



MAMA Sez!

Volume 36, Issue 11

July, 2024

"Serving Delmarva Car Modelers for 35 Years!"



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

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2024 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 20th
- ☞ February 17th
- ☞ March 16th
- ☞ April 20th
- ☞ May—**No Meeting!**
- ☞ June 15th
- ☞ July 20th
- ☞ August 17th
- ☞ September 21st
- ☞ October 19th
- ☞ November 16th
- ☞ December 21st

Hope to see you there 🚗

Summer's Here—So Are The Car Shows!

June's meeting had, as its highlight, MAMA members doing what modelers do best—pawing through numerous boxes of model parts, thanks to the generosity of **Gerry Nielsen** (and club members!).

The "**Pontiac Garage**" was in attendance, with yet more

"baby steps" for me on the "Beswick Project" '69 D/Stock Judge.

The raffle raised **\$56.00**, while the door added **\$88.00**. This was supplemented by **\$54.00** from the model items donated by **Gerry Nielsen**. Paid the rent again—and then some! Thanks to the follow-

ing donors: **Brad, Steve M. Buter, Mike Costic, Rich Meany, Mark Parkhurst, Brian Schindler, Ron Shirey, yours truly, Vinny Tufano, and Replicas & Miniatures Co. of MD (Norman)**. Thanks guys—we 'preciate it—**Tim** 🍷

Apple Pie & Chevrolet?!?

Last year, **GM Authority** reported that 'GMC' wasn't included in a top 10 list of the **most American-made vehicles**, which may come as a surprise given The General's global headquarters in Detroit, Michigan. In keeping with this theme, 'GMC' once again failed to crack the top-10 for the 2024 model year, while Tesla continued to dominate.

According to a report from **Cars.com**, the 10 most-American cars in-

cluded **three Teslas, three Hondas**, and a **single Volkswagen, Toyota, Jeep** and **Lexus** product each. As for the Detroit-based automaker, its three most American-made offerings included the **Chevy Colorado** and **GMC Canyon** at **23rd** and **24th**, respectively, and the **Corvette** at **34th**. These rankings make for some interesting comparisons, where a Kia Sorento is technically more American-made than a Corvette, as well

as a BMW X4 with more American-ness than a Chevy Silverado or GMC Sierra.

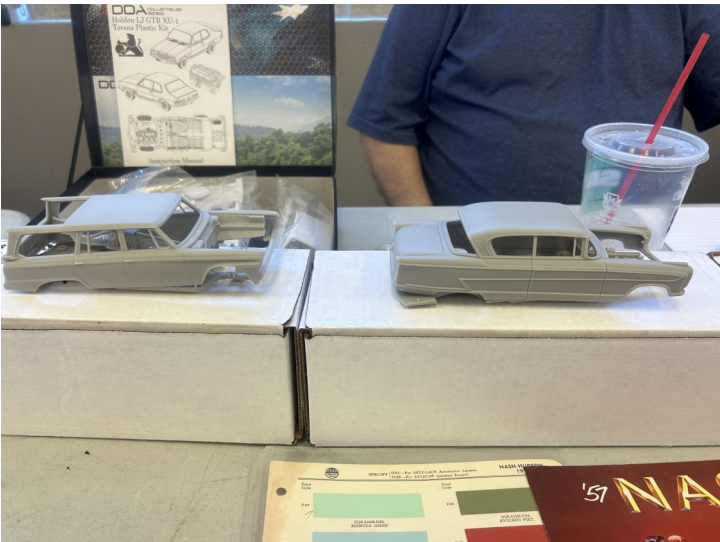
It's worth noting that this list concentrates on US content and assembly, as America is technically an entire continent.

Interestingly, **Cars.com** uses several disqualifying factors when articulating rankings, including:

* Models with a gross vehicle weight rating above 8,500 pounds—mostly full-size vans, three-quarter- and one-ton pickups, and larger

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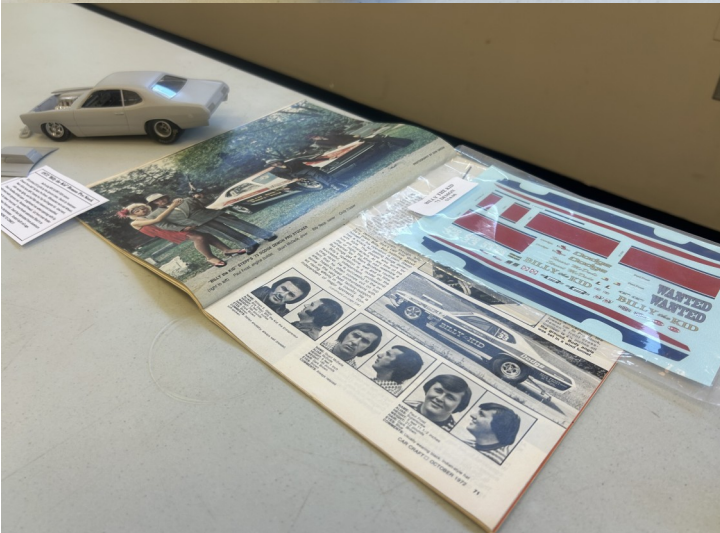
MAMA Meeting



MAMA Meeting



Raffle Goodies!



DUNKIN' DONUTS®



2021 Dodge Charger Pursuit Police Vehicle

(Round 2 AMTA1324M-200, 1/25th scale; injection-molded plastic—white, clear, transparent red, chrome; 160 parts—4 black vinyl tires & decals; Retail \$32.00)

(Sample courtesy of the manufacturer)

Pros: Well engineered kit

Cons: Nothing, really

Simple and to the point: The completely new tool kit of the AMT 2021 Dodge Charger Pursuit Police vehicle is a fun build. So far, in my humble opinion, the best engineered kit to date from AMT. I had the pleasure of building the R/T version a year ago when it was first released so I had an idea how much fun this one was going to be.

The kit offers just over one hundred and sixty clean and well-engineered parts. No need for much cleanup of mold lines. The first three steps take you through the build-up of the HEMI engine which consists of nineteen parts. The two engine halves, heads and front of the engine were put together and painted with Alclad Aluminum paint. After this, the rest of the parts were painted separately and later attached to make this a very nice and complete looking power plant. There is an air filter provided for the engine which calls out to be attached to the engine on step eighteen. At this stage, the engine will be attached to the engine bay.

You are provided with twenty-eight parts for the completion of the interior. Read the instructions carefully and be mindful of the

two holes that need to be drilled out in order to install the bracket that will ultimately hold the laptop and the four holes that will hold the two clear emergency lights at the rear.

The holes are all pre-drilled making these easy to find. Try drilling them and test fitting everything before you decide to paint these parts, it will make for a much cleaner look at the end.

Surprisingly, there are thirty-one parts provided in this kit for the completion of the chassis. There are three heat shields which I painted with Alclad Chrome. These are the first parts that need to be installed per the instructions. The mufflers are a three-piece affair, and you are provided with separate muffler tips. Once finished with the front and rear suspension you will be directed to install four chassis protective plates which will complete the build-up of this phase. In my opinion, I think this is certainly the best-looking part of the build.

You have a choice of two sets of rims for your build which also include four small hubcaps for the centers. Front and rear disk brakes with caliper detail need to be installed before gluing your tires in place. The tires have realistic looking tread, and the rims look great once installed inside of these. You can either install the



tires and rims on the completed chassis or you can install them once the chassis is joined with the body.

There are separate front and rear fascias for the body. These need to be installed once the chassis is mated to the body but first you must install the lights and other details to these items. The rear lights are transparent red and there is no need to paint them, but you do need to have several decals in place before attaching them. These parts as well as the front ones are easily attached with very little glue to hold them in place, a testament of how well this kit is engineered. There are also two side skirts provided which must be placed at the lower edges of the body.

You have a choice of two different light bars for the top of the roof but before this, you are instructed to drill four holes on the roof that will hold the light bar bases. Again, these holes are also pre-drilled. You are also provided with two search lights that need to be placed at the pillars between the front window. Unfortunately, these holes are not predrilled, so

(Continued on page 9)

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

- ♦ **2,441 2023-25 Cadillac XT5s** and **4,305 2024-25 XT6s** due to an issue with the instrument panel. They may have a condition where the instrument panel doesn't illuminate when the hazard warning lights, high beams, or turn signals are activated. As such, they fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard numbers 101, "Controls and Displays" and 108, "Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Assoc. Equipment." If this condition were to occur, drivers could fail to turn off the hazard lights, high beams or turn signals when they are no longer needed, which in turn could confuse other drivers on the road and subsequently increase the risk of an

accident. Certified 'GMC' techs will be instructed to inspect them and update the instrument panel's software as necessary, free of charge.

- ♦ An **unknown number of 2024 Chevy Traxs, Trailblazers, and Buick Envistas** due to an issue with the engine control module (ECM). Vehicles with the turbocharged

1.2L

3-

cylinder gas engine may have a condition where the ECM may not properly control engine ignition timing following certain Auto Engine Stop/Start events. If this condition were to occur, the Malfunction Indicator Lamp (*Check Engine Light*) would illuminate, and the engine may run rough or knock. In fact, if the vehicle is driven with engine knock, engine damage could occur. Certi-

GOVERNMENT MOTORS

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fied 'GMC' techs will be instructed to inspect them and reprogram the ECM as necessary. It should take roughly 30 minutes to complete the fix. It's worth noting that proper engine ignition timing control will resume following a subsequent Auto Engine Stop/Start event.

- ♦ **6,130 2024 Chevrolet Colorado** and **2,492 GMC Canyon pickups** that were produced

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'GMC' Recall Ticker

of Recalls
337 (!)

of Vehicles Affected
58,329,450

EV Blues

It's been no secret that the adoption of all-electric vehicles has faced some serious headwinds as of late, as **GM Authority** (*GMA*) recently reported that 46 percent of Americans who owned an EV wanted to transition back to ICE-powered offerings. With this in mind, it may come as little surprise to learn that prices for used electric vehicles are currently in a free fall.

According to a report from **iSeeCars**, prices for used EVs dipped below their used gasoline-powered counterparts for the first time in February 2024. From there, the gap between the two has only widened to \$2,657 in May 2024. This is quite the intriguing development, as pre-owned all-electric vehicles were roughly \$8,000 more valuable than ICE-powered vehicles back in June 2023.

"There's no denying the crash in used electric vehicle values over the past year," **iSeeCars** Executive Analyst Karl Brauer remarked. "We've watched EVs prices fall between 30 and 40 percent since June of last year, while the average gas car's price has dropped by just 3 to 7 percent in that same timeframe. It's clear used car shoppers will no longer pay a premium for electric vehicles and, in fact, consider electric powertrains a detractor, making them less desirable—and less valuable—than traditional models."

A deeper dive reveals that used prices for EVs have declined between 30 and 39 percent in the

past year, while ICE-powered vehicle values have only dipped between three and seven percent on the same year-over-year basis.

"While the drop in used EV prices is dramatic, what's more disconcerting is no indication of used EV values stabilizing," Brauer continued. "At some point used EV prices will have to bottom out, but we don't appear to be at that point yet. The used car market's attitude toward electric vehicles shows a dramatic shift over the past year. With so many EVs entering the new car market in recent years, and then flowing into the used market, it suggests an over-supply condition that will continue as more EVs come off lease. Without a major catalyst to increase EV demand, used prices for these models will likely keep falling."

For reference, **iSeeCars** analyzed more than 2.2 million one-to five-year-old used cars sold between May 2023 and May 2024 to come up with these figures.

After its plans proved abortive in multiple ways, leaving it with no clear way forward and its cash largely exhausted, 'GMC' electric vehicle rival **Fisker filed for bankruptcy recently**, stating "sale of our assets under Chapter 11 is the most viable path forward for the company."

Per reporting by **Automotive News**, quality issues are among the significant nails in the Fisker coffin, with its Ocean EV SUV suffering from faulty software and other potentially dangerous issues, such as sudden activation of the automatic emergency braking absent any obstacles.

National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration (*NHTSA*) has opened multiple probes into the Ocean SUV, which also fails to meet certain US safety standards. In some instances, the warning lights in Fisker EVs fail to properly activate and notify the driver of conditions potentially leading to a crash. Some reports indicate they may fail to go into Park, causing rollaways with or without the driver present in the vehicle.

Fisker has likewise burned through much of its cash in the process of bringing the Ocean to market, with a reported fourth-quarter net loss of \$463 million. Austrian contract manufacturer Magna Steyr expects to lose \$400 million in 2024 on its contract to produce the Fisker Ocean. Both Fisker and Magna Steyr are laying off workers in response to the situation.

The EV startup attempted to reverse its failing fortunes through an alliance with Nissan according to earlier reporting by Reuters. However, the Japanese automaker, currently a subsidiary of Renault Group, was not receptive and the attempt fell through, leaving Fisker to choose bankruptcy as its only way forward.

The carmaker, which has about 12 active dealership franchises, says the bankruptcy comes because it "faced various market and macroeconomic headwinds that have impacted our ability to operate efficiently," which it says is similar to problems faced by "other companies in the electric vehicle industry." At least two other EV startups, Arrival and Lordstown Motors, are in liquida-

(Continued on page 12)

Mark Your Calendar Now!



The Tri-State Scale Model Car Club Presents

The 37th Annual

NNLTM

East

- MODEL CAR SHOW
- SCALE MARKETPLACE
- COTTAGE INDUSTRY EXPO

Next Year's Theme:

CIRCLE TRACK VEHICLES



Next Year's Sub- Theme:

Race Team Transporters

Retro Artwork from NNL East 14 - 2000

April 26, 2025

1 Pal Drive, Wayne NJ 07470

Show Information: WWW>NNL EAST.COM

Or Write: nnleat@aol.com

May 10, 2025

Save the Date!

Mid-Atlantic NNL

Main Theme:



Vendors

'60s Drag Cars

Door
Prizes



Sub-theme:

Mopars



GTx



440



Level Volunteer Fire Company

3633 Level Village Rd

Havre De Grace, MD 21078

Vendor/Show Info—Contact Dave Toups

E-mail: davetoups351@gmail.com

Phone: (410) 239-7081

**Make & Take
(Up to age 12)**

Charger (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

you need to drill them yourself. Not a difficult task but I suggest you do this before adding any paint to the body. There is also a push bar that belongs in front of the grill. This push bar is easily attached but you need to drill two small holes in order to glue it in place. The installation of the front, rear and side glass for the body is a breeze and something you will find very satisfying.

The decal sheet provides you with two California Highway Patrol logos for each side of the doors, two different numbered logos for the roof, California license plates and other small items for

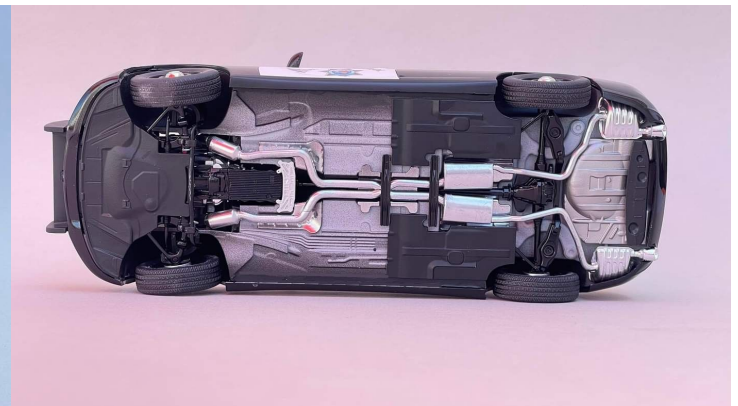
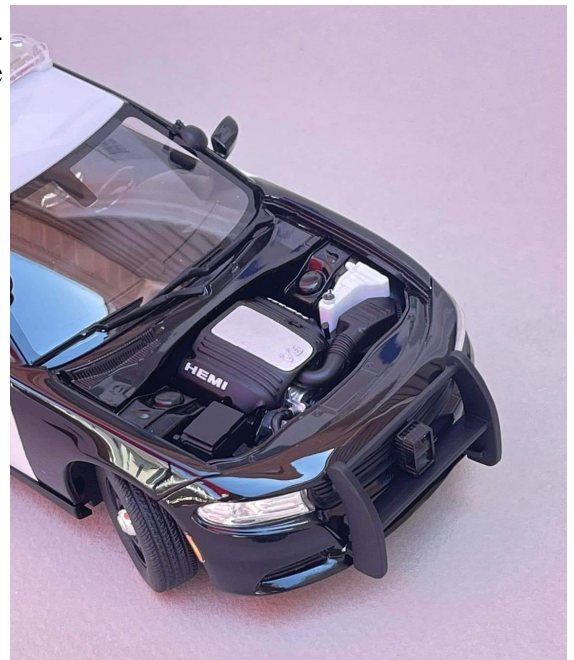
the exterior of the car. For the interior, you get three different laptop screens and other miscellaneous items.

This kit includes various parts from the original issue of the 2021 Charger R/T so at the end you will have a few extra parts not needed for this version of the kit. The most noticeable part is the center interior console with the laptop and of course, the divider between the front and rear seats.

Overall, it was fun putting this one together. There



are countless people making decals out there so the potential of building your own versions of police cars is endless. This one is very highly recommended specially for the First Responder fanatics out there—*Marcos Cruz* (Ed. Note: Thanks!) 🚓



Gov't (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

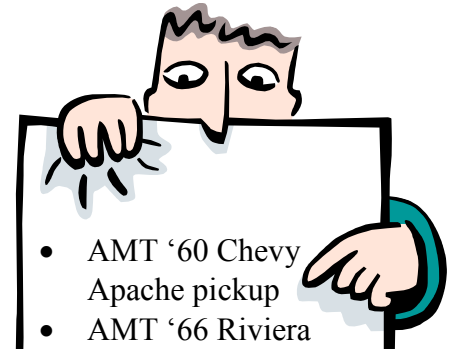
with an unsecured fuel tank lock ring by a third-party supplier of the involved components. Trucks that are affected were built with the lock ring that connects and secures the fuel pump and the fuel tank assembly is not fully locked. If a pickup with an unlocked fuel tank lock ring is involved in a high-speed crash, the kinetic energy may cause the lock ring to open and the fuel pump and fuel tank to separate. Gas from the tank may spill out, and if it comes in contact with flame, sparks, or hot surfaces, it may ignite and cause a fuel fire. 'GMC' is not aware of any field incidents associated with this condition. Certified 'GMC' techs are instructed to inspect the fuel tank lock ring of the pickups. If the ring is not properly locked, the technicians should lock it, retorquing the fuel sender lock ring retainer until it is properly secured. The fuel tank pump module should not be removed during inspection or repair. No new parts are needed for this

repair.

- ♦ 66 Chevy Bolt EVs and 6 Bolt EUVs, this time related to an issue with the installation of the EVs' battery fire detection software. In a small number of vehicles, the software may not have been correctly installed. This new recall is the latest to affect them, which underwent a massive recall between 2020 and 2022 to replace defective battery packs. Per the latest recall bulletin, they may have incorrectly installed diagnostic software intended to detect defective battery modules that require a replacement. If a vehicle has incorrectly installed diagnostic software and a defective battery module that requires replacement, it may increase the risk of a vehicle fire. To address this issue, 'GMC' techs will reprogram the Hybrid Powertrain Control Module 2, the Battery Energy Control Module, and the Body Control module. This process is expected to take about an hour.

'GMC' will mail notification letters to owners of affected vehicles instructing them to make an appointment with their dealer. If owners are unsure whether or not

Ron's Rant



- AMT '60 Chevy Apache pickup
- AMT '66 Riviera
- Meng '19 Audi R8 LMS GT3
- Moebius '65 Nova restomod
- Moebius '68 Mercury M100 pickup
- MPC '53 Ford flip-nose pickup
- MPC '86 Shelby Charger
- SalvinosJR D. Allison '87 T-Bird (1/24th)
- SalvinosJR W. Byron '24 Camaro (1/24th)
- SalvinosJR K. Larson '24 "600 Mile" Camaro (1/24th)
- SalvinosJR R. Chastain '24 Camaro (1/24th)
- SalvinosJR A. Bowman '24 Camaro (1/24th) 🚗

(1/25th, unless noted)

their vehicle is affected by these recalls, they can visit my.gm.com/recalls and input their VIN to see any open recalls or other actions that may be active.

I am constantly amazed that 'GMC' is still in business—
Assorted sources 🚗





June's reserved parking seemed to gravitate towards "The Great One" (GTOs).

Dave Matiko "drove" his great lookin' '69 GTO into this month's display.

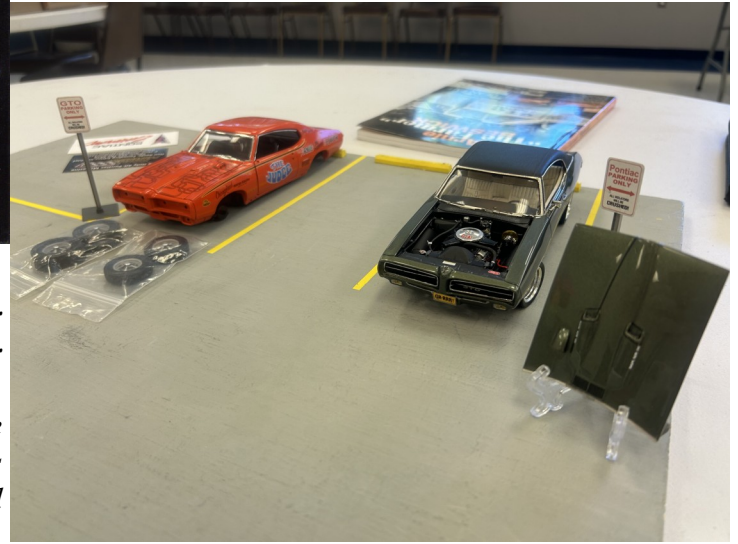
To this I added my "perennially in-progress" **Beswick '69 D/Stock Judge**.

As noted in prior newsletters, my goal is to have it completed in time to display it at this year's GTOAA Nats in Springfield, MO, where Arnie Beswick will be in

attendance (Ed. Note: Spoiler alert—the car did, in fact, make it to the Nats, and was displayed and photographed.

FYI—Arnie approved! The epic journey of this project will be chronicled in next month's newsletter).

Here's hoping that you'll all keep buildin', bringin' 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!

Blues (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

tion, while Rivian posted billion-dollar losses in the first quarter despite being in better financial condition overall.

Finally, per **GM Authority**, VW will be pumping **\$5 BILLION dollars** in Rivian for EV platform sharing.

Go big, or go home—*Assorted sources* 🚗



Websites

Carlisle Events:

<https://www.carlisleevents.com>

Central PA Model Car Club:

<https://www.cpmcc.org>

East Coast Indoor Nationals:

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

LIARS Model Car Club:

<https://www.liarsmodelcarbuilder.com/>

NNL East:

<https://www.nnleast.com/>

Online Event Calendar:

www.NortheastWheelsEvents.com

Apple (cont'd) Classifieds

(Continued from page 1)

commercial vehicles—which are exempt from AALA requirements
* Models from automakers that build fewer than 1,000 cars in a given model year. Such cars are exempt from certain AALA requirements

* Models set for imminent discontinuation, or production moving outside the US, without a clear US-built successor

* Models not yet on sale at the time of the study (*in this case, spring 2024*) even if they're from the current model year

* Models intended solely for government or commercial fleets

* Models that don't meet minimum sales or inventory thresholds

* Models for which **Cars.com** cannot verify sufficient info from automakers, dealership audits, inventory and government records

Notably, these disqualifications

WANTED: Unbuilt/rebuildable Pontiacs (*any scale?*)—Tempests, GTOs, Catalinas, Venturas, Bonnevilles, Grand Prixs, and Firebirds. Also interested in a Red Baron, and empty Pontiac kit boxes and instructions. Contact me at gtoguy@verizon.net, or see me at a meeting. Thanks! (Tim Sickie)

FREE TO GOOD HOME: Numerous assorted Musclegar magazines. If interested, I can deliver them to a meeting. Thanks (Tim Sickie) 🚗

knocked several 'GMC' vehicles off the top 100 list, including the **Cadillac CT4**, **Chevy Silverado HD**, and **GMC Hummer EV**.

Good job, 'GMC'—*Assorted sources* 🚗

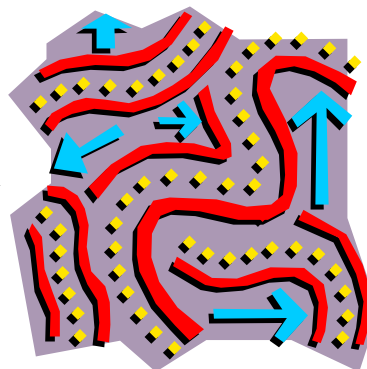
We're on the web!

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

Directions

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 🚗

