



MAMA Sez!

Volume 37, Issue 10

June, 2025

"Serving Delmarva Car Modelers for 36 Years!"



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



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2025 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 18th
- ☞ February 15th
- ☞ March 15th
- ☞ April 19th
- ☞ May—**No Meeting!**
- ☞ June 21st
- ☞ July 19th
- ☞ August 16th
- ☞ September 20th
- ☞ October 18th
- ☞ November 15th
- ☞ December 20th (10-3!)

Hope to see you there 🚗

"Show's Over—Move Along!"

As this month's headline plainly states, this year's show is now in the MAMA history books. And a good show it was!

While we had a few less people through the door as compared to last year, final model count stood at **418**, an increase of over 100 entries compared to last year.

As always at "get-

togethers" such as these, you never know who is going to show up. Of note this year was none other than **Dirk Johnson**, and **Kelvin Brown**, just to name a few.

Dirk brought along some older display items from fellow modelers, including **Larry Boothe!**

The officers got involved with Dirk about a

possible effort to attempt to archive a lot of slides, pictures and data in Dirk's possession of many of MAMA's prior shows. The officers will keep you abreast regarding progress on this front.

Kudos to everyone who played a role in the success of this year's show, whether you

(Continued on page 12)

Condolences

Prolific artist and builder **Jairus Watson** passed away on May 19th in Salem Oregon. Known for his illustrations, he was also a writer, contributor to magazines like **Scale Auto Enthusiast**, **Model Cars and Slot Cars Magazine** where he was also the editor.

His box art graced kits from AMT, Galaxie, Revell and Trumpeter.

He designed art for several die-cast series by Jonny Lightning. His il-

lustrations can be seen as instruction sheets and articles on creating latches and hinges for model cars.

He built many slot cars for customers around the world, often with incredible detail and sourcing vintage components. He won Best of Show at GSL in 1986.

Auto designer **William Porter** has died at home on April 23 at the age of 93.

In his 39 years as a designer with GM, Porter

oversaw the Buick design studio as well as Pontiac, retiring from the company in 1996.

The celebrated **General Motors draftsman** penned some of the most iconic muscle cars that will ply the Woodward Dream Cruise this summer including the **1968 Pontiac GTO**, **1970-73 Pontiac Firebird** and **Trans Am**, and **1971 Bonneville**. The academically-trained artist and industrial designer is credited with the long, muscular styling that helped define a Golden

(Continued on page 8)

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 Sickie, 15905 Ark Court, Bowie, Maryland 20716.

MAMA>NNL!

 **LOOK**



...to this, in no time flat!

From this...



Our crack "Welcoming committee"!



3D-printed goodness

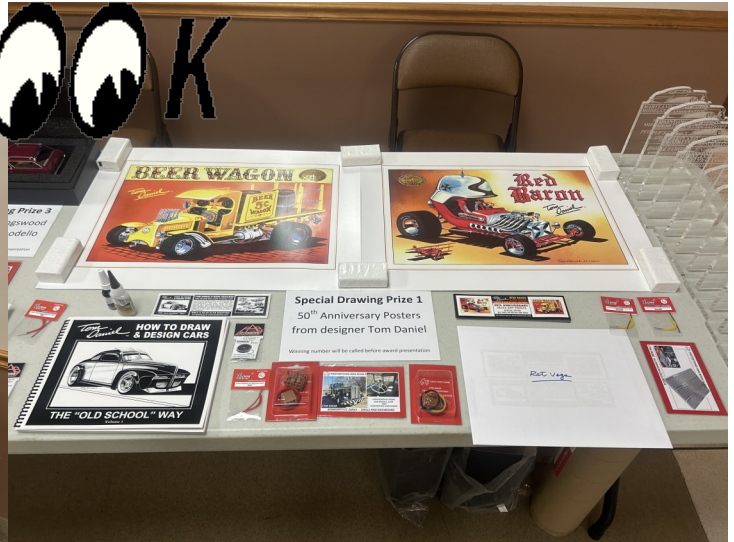


A few of our intrepid "Make & Take" builders, focused on the task at hand

MAMA>NNL!



Door prizes, waiting to be scooped up!



Tom Daniels' special door prize



A tribute to long-time member Ron Roberts



Best of Show Senior—Lewis Hicks



Best of Show Junior—Jamie Taylor

Thanks!

As always, we can't express enough gratitude to all our sponsors for their generous support.

You will find them listed below. If you get the chance, please support them as they have supported us.

Business Door Prize Donors:

- ♦ Atlantis Toy and Hobby
- ♦ Automobilia Resource Magazine
- ♦ Auto Modeler Magazine
- ♦ Automodello
- ♦ Bob Smith Industries, Inc.
- ♦ Czech Truck Model (CTM)

- ♦ Tom Daniel
- ♦ FAB Resinworks
- ♦ Gofer Racing
- ♦ ICM Models
- ♦ MGSF
- ♦ Microscale Industries
- ♦ Scale Collectibles
- ♦ STS Scale Model Decals
- ♦ Ukrainian Scale Cars Production (USCP)
- ♦ VCG Resins by Reese
- ♦ Z-Force Modelworx

Day of Show Door Prize Donors:

- ♦ Mike Abate
- ♦ Chuck Glass
- ♦ Diversified Scalerz Model Car Club

- ♦ Rick Hanmore
- ♦ Craig Holler
- ♦ Dirk Johnson
- ♦ Dean Lewis
- ♦ Steve Scott
- ♦ Ron Shirey

Day of Show "Make and Take" Donors:

- ♦ Matt Guilfoyle
- ♦ Dean Lewis
- ♦ Carl Michaelman
- ♦ Norman Veber
- ♦ A few club members also donated kits at the last meeting (per Mike Costic)

A big "Thank Yew!" to all of you, and hope to see you next year—Tim 🍷

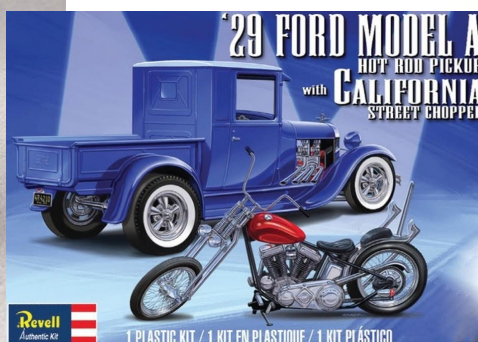
CA Chopper

What we have here is the 1/25th scale Harley Panhead included in the latest issue of the Revell '29 Model A pickup (listed as a level 5 build). The "California Street Chopper" alone is probably a level 23 if you're in your 70s. It's built up from one chrome tree of **SMALL** parts and two vinyl tires.

The instructions show drawings of parts and assembly steps but it is **VERY** helpful is one is familiar with a 1:1 Harley.

An entire chrome motorcycle is hardly realistic, so I painted the appropriate parts and added a few things. Headlight is a spotlight from a '48 Ford kit. I made the exhaust pipes from plastic tubing with a Molotow coating. Thought briefly about trying to plumb and wire it. Nope!—Lyle Willits

(Ed. Note: Thanks, Lyle!) 🍷



Congrats

Before getting to the “major awards,” there were three distinct Special giveaways of sponsors’ products. The awards and their lucky recipients, are listed below:

Special Giveaway #1: Tom Daniel package—Lewis Hicks

Special Giveaway #2: Auto-modello ‘37 Delahaye—Lewis Hicks

Special Giveaway #3: Auto-modello ‘69 Chevy Kingswood station wagon—Mike Abate

The big moment is finally here—the lucky recipients of the Lucite “MAMA” awards. They are as follows:

Competition—Jim Thoroman, ‘57 Atlantis funny car

Curbside—Gary Kulchuck, Cheetah curbside

Custom—Rick Hanmore, ‘60 Corvette Bubbletop

Replica Stock—Marcos Cruz, ‘69 Chevrolet SS396

Street Machine—Karl Scheffer, ‘65 Marlin

Street Rod—Leonard Harrod, ‘48 Ford

Truck/Light Commercial—‘53 Ford pickup, Tom Geiger

Tuner—Marcos Cruz, Supra

Theme Awards

60s Drag Cars—George Opehny, ‘68 Hemi Dart

Mopars—Dave Matiko, “Hemi Honker” ‘65 Dodge

Best of Show Awards

Junior—Jamie Taylor, ‘97 Viper

Senior—Lewis Hicks, ‘71 Mustang Street Machine

Again, congratulations to this years’



lucky winners. Look elsewhere in this newsletter to plan your builds for *NEXT* years’ themes. Hope to see y’all then—Tim 🚗



While the following story does not directly relate to a recall (*for the first time in a long time, there were no significant horror stories here?!), it **IS** a ‘GMC’ product, and is a sad state of affairs, related to competence in one’s chosen profession.*

A car transport moving a load of brand-new Cadillac EVs hit a bit of a snag on I-94. **Metro Detroit News** shared a video on social media of a load of Cadillacs, including some 2026 Cadillac Vistiq crossovers, getting stuck under an overpass.

Based on the video, it’s hard to tell the extent of the damage. Whatever it was, it was enough to damage some of the roofs of these Cadillac EVs. At least one Cadillac Lyriq electric crossover is visible on the lower level of the car carrier, and there are multiple Vistiq units in transit.

The video shows a confused-looking man wearing a safety vest inspecting the damage to the cars. At one point, he throws up his hands, likely wondering what he’s supposed to do to remedy this problem.

Luckily, some of the com-

menters on the social media post have some advice. Several people suggested simply letting the air out of the tires, which would surely give the car transport the clearance it needs to break free. Others suggested he just keep driving, Cadillac roofs be damned. Others pointed out that this is an oddly common occurrence with the low overpasses on I-94 in Michigan.

This is an unfortunate start for these particular examples of the Cadillac Vistiq. It’s ‘GMC’s’ newest EV (*with prices ranging from \$79,000 to \$98,000+*), offering an EV option with three-row seating at a more affordable price point than the Cadillac Escalade IQ. It’s also the first three-row model to use GM’s BEV3 platform. The Vistiq comes standard with a dual-motor electric powertrain similar to the one in the Cadillac Lyriq-V, producing 615 horsepower and 650 pound-feet of torque. The range is estimated at up to 305 miles on a full charge.

While these Vistiqs weren’t so lucky, the production Cadillac Vistiq has been in production since February

GOVERNMENT MOTORS

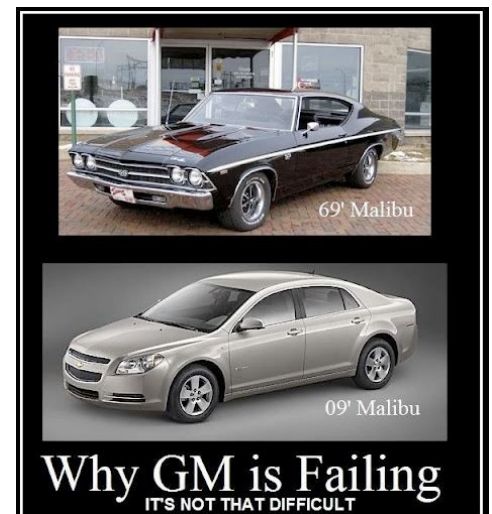
IN SOVIET AMERIKA, THE CAR DRIVES **YOU**... BANKRUPT!



AN AMERIKAN REVOLUTION™

at the ‘GMC’ Spring Hill Assembly plant in Tennessee. The aging, ICE-powered Cadillac XT6 is being subsequently discontinued as the electric Vistiq effectively replaces it as the luxury brand’s midsize three-row crossover offering.

Somebody **MAY** be out of a job—Assorted sources 🇺🇸



‘GMC’ Recall Ticker

of Recalls

333 (!)

of Vehicles Affected

58,923,126

T 'n T

Chevette Insanity! If we have \$33,000 to spend on a practical and economical Chevy, we could buy a loaded Trailblazer, a modest Equinox, or...a *pristine 1987 Chevette CS hatchback*. That's how much the new owner of this example paid at the Mecum Kissimmee auction. First, a quick recap on the Chevette. It was introduced for the 1976 model year, replacing the Vega and riding on the T platform co-developed with Opel and Isuzu. Offered as a three or five-door hatchback, it was one of 'GMC's' last attempts at a rear-wheel-drive subcompact economy car. The Chevette doesn't have a great reputation today, but it was America's best-selling small car for 1979 and 1980. It was discontinued in 1987 and replaced by the *Chevy Sprint*, which became the *Geo Metro*. This Chevette that

crossed the auction block is special because of its inexplicably low odometer reading: *only 47 miles*. We wish we could say it was special for some other reason, like a famous owner or weird modification, but it's just a Chevette. It does come from the final model year of 1987, has a manual transmission, and is in the CS trim, but the valuation of over \$30k is still a head-scratcher. The original window sticker is shown in the cargo area in the photo gallery, but the final sticker price is illegible. Promotional paperwork shows a starting price of \$4,995 and boasts some of the Chevette's virtues, like reclining front bucket seats, folding rear seats, a glove box (*with door!*), and a push-button AM radio. The collector's market for the Chevette is difficult



to track. Only a few have been auctioned on *Bring a Trailer*, with sale prices ranging from \$5,800 to \$21,000. None have been auctioned on *Cars and Bids*. At \$33,000, this humble hatchback that just sold at Mecum Kissimmee 2025 may have broken the record for the *most valuable Chevette ever sold*. We can't help but wonder if the new owner will drive it or keep it as an investment...**Barn Find SSR?!** Produced from 2003 to 2006, the Chevy SSR sought to blend retro-inspired styling with modern performance and a retractable hard-top pickup body. The end result was one of the most unconventional vehicles to come from 'GMC' in the last few decades, and despite its rather short-lived lifespan, the SSR's unique design and rarity have helped it gain cult status among collectors and Chevy fans alike. Unfortunately, it looks like this particular example may be too far gone—in fact, this may be the worst SSR we've ever seen. This SSR was spotted on social media, and is apparently located in Cleveland, Ohio. The vehicle in question appears to have been abandoned for years, showing severe signs of neglect and exposure to the elements. The once smooth and rich purple paint is now heavily faded, with large swaths of rust overtaking the body panels. Corrosion marks the hood and fenders, while entire panels appear to be falling off due to the damage. Even the cabin pillars are damaged and rusty, as is the rear bed. The headlights are fogged over, and the Chevy bowtie emblem is nearly worn away from sun exposure. The tires appear to be flat as well. Looking under-

(Continued on page 12)



vestment...**Barn Find SSR?!** Produced from 2003 to 2006, the Chevy SSR sought to blend retro-inspired styling with modern performance and a retractable hard-top pickup body. The end result was one of the most unconventional vehicles to come from 'GMC' in the last few decades, and despite its rather short-lived lifespan, the SSR's unique design and rarity have helped it gain cult status among collectors and Chevy fans alike. Unfortunately, it looks like this particular example may be too far gone—in fact, this may be the worst SSR we've ever seen. This SSR was spotted on social media, and is apparently located in Cleveland, Ohio. The vehicle in question appears to have been abandoned for years, showing severe signs of neglect and exposure to the elements. The once smooth and rich purple paint is now heavily faded, with large swaths of rust overtaking the body panels. Corrosion marks the hood and fenders, while entire panels appear to be falling off due to the damage. Even the cabin pillars are damaged and rusty, as is the rear bed. The headlights are fogged over, and the Chevy bowtie emblem is nearly worn away from sun exposure. The tires appear to be flat as well. Looking under-

Condolences (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Era of 1960s and 1970s American automobiles.

A resident of Whitmore Lake, Porter died at home on April 23rd at the age of 93. “I have always respected and admired Bill for his design track record but even more so for his personality and his design discretion and expertise,” wrote Jon Albert, who worked alongside Porter as Buick interior chief designer in 1995. “I am extremely privileged to have worked with a guy who knew the history of design in general (*not just auto design*) and who possessed such a keen sense for good design as well as what makes sense for compelling styling.”

In the early 70s, he directed the design of the GTO, Firebird, LeMans, Catalina and Bonneville coupes and sedans.

Porter’s signature was the uniquely American design of Coke bottle-shaped cars with mile-long scooped hoods and aggressive grilles. With fire-breathing V-8 engines under their hoods, these thoroughbreds became symbols of American individualism and the call of the open road.

“(My contribution to the ’68 GTO) was the basic body theme, the monocoque shell form with

elliptical pressure bulges over the wheels,” Porter said in an interview with High Performance Pontiac in 2000. But when it came to naming his favorite car, Porter singled out the second-gen 1970-73 Pontiac Firebird.

“I was absolutely crazy about that car from day one and really threw myself into it,” he said. “I put the best designers I had on it and we were consciously trying to create an important American sports car.”

The 1960-70s Pontiacs were groundbreaking in foreshadowing today’s “bumperless” integrated fascias—and also with their interior design.

“One of the design approaches pioneered in the ’70-1/2 F-car and that’s coming into the industry in a more widespread way now, is the integration of the interior and the exterior,” Porter said in the 2000 interview. “When you open the door of the Firebird...there is a subliminal sense of the unity of the interior and exterior. That had never been done before that I know of.”

The designer’s keen sense of art—he was a collector of Tiffany glass and Arts and Crafts furniture—extended to the famous Firebird “screaming chicken” hood graphic. The graphic almost didn’t make it to pro-



duction after then-GM Vice President for Design Bill Mitchell went into a fury over its design.

“He called me up and I had to hold the phone away from my ear,” remembered Porter. “That was the end of that! Then a couple of years later, (*colleague*) John Schinella talked him into taking another look at it. It finally saw the light of day on the ’73 cars. Mitchell was a real hair-trigger.”

Porter moved on from Pontiac to work on the Camaro before taking on Buick’s chief design position, where he oversaw design development for the Park Avenue and Riviera.

In addition to his son, Porter is survived by his wife, Patsy Jane, his son Adam, two daughters, Sarah Wilding Porter and Lydia Porter Latocki; a brother, Thomas Hampton Porter; and three grandchildren.

Porter gathered his favorite design sketches, which are preserved at his website: <http://williamporter.com/index.html>.

Godspeed, gentlemen, and thank you for your contributions—
Assorted sources 🍷



Save the Date!

May 9, 2026

Mid-Atlantic NNL

Theme #1

'F' Bodies

Vendors



Door
Prizes



Theme #2

Pickups



Level Volunteer Fire Company

3633 Level Village Rd

Havre De Grace, MD 21078

Vendor/Show Info—Contact Dave Toups

E-mail: davetoups351@gmail.com

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



Last month's "reserved parking" area was obviously MIA due to our show. So, I'm going to highlight the simply **INCREDIBLE Bobby Knudsen Collection** that was sold at the Mecum Indy auction in mid-May.

It included eight Catalinas, including **TWO '63 "Swiss Cheese" cars** of the **14 built (!)**, a

'59 Bonneville Safari, and a '61 Ventura. I'm unsure of the selling price, they **ALL** sold. The **Jim Wangers '63 Royal SD Catalina** hammered for an incredible **\$575,000 (!) BEFORE** buyer's and sellers premiums!



'PoP' (Pontiacs on Parade!) Sickie signin' off! And don't forget—MAMA may not need all these Ponchos, but I'm diggin' 'em—thanks!!—Tim 🍷





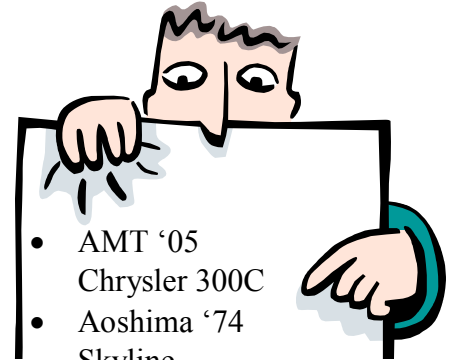
**Pontiac
PARKING
ONLY**



ALL VIOLATORS
WILL BE
CRUSHED!



Ron's Rant



- AMT '05
Chrysler 300C
- Aoshima '74
Skyline
2000GT-X (1/24th)
- Hasegawa '84 MR2
(1/24th)
- Italeri XJ220 Racing
(1/24th)
- Italeri MB Actros
MP4 Big Space Grand
Prix ed. (1/24th)
- Polar Lights '66 Clas-
sic Batmobile
- Polar Lights "Herbie"
VW Beetle
- Revell Trabant 601
(1/24th)
- SalvinosJR' '25 SV
Gisbergen Camaro
(1/24th)
- SalvinosJR' '25 J.
Berry Mustang
(1/24th)
- SalvinosJR' '25 W.
Byron Camaro
(1/24th)
- SalvinosJR' '25 J.
Allgaier Mustang
(1/24th) 🏆

(1/25th, unless noted)



This is the newsletter of the
Maryland Automotive Modelers
Association

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MAMAs BoyZ do it in scale!

June Theme

The theme for this month will be **Large** (a.k.a. Full-Size!) **Fords**. That means no Falcons, Mustangs, Cobras, etc. So, let's see all of you guys drag out those "large barge" Fords to display at the June meeting, okay? Thanks to MAMA member Don Sutherland for the idea! ☺



Websites

Central PA Model Car Club:

<https://www.cpmcc.org>

LIARS Model Car Club:

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

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

T 'n T (cont'd)

(Continued from page 7)

neath this poor Chevy, the frame is just about completely rotted away, with entire chunks missing due to heavy oxidation. Indeed, this thing is an absolute mess, and it's a sorry sight to see. But it all begs the question—how did it get so bad? Its' story remains uncertain, although some commenters posit it was parked uncovered near the ocean for an extended period. Others suggest that it was actually submerged in water for a while. In all likelihood, the damage is probably the result of sitting outside in the Ohio winters for years on end. "Thing finally looks retro," quips one commenter (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 🍷



Intro (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

worked the show from start to finish, donated items towards the door prize haul, or simply came out and spent money in support of the club, it is appreciated—Tim 🍷



Classifieds

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) 🍷

We're on the web!

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

News Flash!

For those of you who either didn't make it to our show, or didn't get enough plastic (*do we EVER get enough?!*), then I've got news for you.

Auto Models LLC (a.k.a. John Boettger) is having a **10th Anniversary Parts Jumble** scheduled for June 14th, from 10 AM to 5

PM.

It will include collectible kits, damaged kits, parts, junkers and diecasts (*Hot Wheels, etc.*).

This will be the last jumble featuring new items from the open kit collection.

They are located at 1737 Franklin Street, Greensburg, PA 15601, and on the web at theauto-modelsllc.com—Tim 🍷

Club Contact Info

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Newsletter Editor: Tim Sickie, gtoguy@verizon.net
Club Photog: Lyle Willits 🍷

