure fuel pump.

This voluntary emissions recall applies to Malibus with the turbocharged 1.5L gas engine. The engine control module could set a diagnostic trouble code for the high pressure fuel pump, even though there is no actual malfunction with the pump.

This is an emissions recall, so the problem does not pose a safety hazard to the driver or vehicle occupants. However, vehicles with a diagnostic trouble code for the

(Continued on page 7)

Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

high pressure fuel pump may be placed into a low engine power mode, which can affect the performance of the vehicle.

Dealers will be instructed to reprogram the engine control module of affected vehicles.

These repairs will be performed at no cost to the vehicle owner.

'GMC' will mail letters to notify owners of affected vehicles instructing 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 my.gm.com/recalls and type in their VIN to see any open recalls or other actions that may be active on it.

For 2023, all Buicks and GMCs will come standard with a three-year OnStar and Connected Services plan, which will be paid as part of the vehicle price and range from \$905 to \$1,675 depending on the model. This news was not very well received by <u>GM</u> <u>Authority</u> readers, with their original article on this change generating nearly 100 comments from current or potential 'GMC' vehicle owners expressing their displeasure with the Connected Services strategy.

One <u>GM Authority</u> reader summed up many readers' thoughts with his comment, which pointed out that most drivers will already have access to certain connected apps and features through their smart phones and may not need a separate internet connec-

tion in their vehicle.

"This is ridiculous. I have all I need with my cell phone," a 'GMC' owner said in the comments section. "\$1500 is way

too much for this hardware/service that is completely unnecessary. It should be optional. Trucks cost 'way too much these days."

Another reader decided this was enough to convince him to stick with Chevy trucks for the foreseeable future.

"I guess I'll be crossing off a new GMC truck for late this year," he said. "I have two newer Chevys and never used OnStar's services. Another mistake by 'GMC.'"

E-mails to <u>GM Authority</u> from readers were unhappy with the introduction of the baked-in On-Star And Connected Services plan. One reader said he likes On-Star, but simply doesn't like being forced to purchase it. This appears to be the general consensus, with many other readers expressing displeasure with being forced to purchase the plan, rather than disliking OnStar itself.

OnStar and Connected Services adds a separate, invehicle internet connection to power apps like the smartphone-based remote key fob, Alexa Built-In AI assistant, Spotify, Audiobooks, navigation (including Maps+) and more. These plans also include OnStar Safety Services, such as Automatic Crash Response,



Roadside Assistance and Stolen Vehicle Assistance.

Having an internet connection will be important to the EV ownership experience, as this will enable features like 'GMC's' Ultium Charge 360 platform and its new Plug and Charge payment system. 'GMC' also has plans to add new in-vehicle digital subscription services, many of which will likely require an internet connection. The automaker has said it expects most consumers will be willing to spend an additional \$135 a month for in-vehicle subscription features, as well. Ask BMW about the heated seat debacle! Guess that shows how out of touch 'GMC' really is—Assorted sources 🚔

'GMC' Recall Ticker

of-Recalls
249 (!)
of-Vehicles Affected
55.318.027

CHEVROLET

·· stands for

Constantly Having Every Vehicle Recalled Over Lousy Engineering Techniques



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C8 Watch

Nobody likes traffic. It can bring out the worst of impatience, prompting drivers to attempt maneuvers on the road's shoulder in order to save a few precious minutes during a commute. In one such incident captured on video, a C8 driver made a decision to follow a pickup truck onto the median, but quickly found his vehicle—and driving skill—ill-suited to the task.

The video, was posted on Instagram, depicts a highway bound by traffic, with several vehicles traveling in the wrong direction in the left lane in an attempt to get out of gridlock by turning onto the shoulder. A Chevy Avalanche takes the plunge first, but it struggles to find grip in the lowest part of the grassy median. That doesn't bode well for the next vehicle in line, a bright red, low-slung C8. "This is the one I want to see right here," the cameraman says as the C8 approaches the median.

The C8's attempt goes south immediately. The driver appears to cut the turn too sharply and isn't able to avoid running over the guardrail, which gets caught in the vehicle's right rear wheel with a crunch. The driver clearly notices that something isn't right and

stops, but there is no way but forward at this point. The C8's wheels spin as the driver gets on the throttle to try and ditch the downed guardrail, but ends up tearing off piece of it, which drags behind the car as the driver carries on through the median.

Cheekily, the cameraman added a caption on the video. "Today, we learn a lesson in patience," it reads. "Old school ruined the ride for nothing." The caption also noted that traffic started moving just two minutes after the C8 attempted its creative gridlock escape.

Cars like the C8 are supposed to be fun. With a mid-engine layout and loads of power, the eighth -gen Corvette certainly has a lot going for it. That said, the way in which some folks out there choose to enjoy their ride can be, well, dumb, as is the case in the following video.

The video was recently posted to social media, and opens on a city street during the day. The

> video was shot from the passenger seat of another car, and shows a C8 covered in Amplify Orange Tintcoat paint speeding down the right side of



the street. For some reason, a passenger is seen rolling around on the rear engine cover, hanging off the rear spoiler as the driver leans back to talk.

Unfortunately, because he's leaning back and looking at the passenger, the driver behind the wheel of this C8 convertible doesn't see a Lexus LX that's backing out into the middle of the street. Exactly what's going on with the Lexus is also a bit of a head-scratcher, as it's uncertain why the SUV is basically perpendicular to the other lanes, but either way, it's in a prime position to collect the C8.

Predictably, the C8 collides with the rear bumper of the Lexus SUV and immediately starts to smoke. It appears as though one of the front heat exchangers was punctured in the collision, while the rear bumper of the white Lexus SUV is a little dented

As the camera moves forward, we see the damage on the Vette. The front bumper is hanging off, one of the headlights is crooked,



(Continued on page 9)

C8 (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

and a fountain of coolant is dripping down onto the street. The driver, however, doesn't seem terribly concerned, smiling and surveying the wreckage.

It's unclear how much work it'll take to get the C8 back on the road. That said, you can't fix stupid.

Last month, 'GMC' announced that it would auction off a one-of-one '23 C8 Z06 finished in an exclusive Minted Green exterior color, along with an associated non-fungible token (NFT) that enables the winning bidder to claim they "own" the one-of-one exterior color.

The fine print of the contest reveals an interesting detail about the new Mint Green exterior color for the car that many readers may not have noticed when the auction was first announced. The rules indicate the vehicle will be "painted by a 'GMC'-authorized third party with the color Minted Green (RPO Code RFN)," and that "such paint job will not be covered by 'GMC's' New Vehicle Warranty," as a result. So while this is a factory 'GMC' exterior

color with an RPO code, it's not backed by the automaker's factory warranty.

It's also worth noting that the winning bidder of the C8 Z06 and the associated NFT do not actually "own" th e Minted Green exterior color. As the fine print states, "'GMC' agrees that it will not apply this color to another production

vehicle C8 Z06," and "'Own the Color' in no way imparts, transfers or bestows any ownership rights or title to Minted Green, other than the agreement from Chevy stated above.""

"The Successful Bidder acknowledges that 'Own the Color' is the title of the NFT/marketing campaign only and Successful Bidder has no rights pursuant to 'Own the Color,'" the fine print states.

This joint NFT and C8 Z06 auction went live on June 20th



and ended on June 24th. Bids had to be placed in the Ethereum cryptocurrency and all proceeds from the sale will benefit *Donor-sChoose*, a nonprofit organization that allows American public school teachers to request and receive school supplies for everyday classroom work or special student projects. The prize vehicle comes equipped with the Z07 performance package and will be delivered to the customer through an official Chevy dealership of their choosing—*Assorted sources*

Mecum Insanity

Here is the Top 10 sellers from this years' Mecum Harrisburg auction (including buyers' and sellers' fees). Yours truly, Nick, and Matt Guilfoyle did driving duty there. We may revisit the auction next month, at which time,

I will explain the asterisk.

1. '21 Mercedes-Benz AMG Black Series—\$473,000 2. '85 Lamborghini Countach LP500S—\$467,500

3. '77 Trans Am S/E-\$440,000

4. '53 Corvette Roadster— \$407,000

5. '67 Corvette Roadster— \$297,000 6. '19 Corvette ZR1 Coupe— \$286,000

7. '58 Corvette Roadster— \$275,000 *

8. '19 Corvette ZR1 Coupe— \$258,500

9. '63 Corvette Coupe—\$253,000

10. '68 Shelby GT500KR— \$236,500

—Tim Sickle ₩

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Showcase

Just a small showcase of writer and awardwinning modeler

Marcos Cruz's incredible handiwork.

A few details:





- ◆ The color is factory Persimmon Red and clear is Testors Wet Look, all wet sanded, polished and waxed. All metallic colors for the engine were done with Alclad, Testors Metallizers and Rub and Buff which is a pastelike product to give the high parts of the engine some depth after a black wash
- The interior was painted with Tamiya Insignia
 White which matches the real factory color well
- Plumbing is done using RB Motion fittings along with Pro Tech braided lines. I also added water heater hoses which the kit does not supply
- All of the chrome trim on the model is supplied in the kit, no need for Bare Metal Foil. The chrome trim around the light bezels is also kit supplied and fits perfectly without any issues.
- Rivets from RB Motion were used on the flares replacing the molded on ones
- ◆ The only thing I didn't like about this kit is that it doesn't give you the option of making it left hand driven but other than that, I think it's one of the most beautiful kits Tamiya has ever produced.

Nice job, Cruz—Tim



T 'n T

Miniature KITT! The first season of Knight Rider, the iconic TV series starring David Hasselhoff, was released to the public on the 26th of September, 1982. That means the 40th anniversary of the action crime drama is just around the corner, and Hot Wheels is marking the occasion with a limited-edition 1982 Trans Am diecast replica of the series' artificially intelligent hero car, KITT. Hot Wheels recently unveiled a unique diecast model with a working LED scanner bar, emulating the original "anamorphic equalizer," from the series, along with an accurate gloss black-painted exterior with black wheels and a blue and yellow California "Knight" plate. Users will be able to recharge the diecast via a charging port in the bottom of the vehicle. Hot Wheels staff product designer Brendon Vetuskey said the KITT model marks the first time the company has been able to integrate a working LED light bar into a smaller diecast model. KITT also features a full interior, further setting it apart from regular Hot Wheels cars. "So what makes this car different from all the previous Hot Wheels castings is it has a working scanner, which

we've never been able to do in 1:64 scale before," Vetuskey ex-"Also plained. equally impressive is we still have an interior. so we still have the dashboard. the seats, even added a courtesy cover in the trunk, so it's a little point of difference from o u r mainline castings." KITT was based on an '82 Trans Am, with

the vehicle's A.I. system voiced by actor William Daniels. The vehicle is one of the more iconic cars from the small screen, joining the ranks of the Dukes of Hazzard's General Lee and the original Batmobile. The Hot Wheels KITT model was available to purchase via Hot Wheels web shop on July 22nd, or from the Mattel booth at the San Diego Comic Con last month...NASCAR Slot Cars?! The transition to NASCAR EV racing seems inevitable, and fans could get a taste of its battery-powered future as soon as

'23, as leaked documents indicate that the racing series plans to launch an EV-only support series next season. Screenshots of the documents were uncovered, reveal-

ing plans to bring a prototype EV race car to the track next year, where it will debut at the preseason '23 Clash at the Coliseum in Los Angeles. In the third quarter of '23, NASCAR will then introduce a six-race support series with EV race cars at six venues "likely aligned with Cup Series events." It's not clear if Cup Series drivers will participate in the events, however. Each EV racing event will include a roster of just 12 race cars. There will be two 30-minute races, one on Saturday and the next on Sunday. The goal is for the EV race cars to be able to run lap times on par with the gas-powered racers, and noncompetitive pit stops will be allowed for teams to change tires or fix crash damage, while charging and battery swaps will not be allowed. The vehicles will feature all-wheel-drive powertrains capable of up to 1,000 hp, from three





(Continued on page 14)

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VFTB (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

didn't seem to believe him. They all three quickly disappeared down the road and through someone's yard and over to the next block.

As far back in my pre-teen years as I can recall that Randy and I had always seemed to be aware of each other because of living so close, but we were indifferent to each other. He didn't bother me, I didn't bother him.

In the summer/fall of 1974 when I was 12 years old, I was in the neighborhood park one evening. My buddies had all gone off to other places and I was just hanging loose when I noticed a good-sized group of kids doing something over in the far corner. I was kinda far away, but I could see them well enough to tell that there were kids about my age and older in their group. I even realized that there were a couple of adults, too. Apparently, I was watching them long enough for them to realize it and they all started waving me over. All of them.

They turned out to be the vouth group from t h e neighborhood Baptist church just three blocks away. I was familiar very with the building and its location having ridden by it on my like this one bike possibly

thousands of times, I'd just never been in it. Anyway, they invited me to join them in the fun they were having. I did. It was good. I became a regular. Even joined the church.

The following year, as our group was meeting in the park one evening, we spotted someone checking us out so we all waved him over and asked him to join us for some fun that night. He came over and as he approached, I could see it was Randy. He accepted our invitation to join us. He had a good experience. He became a regular.

I have always believed that in

order for a person make a significant change in their life. they have to want change and they have to have something driving their desire to change. I think a lot of



Randy's '65 Chevy Biscayne was painted Danube Blue,

social programs fail to recognize that reality and just charge forward thinking they'll do good, only to see participants revert to old habits and bad ways because the individuals simply didn't have that fundamental desire to change.

I don't know what drove Randy. I don't know why he joined the church youth group. I don't know why he went and got himself a job with the facilities maintenance crew at the Curtis Bay Coast Guard Station. But he did.

Randy stopped hanging with the bad kids. He stopped abusing drugs and alcohol. He turned his life around so much and so well that his step-father handed down to him a Danube Blue '65 Chevy Biscayne. Randy was doing great, we hung around together, and I took every opportunity I could to wangle a ride in that car.

1976, Randy spotted a car that had pulled over on the shoulder of MD Route 100 between Ritchie Highway and Oakwood Road. He was in the far lane from the shoulder where the driver had pulled over

to Late at night on March 17, (Continued on page 14)



Model Car World (MCW) '65 Chevy Biscayne kit

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!

2022 THEME CLASS:

FABULOUS 40'S CUSTOMS

When:

September 11th, 2022 / 9AM- 2PM

Where:

Keystone Fire Hall / 240 N Walnut St, Boyertown, PA 19512

Admission:

It's STILL just \$5 and covers your registration!

<u>Please limit your entries to 10 per class per person.</u> 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



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high-output motors and a 200 kW regen unit. The uncovered documents also indicate that NASCAR will employ what it learns from the EV racing division to "determine the best path forward in a national series for '25." In fact, the next-gen racer, which debuted for the '22 Cup series season, was designed with electrification in mind, and can support the addition of hybrid motors without mods. NASCAR has not confirmed plans for an EV-only series next season, but in early '22, Steve O'Donnell, NASCAR Chief Operating Officer, stated that the organization was looking into an exhibition series consisting of battery electric race cars. Reportedly, NASCAR's push toward electrification will include "exploring options for sound (?!)," bringing excitement to what would otherwise be a silent drive. The sanctioning body and manufacturers may also consider the use of

crossover or SUV bodies (?!) in T'n T (cont'd) the future to reflect recent buyer trends and embody the "win on Sunday, sell on Monday" mantra. If NASCAR does, in fact, go allelectric, it will certainly be interesting to observe which vehicles each manufacturer chooses to run. Currently, Chevy runs the ZL1 coupe, but the production model will be discontinued after '24. There could be a yet-unveiled Bowtie EV waiting in the wings for a Cup series debut. Meanwhile, Ford could choose to move forward with a Mach-E racer. Guess they'll be dubbing in the "Vroom! Vroom!" sound effects, too?!? (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 by sending stuff—I 'preciate it!)— Assorted sources 🚆



Ron's Rant



- Moebius '67 Ford F-350 Ramptruck
- SalvnosJR '84 R. Petty **Grand Prix**
- SalvinosJR '22 T Dillon Camaro
- SalvinosJR '22 E Jones Camaro 🚔





VFTB (cont'd)

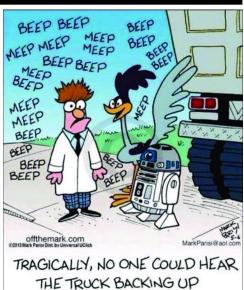
(Continued from page 12)

when he saw the car and its flat tire, so he pulled off onto the opposite shoulder. When traffic was clear, he began sprinting across the highway to help the lady with her flat. Suddenly, a drunk driving at very high speed rounded a curve and then swerved to run him down before he reached the other shoulder.

Randy's funeral/interment was

on my 14th birthday. I was there with others from the church youth group to say goodbye to a truly amazing person, and a friend.

In October of 2008, while at the NNL in Toledo, I spotted one of Model Car World's '65 Chevy Biscavne resin conversion kits and immediately thought of Randy. I bought the kit in hope of someday building a model of Randy's car. I haven't built it yet, but it is on my hobby room shelf ready for whenever I am—Tim Powers





This month, the column's will be kind of a mixed bag—both scale, and a word about full-size.

The scale portion comes by way of *Okey Spaulding*, in the form of a 3D-printed interior for the *Johan '56 Pontiac*.

It seems to be very well done. It is platform-style, with separate side panels. They have notches for the dash to slide into.

The steering wheel includes the shift lever, turn signal stalks, and even the shift quadrant.

The package tray in the rear is separate, and slots in nicely with the seats and side panels.

The bench seats are one *(rear)* and two piece *(front)* respectively, but Okey tells me that in future, that the front seat may be done in one piece.

Full-size? A few **Pontiacs** from **Mecum Harrisburg!**

Let's continue bringin' e m a n d showin' 'emvirtually! 'PoP' (Pontiacs Parade!) on Sickle signin' off! And don't forget-MAMA may not need all these Ponchos, but I'm diggin' 'em-thanks!! Here's looking for a better year 2022—Tim in







This is the newsletter of the Maryland Automotive Modelers Association

Chapter Contact:

Timothy Sickle 15905 Ark Court Bowie, Maryland 20716 Phone: 301-249-3830 Email: gtoguy@verizon.net

MAMAs BoyZ do it in scale!





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 avail-

able, and it is handicap accessible.

No RSVP is required. FYI—current Maryland COVID-19 guidelines will be respected and

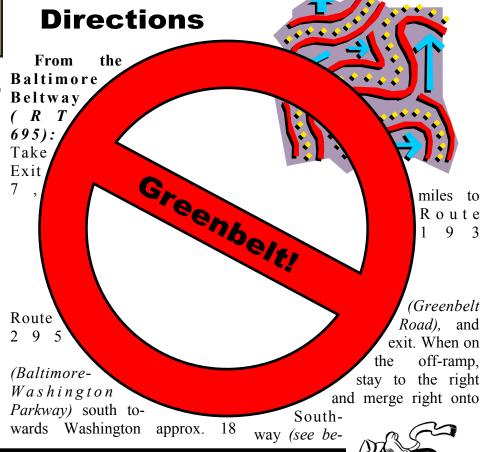
enforced.

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/



Club Contact Info

President: Tim Powers, <u>partsbox@broadstripe.net</u> Vice President: Dave Toups, davetoups 351@gmail.com Treasurer: Matt Guilfoyle, blackbuick1941@yahoo.com Newsletter Editor: Tim Sickle, gtoguy@verizon.net

Club Photog: Lyle Willits