



MAMA Sez!

Volume 36, Issue 3

November, 2023

"Serving Delmarva Car Modelers for 35 Years!"



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

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2023 MAMA Schedule

We meet in our new location, the **Salaried Employees Association (SEA) Union Hall**, 1300 Hanover Road, Hanover, MD 21076, on the schedule listed below, from **10 am to 2 pm**:

- ☞ January 21st
- ☞ February 18th
- ☞ March 18th
- ☞ April 15th
- ☞ May—**No Meeting!**
- ☞ June 17th
- ☞ July 15th
- ☞ August 19th
- ☞ September 16th
- ☞ October 21st
- ☞ November 18th
- ☞ December 16th

Hope to see you there 🚗

Happy Thanksgiving!



The October meeting was well attended (*as usual!*). Sadly, club Prez Tim P was a bit under the weather, and was MIA.

We discussed kit news. Thanks **Ron Shirey**, for the scoop.

We brought up our **Toys For Tots contribution**, due to their collection schedule as it relates

to our December meeting and "**Christmas Gala**" to celebrate the Yule season.

The "Pontiac Garage" was present, and filled to capacity.

The raffle raised **\$96.00**, while the door added **\$98.00**. Thanks to the following donors: **Brad, Steve M. Buter, Charles Glass, Matt**

Guilfoyle, Rich Meany, Mark Parkhurst, J.C. Reckner, Vinnie Tufano, Howard Weinstein, yours truly, Historic Racing Miniatures (Brad), Replicas & Miniatures Co. of MD (Norman), Ron Shirey and a **donor whose name was illegible**. Thanks guys—we 'preciate it—the food, too!—**Tim** 🍽️

"Call a Tow Truck!"

Intended to limit the competitors' speed during a cautionary period in a motorsport event, pace cars are a great way for automakers to advertise their vehicles to the general public. Unfortunately, the pink 'Making Strides Against Breast Cancer' ZL1 Camaro—which serves as the official pace car of the NASCAR cup series races at several racetracks—**suffered a breakdown** at Martinsville.

In a video captured

during the NASCAR Cup event, the pink Camaro pace car pulled over onto the shoulder of the race-track while the racers continued their slow cautionary lap. Immediately following the incident, it was unclear as to exactly what went down, as the

vehicle appeared to be in limp mode.

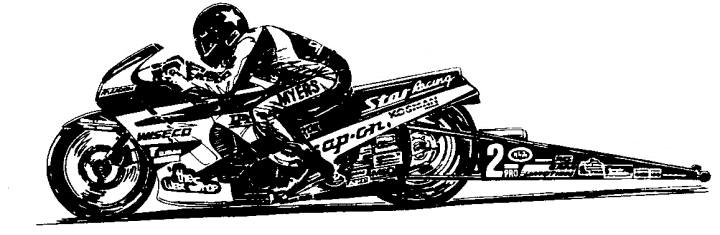
Following a brief period of confusion—which was quickly remedied by a safety truck temporarily taking over pace car duties—the Camaro was pulled into pit lane to diagnose the issue. Upon quick in-

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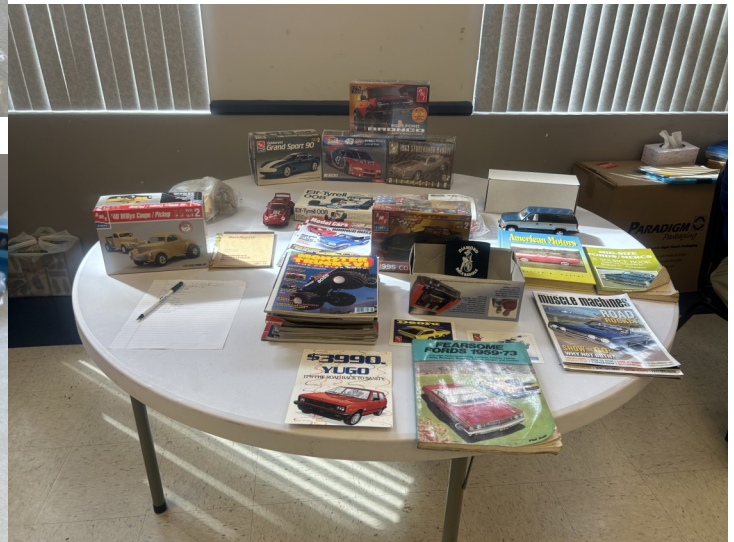
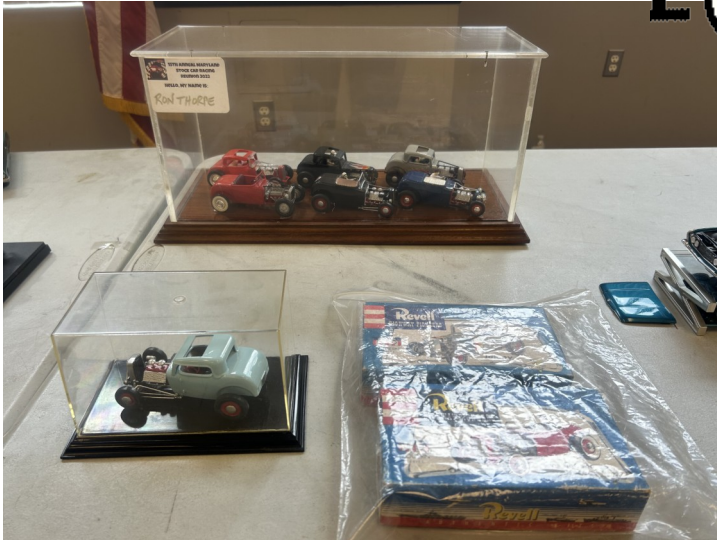
MAMA Meeting LOOK



MAMA Meeting



LOOK



Raffle Goodies!



T 'n T

Supercar Carnage! We've all had a bad day at work, but there are few among us who can say their bad day cost their employer *over a million dollars*. According to a report from *The Daily Mail*, a vehicle transporter was on the A20 highway near Farningham, Kent in the UK when the trailer containing *no less than nine high-dollar supercars, turned over*. When police arrived, the trailer and several cars were sprawled across the road. The truck driver, Richard Kilburn only suffered a minor injury but the same can't be said for the vehicles he was transporting. From video footage posted to Facebook, it looks like there was a *Lamborghini Aventador, Jaguar F-Type convertible, two Ferrari F430s, an Audi R8, a BMW 318i Sport Plus, an AMG GT Black Series, an Aston Martin DB11, a Nissan GT-R R35, and a Bentley Continental GT* that managed to get completely flipped upside down. According to a follow-up report from *The Daily Mail*, the carnage was actually the result of Kilburn trying to save lives. Kilburn was transporting the vehicles from Brands Hatch to Goodwood when his truck began to fishtail as he was going down a steep hill with crosswinds. Kilburn saw that he was gaining speed and was heading directly toward a group of cyclists on the road. To avoid hitting the cyclists he purposely yanked the steering wheel, causing the trailer to jack knife which saved the cyclists but doomed his expensive cargo. The AMG GT Black Series alone had

a starting MSRP of \$327,050 back in '21 and goes for anywhere between \$370,000 and as high as \$700,000 on the current market. *The Daily Mail* estimates the value of the supercars to be a little over *\$2.5 million*. The vehicles may have been property of *Everyman Racing Driving Experiences*, as that is who Kilburn was driving for when the incident occurred. Hopefully the parties involved have a really good insurance policy, otherwise some bank accounts are in for a major brusin.' In the meantime, Kilburn is being hailed as a hero for doing what needed to be done despite the massive financial implications to his employer. They may be some amazing vehicles but cars can be replaced, lives can't. This story was originally published from motortrend.com on August 25, 2023, and has since been updated with new information surrounding the crash. **Yikes...New Stuff!** In addition to the *Salvinos Indy cars* announced at last month's meeting (*thanks, Chuck!*), rumor has it that *Moebius Models* will be releasing a *'68 Chevy C10 pickup*, a *stock '65 Coronet* (followed by an *AWB version?*), and a *'70 Maverick* in 2024. Kudos to *Chuck Hermann* of *GTR Automodelers*, and *Jim*



Casassa of the *Hoosier Modelers*. **Thanks, guys! ...LEGAL Cruisin'!!!** "Low and slow." It is the timeless posture and tempo of the *lowrider segment* of car culture, in the US and around the world. The term "lowrider" is a designation that blankets the brilliantly painted and heavily blinged, ground-scraping, and, thanks to elaborate hydraulic suspension systems, sky-high-hopping vehicles. And it also identifies a lifestyle, one that emanates from Latin culture, tradition, and pride. When lowriders and hot rod enthusiasts use "cruising" as a verb, per very crude definition, they are talking about the practice of repeatedly parading vehicles back and forth on a street or through a specific area (*typically a small city or town's main street, or a shopping-center parking lot*), simply to show off, typically at

(Continued on page 5)

T 'n T (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

night in most US cities, or for Los Angeles-area lowriders, on sunny Sunday afternoons. Cruising includes an element of automotive posturing at its most grassroots level. It is a vehicle owner's desire for their ride to be seen by everyone who is within eyeshot as it glides down the block. We see cruising as one of many ways to celebrate car culture, and we engage in the activity in our own unique way, through **HOT ROD** Power Tour each year, and in 2023, for California and the Western states, with the return of Power Tour West. In 1982, the state of California issued a complete and total ban on cruising. The irony there was that the streets of SoCal are recognized as the place where cruising began (sometime back in the 1940s), with young Latinos congregating on Los Angeles-area boulevards to drive and hard-park their tricked-out sleds. The statewide ban amplified local ordinances that had been established through the years, with citations and vehicle impounding being potential penalties for those partaking in cruise gatherings or altering their vehicles for near-zero ground clearance. A big problem with the regulations was that they unfairly and, more important, inaccurately/stereotypically cited Latino participants as being gang-associated "criminals." On October 13, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom reversed almost 40 years of cruising being outlawed in the Golden State, and the modifica-

tion of a car or truck's suspension (to radically lower it) by signing California Assembly Bill 436. To reiterate the legal definition (per *California*), cruising is the repetitive driving of a motor vehicle past a traffic control point in traffic that is congested at or near the traffic control point, as determined by the ranking peace officer on duty within the affected area, within a specified time period and after the vehicle operator has been given an adequate written notice that further driving past the control point will be a violation of the ordinance or resolution. With respect to lowriding, and the hot rod hobby overall, the "What is cruising?" onion has many layers. For California, the bottom line is, it is now legal to do it...**MUSTANG time machine?!** Automotive product placement is a big deal when it comes to blockbuster films. Car brands see it as an opportunity to capture the hearts, minds, and wallets of potential buyers when their vehicles are featured on the silver screen—and they're willing to pay for the privilege. According to the documentary **"88MPH: The Story of the DeLorean Time**



**NO
CRUISING
FRI—SUN
8PM—6AM**

Machine," when Ford caught wind of *"Back to the Future,"* it offered Universal Studios \$75,000 for product placement rights. When screenwriter and producer Bob Gale was informed about it, he simply said, *"Doc Brown doesn't drive a f***ing Mustang"* and promptly rejected the offer. To see other interesting factoids, go here:

<https://www.motortrend.com/features/back-to-the-future-deorean-time-machine-facts/> (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 🚗



'GMC' has issued product recalls for the following vehicles:

- ♦ **62 2023 Cadillac Lyriqs** that may be affected by incorrectly calibrated software, leading to the vehicle potentially failing to emit pedestrian warning sounds when decelerating. An over-the-air update deployed between August 23rd and September 8th of this year is believed to have introduced incorrect calibration to the software of affected Cadillac Lyriq units. As a result, these vehicles do not produce an external warning sound when decelerating from 30 km/h to 25 km/h (*approximately 19 mph to 15 mph*).

With no external audible warning, pedestrians may be unaware of the approaching Lyriq, increasing the risk they will be struck by the crossover.

The fix is to reprogram the Body Control Module (*BCM*) with the correct software to that the vehicle will once again produce pedestrian warning sounds correctly. The software to complete this rem-

edy isn't available at this time. 'GMC' says it is working to develop the software fix "as quickly as possible." All affected 2023 Cadillac Lyriqs are marked as

"Incomplete – Remedy Not Available" under "Status" on the Global Warranty Management system Investigate Vehicle History

page for the specific unit. They should not be sold, traded, auctioned, delivered, demonstrated, or otherwise used by the dealership until repaired.

Additionally, all used units of the Lyriq that are currently 'GMC' Certified Used will be decertified until the fix can be applied. 'GMC' plans to mail notifications of the safety recall to owners on November 27th, 2023. The fix will be made available free of

GOVERNMENT MOTORS

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charge once it is ready. The notification letters may contain special instructions related to the recall.

'GMC' indicates courtesy transportation may be available to owners whose vehicle is still within its warranty, though no specifics are offered in the recall notice. Owners of affected crossovers can get more information or ask questions by contacting Cadillac

(Continued on page 7)



'GMC' Recall Ticker

of Recalls

295 (!)

of Vehicles Affected

57,106,884

Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

customer service and/or NHTSA itself.

- ♦ **8 2024 Cadillac XT5 and 9 XT6 crossovers** that may have been produced without the correct windshield adhesive. During assembly, the windshields may not have been bonded in place with primer and sealant, meaning the windshields of some units may not be attached properly to the vehicle body.

Lacking the proper adhesive to hold it in place, the windshield of affected vehicles could detach from the body during a collision, creating an increased injury hazard for the vehicle's occupants.

Dealer service techs will inspect the vehicles which may be affected by the recall, and determine if the windshield is correctly bonded in place with urethane sealant. If the windshield can be moved, it should be further inspected to see if it has cracks, breaks, or damage. If the windshield proves to be undamaged the, dealership should apply correct primer and urethane sealant and bond the windshield to the crossover body. If the windshield is

cracked or damaged, it should be replaced with a new windshield, which is then fixed in place with the proper urethane adhesive.

'GMC' issued a hold for all potentially defective units. This means dealers should not sell, deliver, demonstrate, or trade possibly affected crossovers until the vehicles have been inspected and cleared, or had the noted repair carried out if needed.

The GM Global Warranty Management system can be used to verify vehicle involvement before inspection begins. The Investigate Vehicle History screen of a specific XT5 or XT6 will be marked "Open" if an inspection and/or fix is required.

Owners of vehicles which might lack the necessary windshield bonding can contact Cadillac customer service, referring to the safety recall number to identify the specific issue, and request more information or voice their concerns.



- ♦ **234 2023-24 BrightDrop Zevo 600 delivery vans** due to an issue related to airbag deployment.

Vehicles equipped with the optional passenger jump seat may have a condition where the incorrect passenger-side upper B-pillar trim panel may have been installed, which could then interfere with the proper deployment of the right-side roof rail air bag. If the incorrect trim panel were to interfere with the proper deployment of the roof rail airbag, then passengers riding in the truck could be at an increased risk of injury in the event of an accident.

Certified 'GMC' techs will be instructed to inspect the passenger-side upper B-pillar trim panel and replace as necessary, free of charge.

- ♦ **An unknown number of 2019**

(Continued on page 11)



The Deadliest Cars You Can Drive

The *Mitsubishi Mirage* and *Dodge Challenger* top the IIHS list of driver death rates over the past three years, lending some sad credence to safety concerns about both very small vehicles and musclecars. The index is based on deaths per million registered vehicles, gathered from 2018-21 for vehicles from the 2020 model year (*or that same generation*). The circumstances of each crash aren't filtered out, so the actions of the other driver(s) involved in these accidents impact the results. What follows in ascending order, is the ten deadliest vehicles this exhaustive dataset reveals.

10. **Chevy Sonic**: 107 deaths per million registered vehicles

There are two unmistakable threads in the deadliest parts of the IIHS data: sub-compacts and musclecars make up the bulk. The Sonic is a member of the former, like other vehicles in its size class, it has more than double the average fatality rate per million registered vehicles. The Sonic certainly has its upsides as an economical and fun little car, though unfortunately the smallest and cheapest types of vehicles are statistically the most dangerous

9. **Chevy Camaro**: 110 deaths per million registered vehicles

While it's tempting to pin the danger associated with sub-compacts on the unfortunate physics involved in their encounters with larger vehicles, relatively large muscle cars like the Camaro don't have a similar excuse. While the coupe version is already well over double the average death

rate, the convertible version is slightly higher, at 113. The grip and agility of a modern Camaro can be useful when driving defensively, but these relatively inexpensive (!) musclecars also invite thrill-seeking, risky behavior that do it no favors in the statistics

8. **Kia Forte**: 111 deaths per million registered vehicles

There are two vehicles in the top ten that aren't sub-compacts or musclecars, one of them being the compact Forte. While not our favorite compact car, the Forte does offer good looks and a manual transmission, in addition to being cheap to buy and drive. The Forte's safety ratings are decent, with the 2023 model scoring "Good" in all IIHS crashworthiness tests besides side impact, for which it received a "Poor" rating

7. **Nissan Altima**: 113 deaths per million registered vehicles

The circa 2019 Altima reflected in the statistics is as vanilla a sedan as you can imagine, making its place on this list all the more striking. Notable mainly for being inoffensive, it should be noted that the Altima has available optional all-wheel drive and an interesting top engine choice, the variable-compression VC-Turbo engine—which sounds cool, but is a little weird in practice

6. **Dodge Charger HEMI**: 118 deaths per million registered vehicles

The Charger is easily amongst the deadliest vehicles on the road. This is true for the V-8 rear-wheel-drive versions specifically, which are affordable, readily

available, and powerful. Unlike most of the vehicles on this list, the Hemi Chargers are not only among the deadliest to their own drivers, but to everyone else. They rank second in "other-driver" death rates at 164 deaths per million registered vehicles, only behind the Ram 3500, which inflicts 189 deaths per million on others

5. **Kia Rio (sedan)**: 122 deaths per million registered vehicles

Only two vehicles land in the top six of both the death rate of their own driver and of other drivers. One is the Charger, the other is the sedan version of the humble Rio. The Rio itself is actually our favorite sub-compact car. Pairing an inexpensive entry price with good quality, we've called the hatchback variant the benchmark for the segment. While the sedan version is near the top of both fatalities lists, the hatchback variant is far further down on both

4. **Chevy Spark**: 151 deaths per million registered vehicles

Active safety features are few and far between on the Spark, which was discontinued after 2022. Generally speaking, all active safety tech is optional, and while this isn't a safety death-knell, it doesn't help a model already in a segment with a startlingly high death rate. We aren't the biggest fans of the Spark, though its handling and standard infotainment tech aren't bad.

3. **Hyundai Accent**: 152 deaths per million registered vehicles

We have not been satisfied

(Continued on page 13)

"Super Speeder"

While some of us might be more familiar with speeding tickets and the hefty fines they can bring than others, Georgia has seemingly taken the idea of a "Super Speeder" fine to a new level. As one Chatham County, GA resident found out, that number can hit *seven figures*. Sort of.

WSAV, a local NBC station in the Peach State, spoke to Connor Cato after he was astounded to find that his fine for driving **90 mph in a 55-mph zone** would come to **\$1.4 MILLION**. Georgia does have a special fine for anyone caught going 75 mph or more on a two-lane and 85-mph or more on "other roads or highways," but the amount even shocked lawyer Sneh Patel when asked about it by WSAV's reporter. "At first, when questioned, I thought it was a clerical error," he said, but when Cato told Patel he followed up,

Patel said he's never seen anything like it. The maximum traffic violation in Georgia can only go up to \$1,000, per state law.

Patel went on to show how ridiculous the fine amount was, pointing out misdemeanors of "high and aggravated nature" can be up to \$5,000 and bond amounts are never more than \$10,000, "But not \$1.4 million—that's something that gets into cases like drug trafficking, murders, or aggravated assaults, something of that nature."

WSAV contacted the city of Savannah, and it explained it this way: "The balance reflected in the e-citation is a placeholder. Super speeders are required to go to court. The system automatically puts in \$999,999.99 as the base amount plus other costs since the only way to resolve the ticket is to appear." It also said this new sys-



tem has been in place since 2017 and that the amount is not enforced.

While the city insists it didn't implement the placeholder amount to scare people to come to court, it also doesn't have data showing this practice has encouraged more people to appear as mandated. The city also said it will work with the Recorder's Court to adjust the language in e-citations to avoid further confusion. Meanwhile, don't speed generally, but specifically maybe don't go nuts on GA's roads unless you want a heart-stopping citation like this—*Assorted sources* 🤖

Oopsie!

A recent crash in Maryland left a C6 Corvette upside down in a field. Despite the severity of the crash, there were no major injuries reported, according to [The-BayNet.com](https://www.thebaynet.com) news.

The crash occurred after leaving the American Legion Post 255 annual car show on October 21st. The driver was reportedly attempting a burnout when it all went wrong, and the Corvette ended up in a field on its roof.

Thankfully it seems that pride was the only injury suffered. EMS on the scene evaluated the driver

but he refused further care. The Corvette was not so lucky. It will likely be totaled as a result of the damage it received from the crash.

The C6 involved in the crash appears to be a 2005 model with an automatic transmission. The C6 was powered by the LS2 V-8 making 400 hp. That is plenty of power to generate an impressive burnout. However,

burnouts should be performed in a controlled environment. Leaving the American Legion is not the time or place to show everyone that you can't handle your car—*Prez Tim P* 🤖



“Don’t Floor It!”

Ford is recalling *nearly 35,000 2021-22 Mustang Mach-Es* equipped with the extended-range battery over concerns that the electric crossover could lose power while driving. The recall is the Blue Oval’s second attempt to resolve an issue with a component found inside of the Mach-E’s high voltage battery pack that *may fail while DC fast charging or flooring the car’s accelerator pedal one too many times.*

Ford first issued a software update as part of a 2022 recall. The update would monitor the temperature of the affected part and reduce battery power to avoid overheating, though this appeared to not fully address the defect as owners still reported problems following the update, sparking a federal investigation over the effectiveness of the fix.

“Direct Current (DC) fast charging and repeated wide open pedal events can cause the high voltage battery main contactors to overheat,” reads the NHTSA recall report. “Overheating may lead to arcing and deformation of the electrical contact surfaces, which can result in a contactor that is prevented from closing or a contactor that welds closed.”

The faulty part in question is the High Voltage Battery Junction Box (HVBJB), also called the Bussed Electrical Center (BEC). Its entire purpose is to “switch” the high voltage battery on and off using a series of electromechanical switches, called contactors. This means that electrical current flows through this device to power

the front and rear drive units, or to charge the battery.

According to the recall, some vehicles may have pre-existing damage that occurred prior to the 2022 software fix due to overheating. This damage reportedly reduces the effectiveness of the fix. Should the contactors weld closed while driving, the vehicle will continue to operate until the next key cycle, but if they are prevented from closing, the vehicle will lose power, coasting to a stop.

Ford was asked if the connectors in the HVBJB were perhaps under-spec’ed for the application and did not receive a response at the time of writing. However, a very thorough technical teardown of this part plucked from a car equipped with a standard-range pack (*which is not included in the recall*) can be found over on Mach-E Forum that may give a better idea of why the failure is occurring. The person who performed the analysis is named Mach-Lee, and they say that the pack is similar to what is found in the more robust Mach-E GT, though the GT’s box will have larger components in place.

While the forum member who assessed the HVBJB says that they aren’t qualified to judge if the part is properly engineered, they noted that the size of the busbars could withstand approximately 60% of the peak power (*560 amps*) of the Mach-E’s standard range pack. It’s not clear if



the larger pack shares these components.

“Based on the size of the busbars connecting the pack, I would estimate the continuous rating of this particular HVBJB to be around 350A, which is about 60% of peak power. This should be adequate for everyday driving with occasional 560A maximum acceleration,” wrote Mach-Lee. “Prolonged or repeated acceleration will cause the contactors and busbars to heat up to temps over 100°C for short periods, this is expected. In extreme cases, temps may reach 200°C, which is too hot and will melt the contactors.”

Ford says that its primary change to the flawed contactor design is to increase the flat contact area of the contactors, something already done for the part installed in vehicles built from late May 2022 and onward.

Another concern is just how swamped Ford’s techs might be with replacing the HVBJBs in nearly 35,000 cars. The part itself is located inside of the sealed battery pack, meaning that in order to replace just the part, the 1,300-pound battery pack must be dropped from the car and opened in order to access the HVBJB. According to another user on Mach-

(Continued on page 13)

Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 7)

Chevy Express/GMC Savana vans due to an issue related to the diesel particulate matter sensor.

Vehicles equipped with the Duramax turbodiesel 2.8L engine may have a condition where the Engine Control Module (ECM) may not properly handle diagnostic information for the exhaust particulate matter (PM) sensor.

If the ECM were to improperly handle PM data, then the PM sensor signal may be prevented from diagnosing the functionality of other components. In addition, if a PM sensor fault were to occur, then a diagnostic trouble code (DTC) or the malfunction indicator lamp (*check engine light*) may fail to illuminate.

Certified 'GMC' techs will be instructed to inspect affected vehicles and reprogram the ECM as needed. It should take techs roughly 30 minutes to perform the recall.

Back in August 2023, 'GMC' officially pulled the sheets off the **2025 Cadillac Escalade IQ**,

which represents the first all-electric variant of the venerable Escalade nameplate. Of course, as a large SUV, one would imagine that the battery is equally as large, and subsequently expensive. With this in mind, a recent report found that the **Escalade IQ's battery is estimated to cost more than the starting price of a brand-new Chevy Trax.**

According to a report from Elements, the battery found in the Escalade IQ costs an estimated **\$22,450**, or roughly 17.3 percent of the **luxury SUV's starting MSRP of \$130,000.**

It's worth noting that the \$22,450 figure could also apply to a GMC Hummer EV Pickup equipped with the 24-module battery pack, as the two Ultium batteries are quite similar to one another.

So, why the astronomical price? Well, it largely comes down to battery composition and battery capacity. The battery used in the Escalade IQ boasts a 200

kWh capacity, and is made of lithium nickel cobalt manganese oxide, which costs roughly \$112 per kWh. While expensive, the significant nickel proportion increases



the battery's energy density and allows for longer range.

As a reminder, the Escalade IQ marks a departure from the traditional ICE-powered Escalade. In terms of the exterior styling, the all-electric model features a softer overall design, and offers a two-tone paint treatment and optional 24-inch wheels.

Moving to the interior, the cabin space is highlighted by a curved coast-to-coast 55-inch LED display. Available technology features include GM Super Cruise driver assist.

'GMC' would have you believe that the donk rims, interior 55 inch LED display, and light shows possible as a result of a preponderance of lights inside **AND** out (*and software to run them*) make the \$130K+ price positively a screamin' deal. You be the judge. Let's see what the post-strike price ends up at—*Assorted sources* 🚗



No Imagination!

If you love Smokey and the Bandit, but prefer a small crossover to a 1977 Pontiac Firebird, then this custom 2024 Chevy Trax is for you (**NOT!**). Taking inspiration from the classic Burt Reynolds film, this one-of-one Trax is instantly recognizable, and sure to get plenty of attention on the street. Now, it's going to auction.

For those readers who may not know, the 1977 Pontiac Firebird was made into an icon thanks to Reynolds' classic film "Smokey and the Bandit," in which Reynolds plays Bo "The Bandit" Darville, a daredevil driver who wheels the Firebird as a "blocker" to draw attention away from a truck carrying an illegal load of beer across state lines.

As such, this 2024 Chevy Trax is outfitted with a wealth of decals that give a hat tip to the hero car from the film. Finished in black, the decals present a classic orange/gold finish, and include the "Screaming Chicken" on the hood, plus a hood power bulge with the word "Turbo" painted on it. There's also "Outlaw" and "Bandit" added on various body panels, while the wheels appear to be customized 17-inch units.

The cabin features an 8-inch Chevy infotainment system, as well as heated bucket seats and a remote start feature. Looking at the feature list and seat upholstery, the Trax Bandit is likely based on the entry-level LS upgraded with the (ZFT) LS Convenience Package, which is currently listed \$22,490 for the 2024 model year.

Making the go is the turbo'd 1.2L I3 gas engine, which is rated at a whopping 137 horsepower at 5,000 rpm. Output is routed exclusively to the front wheels through the GM six-speed automatic transmission.

According to the listing, this Bandit-style Chevy Trax has a mere 146 miles on the clock. It went under the hammer as Lot F104 at the Mecum Auctions event in Las Vegas, scheduled to get underway Thursday, November 9th at the Las Vegas Convention



Center. The custom Trax was be offered at no reserve.

I know the Bandit T/A was no barn-burner, but this is just ridiculous—about what I expect from 'GMC'—*Assorted sources* 🚗



Bring Back Pontiac!

Like all industries, the automotive world has seen tons of change over the last several decades, and an unfortunate side effect of the evolutionary process has been the closure of several once-popular car brands. Here in the US, car nerds mourn the loss of brands like Saab, but it might be surprising to learn the brands that enthusiasts in other countries pine over.

Saab. It's Saab. People in Japan, the UK, India, France, and Korea all said Saab, according to a recent study by Hippo Leasing. People in the US miss *Pontiac* the most, perhaps due to the frequency of *Smokey and the Bandit reruns*, but the American brand is also missed in Italy, Canada, and

Brazil. Germans really miss Trabant.

Americans didn't forget about Saab, ranking it second, followed by Oldsmobile in third. Our friends in the UK rated Pontiac second and Holden third. Interestingly, people in Japan also miss Pontiac, and Edsel earned the number three spot—even though it's a brand that has been defunct since the late 1950s. Hippo Leasing also polled Reddit users on their most-missed car brands, where Pontiac also took the top spot. Saab and AMC came in second and third, respectively.



It's unlikely that brands like Pontiac will make a comeback, but automakers often find ways to revive historic nameplates, especially as they transition to electrification. It's also quite likely that one or more of the younger automotive startups will go out of business or be absorbed into a legacy automaker, so we could be complaining about the loss of a company like Lucid or Rivian in the future—*Assorted sources* 🍷

Deadly (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

with the current-gen Accent, which debuted in 2018. While good looking, it is slow even for the class and simply isn't an inviting place to be. And that was before this data came out, with a driver death rate virtually the same as rear-wheel-drive Challengers. This is all somehow despite being an IIHS Top Safety Pick for 2019, and acceleration we called "inexplicably lazy"

2. **Dodge Challenger:** 154 deaths per million registered vehicles

The Challenger matches and in many ways surpasses the Camaro in the pursuit of horse-

power democratization, while maintaining a level of comfort and spaciousness unlike the two smaller and lighter muscle cars. It should be noted that the AWD Challenger variants don't share the rear-wheel-drive variant's penultimate spot, and don't come close to the top ten. Hopefully the Challenger's (and Charger's) replacement will change the numbers

1. **Mitsubishi Mirage:** 205 deaths per million registered vehicles

We don't have much praise for the oft-maligned Mirage other than its admirable fuel economy and low price. And now we can add a troubling fatality rate to a list of other complaints, like its buzzy and lethargic I-3, sloppy

handling, and bargain basement interior. The sedan's 205 deaths per million registered vehicles number is staggering, but even the hatchback's 183 surpasses the Challenger by a wide margin. It's a grim milestone for an indifferent vehicle.

Thanks to *Motor Trend* for this disturbing info, and be careful out there—*Assorted sources* 🍷

Floor (cont'd)

(Continued from page 10)

E Forums, a high voltage battery swap takes *approximately 25 hours on a warranty replacement*.

A little " 'GMC' Recall Envy" from Ford?!—*Assorted sources* 🍷

MORE New Stuff!

“Stop in the name of the law! It’s the 2021 Dodge Charger Police Pursuit by AMT!” This newly tooled 1/25th scale kit offers proper police equipment. The exterior features a push bumper as an optional part, police wheels, spotlights, and your choice of two light bars or “slick top” roof options. An opening hood shows off a detailed 5.7L Hemi packing enough power to chase down even the most heinous highway offender. Police options continue

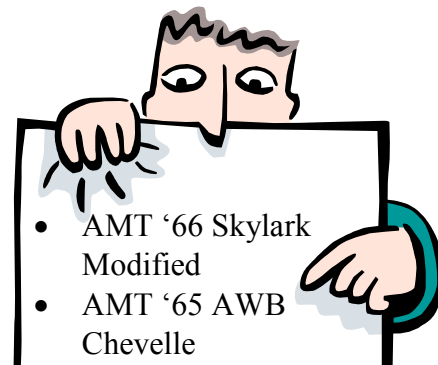
with a detailed interior featuring a radio console, laptop computer with mount, and a rear seating partition. Lastly, included California Highway Patrol decals make this Charger one intimidating interceptor.

Badge up, and serve your community late this year, or early next year when the 2021 Dodge Charger Police Pursuit kit by AMT hits local hobby shelves

If any of these float your boat, get with **Ron Shirey**, our “plastic pusher” and make suitable arrangements—*Tim* 🚗



Ron's Rant



- AMT '66 Skylark Modified
- AMT '65 AWB Chevelle
- AMT "USPS" '70 Challenger
- AMT "Touch Tone Terror" Dodge A100
- AMT "Sprite" International Transtar 4300 Eagle
- Atlantis Tom Daniel "King Chopper" (1/8th)
- Atlantis Fred Flypogger as "Super Fuzz" by Mouse
- MPC "Bantam Blast"
- MPC "Switchers" '32 Ford
- Salvinos '23 K. Busch Camaro (24th)
- Salvinos '23 C. Elliott Camaro (24th)
- Salvinos '23 R. Chastain Camaro (24th)
- Salvinos '23 SV Gisbergen Camaro (24th)
- Salvinos M Hirschman Pee Dee Motorsports Asphalt Modified
- Salvinos W Pitkat Asphalt Modified 🚗

(1/25th, unless noted)



This month's "reserved parking" was well attended, marking the Anniversary of the closure of the Pontiac division of 'GMC.' Thanks to all who participated.

MAMA's Boy **Steve Buter** brought back his "**End of Summer Cruise**" **Green Banshee**.

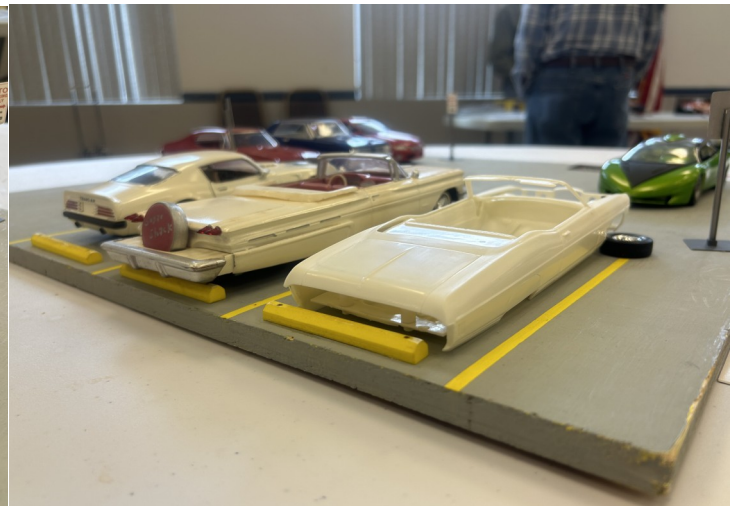
Meanwhile, **Derald Carpenter** parked his "**Long 'n Low**" '**60 Bonneville convert**, complete with continental kit and "croozer" skirts. And she was for sale too,

for the right price! We can't forget **Cruz's** '**68 GTO** replica of my 1:1 ride!

Finally, I also returned with a minor "attitude adjustment" on my "**Big Muscle**" '**70 Bonneville convertible project** (among others).

Here's hoping that you all will keep bringin' 'em and

showin' 'em! '**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** 🍷



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MAMAs BoyZ do it in scale!



Tow (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

spection, it appeared as though rubber buildup on the tires may have caused the fender liner to be pulled out. According to a **Road & Track** article, a Chevy rep stated that the car's wiring harness to the fuel pump was damaged by rubber road debris.

It's worth noting that a back-up Camaro in the same pink livery resumed pace car duties shortly thereafter—*Tim* 🚗

Websites

Central PA Model Car Club:

<https://www.cpmcc.org>

LIARS Model Car Club:

<https://www.liarsmodelcarbuilder.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

Classifieds

FOR SALE: All new, still shrink-wrapped, \$15.00 each:

AMT '51 Bel Air convertible
Revell Snaptitle '57 Chevy
AMT '57 Chrysler 300-C
AMT '58 Plymouth Belvedere
AMT '62 Thunderbird
AMT "USA-1" '63 Corvette
AMT '65 2+2 Catalina
AMT '68 Shelby GT500
AMT '75 Gremlin X
AMT '90 Corvette
AMT '95 Stealth R/T Turbo
AMT Stealth Indy 500 Pace car
AMT VW Scirocco
Lindberg '29 Mercedes SSK
Lindberg '31 Bugatti Royale Victoria
Lindberg '34 Ford Pickup
Lindberg '97 Ford F150 Flareside
Monogram Fink Speedwagon
Monogram Goodwrench Monte Carlo
Monogram Mac Tools T-Bird
Revell '65 Shelby GT350H

Revell '68 VW Beetle
Revell '71 Cuda
Revell Porsche 911 Targa
Revell Jaguar XKE
Revell Enzo Ferrari
Revell Super America Ferrari
Revell 2 'n 1 Caddy Escalade
Revell/Monogram Cheerios Taurus
Revell/Monogram Vette Agin
Contact Ron Shirey at 717-495-5377, or shirey007@comcast.net

WANTED: Unbuilt/rebuildable Tempests, GTOs (*esp. '70 and '71 MPC hardtops and convertibles, in particular*), Catalinas/Bonnevilles/Grand Prix (*esp. '66 MPC or Hasegawa*), '67-'00 Firebirds, 1/8th scale Monogram '79 T/A, Red Baron and empty **Pontiac kit boxes**. Contact me at gtoguy@verizon.net, or see me at a meeting. Thanks! (Tim Sickie) 🚗



Were on the web!

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

Directions

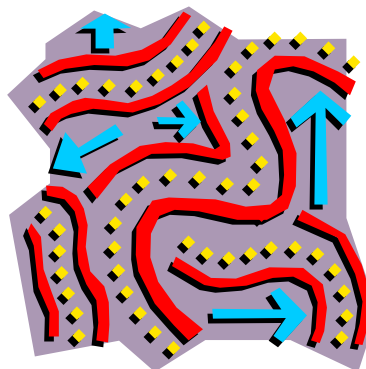


I ♥ MODEL CARS



From MD Route 29, I-95, MD Route 1, or I-295: Take MD Route-100 East, then take exit 10-B for MD-713 North (*New Ridge Road*). Turn left onto Ridge Road, then left onto Hanover Road.

From I-97 or MD Route-2: Take



MD Route-100 West, then take exit 10 for MD-713 North (*New Ridge Road*). Turn left onto Ridge Road, then left onto Hanover Road.

Free parking is available, and the building is handicap accessible. 🚗

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Club Photog: Lyle Willits 📷

