



# GTR Newsletter August 2020

## In This Issue:

- **Hobby and Club News**
- ***Scale Auto* to Cease Publication after 41 Years!**
- **Two Book Reviews**
- **Thoughts On the Dispersal of our Model Collections when the Time Comes**
- **MPC Shaker Trike**

## President's Message: August 2020

We had our first GTR meeting since the pandemic on July 11 (one week later than normal because of July 4), but it was only three of us. Thankfully in addition to Doug and myself we had an all new member attend. His name is Gary Ruzalski and we appreciated seeing him at the meeting. We gave Gary the history of the GTR club and how it has changed over the years. Unfortunately, we have been losing members faster than taking on new members. So, it was exciting to have a fresh face to talk to even if it was behind a mask.

One of things we talked about was model collections and what happens to them when we get older. In recent weeks there have been a couple of good articles on this subject. One was in the *IPMS Journal* and the other in the MAMA newsletter. Since Tim Sickle from MAMA has given his permission, we have reprinted his article. I think it gives us all food for thought and we should plan for the future.

In a magazine called *4 Small Wheels* I came across an article called "How Far Have We Come" by Wayne Moyer. It was published in August of 2015. As the magazine was published by a store specializing in 1/43 models, the article is about modeling in that scale. But it really related to all scales of model cars. He points out the changes we are all familiar with such as more detailed parts, different materials (photo-etched), 3D printing, spray masks, etc. At the end he poses the question, "what do we see changing in the next 50 years?" I think the other changes we have seen are not very good ones such as companies like Wing Nut Wings closing down and magazines stopping publication. We've heard the very sad news of *Scale Auto* not continuing on. Today I learned that the only slot car magazine will not be printing any more issues. More than ever we will need to stick together and keep GTR going.

Ed Sexton

## Grand Touring & Racing Auto Modelers Based in the Chicago, IL Northwest Suburbs 2002/2003 IPMS/USA Region 5 Chapter of the Year 2007, 2008 & 2015 IPMS/USA Region 5 Newsletter of the Year 2020 Meetings: Every 1st Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

Location alternates between member's homes and the Algonquin Township Building

Your current GTR Officers are:

President/Contact: Ed Sexton eagle48.1967@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Doug Fisher [kkfisher1@comcast.net](mailto:kkfisher1@comcast.net)

The GTR Newsletter is written and edited by Chuck Herrmann and Doug Fisher. If you or your club has news that you would like to pass on to the modeling community, send the info on to me digitally at [kkfisher1@comcast.net](mailto:kkfisher1@comcast.net) and I will add it to this newsletter as a blurb or link. Show dates are subject to changes/cancelation as dates shown. 2020 club dues are due \$15 measly bucks, send check or give cash to me with your contact information. Thanks! Please make check out to "Doug Fisher" as we could not get a "club" named bank account)



## Real World New IROC Style Series for 2021

From Sportsbusinessdaily.com

Tony Stewart and Ray Everham will launch an auto racing circuit that has the potential to be the biggest disrupter to the auto racing business in decades. The Superstar Racing Experience (SRX) will feature six short-track races starting next summer. SRX already has a TV deal in place with CBS, which has committed to carry the Saturday night races in prime time next year. The CBS deal runs for multiple years.

Everham will design the cars so that everyone races with the same equipment. It will include racers and crew chiefs who are well known. Each race will have 12 drivers randomly matched with a crew chief. It will feature racing under the lights at short tracks in the American heartland.

SRX could not identify the drivers or crew chiefs it expects to compete next summer. But with just 12 drivers per race, it expects to have its pick of well-known crew chiefs and drivers, both active and retired. The series will randomly pair teams, grouping an up-and-comer with veterans. As for active drivers, the startup would have to work around other series schedules and any rules that could prevent those drivers from competing. The races are designed to keep viewers interested throughout, with two 45-minute heats and no pit stops.

Drivers will compete for individual race winnings each week and a points-based SRX Series Championship. The races will be at historic, smaller tracks, like the one at the Nashville Fairgrounds or dirt tracks such as Ohio's Eldora Speedway or Knoxville Raceway in Iowa. SRX has not settled on any specific tracks yet.

## No US Grand Prix in 2020

Due to the issues related to global Corona virus crisis all the Formula One Championship races scheduled in the Americas have been cancelled for 2020. This includes the US (at Circuit of the Americas in Austin TX) Mexican and Brazilian GPs. The Canadian GP had already been called off. Additional European races will take their place.

## Media

### Scale Auto Magazine RIP



By now everyone has heard that the October 2020 Issue of Scale Auto Magazine will be the last one published. Here is their official notice:

Dear Subscriber,

Since 1979, *Scale Auto* has been proud to offer the latest tips and techniques to help car-modeling enthusiasts build the coolest, hottest, most realistic models on four wheels. While we remain committed to serving scale-auto enthusiasts, we regret to announce that we are discontinuing publication of *Scale Auto* magazine. October 2020 will be the final issue. However, the *Scale Auto* brand will live on in the pages of *FineScale Modeler* and online, where our dedicated audience of car modelers will continue to find product news, model builds and advice from the greatest modeling experts in the world.

As a subscriber to *Scale Auto*, you may have one or more issues of your subscription remaining. You will receive *FineScale Modeler* magazine for the remainder of your subscription, starting with the November issue. If you're already a *FineScale Modeler* magazine subscriber, your current *FineScale Modeler* subscription will be extended for as many issues remaining on your *Scale Auto* subscription. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact customer support at

[customerservice@ScaleAuto.info](mailto:customerservice@ScaleAuto.info), or by phone at 877-246-4879. Outside the U.S. and Canada, call 903-636-1125.

We thank all our subscribers for their support and loyalty over the years, and we look forward to continuing to serve you through the pages of *FineScale Modeler*.

The *Scale Auto* and *FineScale Modeler* Teams

This did not address what will happen to the Facebook and other online content that had been ramping up recently, nor the special 2020 *Contest Cars* annual issue.

There was a similar scenario with a British magazine titled *Scale Auto Modeler*. It existed for three years, from 1999 to 2001. The subject matter was a perfect fit for GTR, racing cars and sports and import street cars. For 2002 it was merged with another magazine put out by their publisher, *Scale Models*. I pulled out my copy of the last issue and their farewell message is

almost the same at *Scale Auto*. Despite a promise of continued coverage, it went from over 60 pages per month of automotive subjects to probably less than 10 per month in a magazine that was predominately military subjects. (I do not know how long *Scale Models* continued).

My fear is that is what will happen to *Scale Auto*. *Fine Scale Modeler* is a nice magazine but the amount of auto modeling content in the new blended magazine will be nowhere near what we have been accustomed to.

## Other Car Modeling Magazines

*Model Cars* has restated that they are still trying to get back up and running.

Several others are not available on newsstands or by subscription but need to be ordered online.

- *Dedicated Scale Enthusiast* Mostly lowrider, street machines and Cali style subjects, they announce when to order via their Facebook page.
- *Kustom and Hot Rod Models Magazine* by Don Graham. Focused on vintage custom and street rods. Check out their Facebook page for ordering.
- *Model Car Builder Magazine* by Roy Sorenson [Modelcarbuildermag.com](http://Modelcarbuildermag.com) and also on Facebook. I still need to check this one out.

If there are any I missed let me know and we will update the list.

## Dale Jr's *Lost Speedways*



A new show on the new PEACOCK (NBC) cable network is *Lost Speedways with Dale Earnhardt Jr.* Apparently Junior is a dedicated fan of the sport and as a hobby collects information on old, abandoned race tracks. In the first episode he says he has files on about two thousand. So each half hour episode will be focused on a former track, with the camera crew showing film of what it looks like now compared to photo or video of races held while it was active. Meanwhile Junior and his buddies provide comments, and former drivers or operators tell stories from the old days.

I watched the first episode, which focused on Metrolina Speedway in Charlotte North Carolina. It was a half mile track, mostly dirt (actually red clay) but paved for two years. It operated from 1952 to 1998. We learn that both Junior's father

and grandfather raced there a lot. The track currently is still there, with lots of weeds and small trees. Some sections are still standing, the concrete grandstands and some walls, guardrails and access roads. Vegetation has grown through most of the dirt race surface but the outline of the track is still visible. You can see modern industrial buildings ringing the perimeter of the property, a good indication of why many old tracks fall victim to economic pressures when an area develops.

Junior and his buddy get all excited while discovering old relics on the property, and they talk to former local drivers and the track historian. It is a decent program, interesting to see the history of motorsports. This time it was a lot of good old boy stuff, I am interested to see if they venture out to see old road courses or Indy style tracks in future episodes.

(Of course most of interest to local GTR guys would be something about our favorite "ghost track", Meadowdale).

## Industry News

### Hobby Heaven/Spotlight Hobbies Sold

By: [Tom Carter Spotlight Hobbies](http://TomCarterSpotlightHobbies.com)

<[spotlighthobbies@aol.com](mailto:spotlighthobbies@aol.com)

Date: 7/17/2020

*I've got great news... for both you and me. I'm retiring, and I sold the business today...*

*I sold the business to longtime friends (husband and wife), and both have worked for me for many years of Hobby Heaven and Spotlight Hobbies history. Many of the kits you've received over the years have been checked by one or the other of them and may have been shipped by one of them as well. They know the business and the hobby inside and out, and with their enthusiasm and energy, I believe the business will be better than ever, and now will live on for many more years. The transition over the next few weeks will be as smooth and seamless as possible, with barely any interruption at all. Meanwhile, I've been preparing about 30 new specials which I should have ready to list by tonight of tomorrow, along with six new AMT kits.*

*I've been setting some great stuff aside to sell on eBay when I retired for a number of years now, and I'm really looking forward to getting started on it, and can do it at my leisure. I've got hundreds of old kits, built kits, resins, diecasts and more.*

*The message board will continue, of course, and at some point soon will receive an update. I'll continue to post too, so I won't be far away. I'll post more details as we go along, as well as add a notice at the top of the board.*

## Salvino JR



This is the latest release from Salvino JR.

## Tamiya New Campus Friends



Tamiya is releasing an updated version of their Campus Friends figure set. Of course one of them is taking a cell phone selfie.



## 2020 Shizouka Hobby Business Convention

While the annual Shizouka Toy show was postponed several months ago, a smaller industry only event was held July 1-2 in Shizouka Japan. Several of the Japanese manufacturers had product announcements.

## Ebbro



Another variant of the Citroen 2CV, this is one a commercial FOURGONNETTE AZU truck.



Also a 1/24 Jeep.

## NuNu Platz



NuNu had a large display and has announced several new kits.



The Peugeot 306 WRC rally racer in 1/24.



And of special interest is the BMW M8 GTE - 24 Hours of Daytona 2019 IMSA race car.



And their Lancia Delta S4 rally car has recently shipped to dealers and shops.

**Aoshima**

The most interesting of Aoshimas list of apanese subjects coming along is this ER34 Nissan Skyline Police Car.



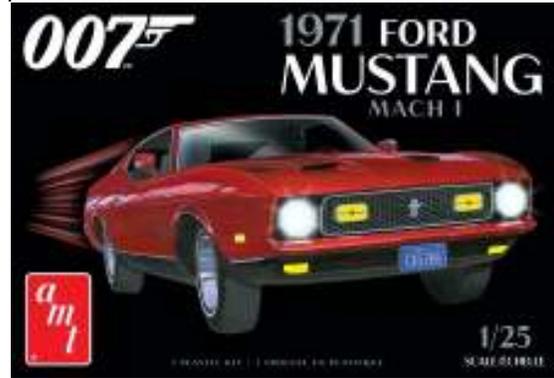
**Auto World**



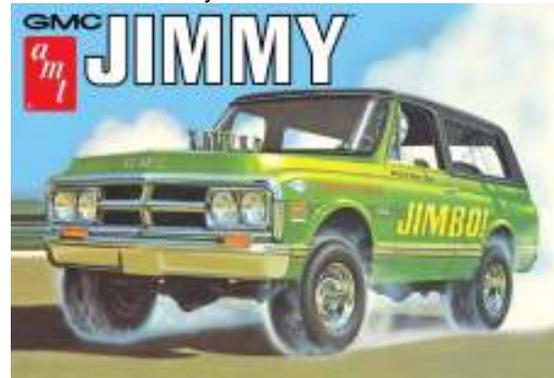
Meanwhile AMT has announced many more reissues. The two that are drawing the most interest seem to be the 63 Chevy II Station Wagon and the 64 Olds Cutlass Convertible. Originals are going for serious money online. These are old Craftman style kits, we await the final word on how much of the extra parts and versions will be included. The Chevy had a lot of extras, cool if they were all included.



Also there will be a 1971 Mustang from one of the James Bond movies, and a Ford Galaxie police car from a Bond movie.



And a GMC Jimmy reissue.



**Revell**



Revell Germany has reissued a 1962 Cobra race version. Great box art on this.



## IPMS News

GTR is a proud member of the IPMS organization. GTR is a local chapter, in Region 5, of IPMS/USA. We need five current IPMS/USA members to remain a chapter. If you are a current IPMS/USA member let Doug know your member number and expiration date, and remember to renew your IPMS/USA membership by October each year to make the renewal process smooth. We encourage those who have lapsed to renew their IPMS/USA membership, or if you have never been a member enroll now! Details can be found at their web site, [www.ipmsusa.org](http://www.ipmsusa.org)

## IPMS Calendar

The 2020 IPMS/USA National Convention, probably the largest contest and swap in the country, scheduled for July 29-Aug 1 in San Marcos, TX has been cancelled. This was probably inevitable with the continued Corona virus situation, but now it is official. The event will be moved out to 2023, same host club, same venue and city. Remember IPMS Nationals are awarded two years out so that is the next open year. The 2021 Nationals will be in Las Vegas, NV August 18th thru 21st.

July 29-Aug 1 2020 IPMS/USA Nationals **Canceled**  
San Marcos, TX

2021 IPMS Region 5 Convention –**Date TBD**  
hosted by IPMS/Lakes Region Scale Modelers  
McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL.

Aug 18-21 2021 IPMS USA Nationals: Las Vegas, NV  
See the webpage at [www.natslv2021.com](http://www.natslv2021.com)  
and also their Facebook page **2021 IPMS  
Nationals Las Vegas "Very Best of the West"**

2022 IPMS/USA Nationals Omaha, NE

2023 IPMS/USA Nationals San Marcos, TX



## GTR Update

There was a July meeting, Saturday July 11, at President Ed's home in Northbrook. Very small but its a start. For August there is a meeting scheduled for Saturday August 2 at Doug Fishers

home in Warrenville, IL. Please RSVP and get details by contacting Doug via email – see the front page. Our average attendance should not go over the current guidelines for gatherings.

Eventually future regular monthly meetings will meet at the Algonquin Township Building. Any member who wants to bring up other ideas or suggestions for future meetings or activities, do so either at the meeting or contact us.

## Virtual Show & Tell

With meetings being cancelled or lightly attended we will use this space to show models at the meeting, show on our Facebook page or emailed to me for a virtual show and tell. One advantage is that we can show stuff from our out of town members.

### Doug Fisher



Tamiya Mercedes DTM in custom livery with a non-factory metallic sunset red lacquer paint



Revell Germany Ford GT

### Chuck Herrmann

An old original issue Revell 1/25 914 kit.



This was purchased as a started kit many year ago, the body was cracked and pieces missing. It has found its way back to the bench, body has been fixed and it will be built as a club racer.



Also another old kit that had stalled out, the original issue of the 1955 Renault 4 CV Police car.



**Ed Sexton**



Hasegawa Jaguar XJ-S TWR race version

From Facebook we have:  
**Robert Bernahl**



1970 Baldwin Motion Chevrolet Camaro



**Troy Deal**



Troy had posted two of his short track Chevy stock cars that used heavy duty tin foil to represent damaged body panels.



## Gerry Paquette



Gerry has started a Revell 1969 Camaro Indy 500 pace car. As we know Gerry is very into realistic detailing so he has added the missing additional chassis bracing that the real convertible needed. (the kit chassis is the same as the coupe).



## Other emailed submissions:

### Elliot Doering



1932 Ford Coupe custom hot rod



Red Farmer's 1960 Ford.

## Some Recent Builds

Dave Roeder St Louis MO



As usual I have a mixed bag of vehicles in 1/25<sup>th</sup> and 1/24<sup>th</sup> scale. I have been digging out some old unfinished kits that I started on and then lost interest in as well as some from my inventory.



First off is the Green Burlington Northern railroad service truck. It is a 1975 Diamond Reo Tractor that I modified into a single axle long wheel base chassis. I scratch built the service bed with the six opening compartments. It has a crane that is poseable and each compartment is full of tools and supplies. A scratch built welder sits behind the cab. This model sat unfinished since the 1980's.



The 1957 Maserati 3500 GT is an old Aurora model that is in its' third revision. I had the engine changed over to a 427 Chevy and the body in primer when the rear window broke in half and the front window had glue on it. I set it aside, but never threw it away. This was before evergreen .005" clear styrene. Starting back on it using styrene for the windows, I made patterns from the old windows and cut them out of styrene sheet then used 1/16" wide double sticky back tape to install them. These new products allowed me to save this very old model. It is a Silver State Classic Challenge car.



The 1936 Ford and 1940 Ford Jalopy dirt cars were built up years ago and I never liked the paint jobs. The 36 Ford was hand lettered and had a Chrysler Hemi which would not have been used in a jalopy back in the day.



The 1940 Ford had a goofy two tone gold and metallic red paint job and railroad lettering decals. The engine lacked detail and the rear tires were not correct for the period. I spent some time changing both of these over to correct the errors and then did a re-paint and added my own decals.



1957 Chrysler 300C sport coupe: I won this kit as an attendance prize and had already built this model so I decided to cut 23 inches out of the body just behind the door to create this Sport Coupe two seat custom. It was just done for fun and I think it looks kind of goofy with the long tail. I thought it would turn out more like a large Ford Thunderbird.



The 1956 VW is an old kit that I finally built box stock. I had bought two of these kits and built one for my brother who at that time owned a 56 VW. This one sat for a long time and I finally built it up. I changed the wheels and tires to 1968 versions. The paint is a washed out pea green typical of the 1950's colors.

The cancellation of all the model contests has eliminated any chance these will ever be seen at the contests around the Midwest this year.

## My Thoughts (On the dispersal of our model collections when the time comes)

by *Tim Sickle* Reprinted from the July 2020 *Maryland Automotive Modelers Association Newsletter*

We are all obviously not getting any younger. With our monthly club meetings, regional (and national shows) like NNL East, where we can (and do!) seek to increase the sizes of our respective collections, unless we drastically pick up the pace, at least some of us will never get even a portion of our stashes built. What happens then, if something were to happen to you?

The totally unexpected passing of long-time MAMA member Gary Sutherlin should be a wake-up call not only to each and every MAMA's Boy, but to modelers in general. Have any of you had a serious discussion with your spouse, child, or friends as to what to do with your model kits and related items after you die? If you haven't, you'd better do it and do it now. Do not just assume that someone knows what to do. I know that no one wants to think of dying, but everyone should think of the burden they will leave when it comes to what to do about the collections. As much as we may all not want to think about it, we really SHOULD have some sort of a plan in place now, rather than leave it to our families to deal with the disposal of our collections, when they may very likely have absolutely no idea as to the value (perceived or actual), and possibly even the actual enormity of the collection. As an example, numbers thrown around about the size of Gary Sutherlin's collection were in the neighborhood of between 4,300 and 4,500 kits. THAT, my friends, is a collection! It's one thing if you can narrow your focus to a particular brand or type of vehicle. But Gary's collection seemingly included everything—antiques/replica stocks, musclecars, street rods, trucks, NASCAR/dirt racers, just to name just a few. Additionally, he had binders full of decals, segregated by type and number, for race cars. We then have to consider his varied resin collection. Also, no modeler worth his salt would not have at least a few books for reference purposes. And, finally, you would have to consider the actual tools, and paints with which Gary worked to complete his builds. All of these things would need to be addressed by a grieving family. Consider Gary's wife. She is likely akin to most of our wives, patiently putting up with Gary, and letting him indulge his passion for model building. After Gary's passing, it was reported that his wife was ready to simply DISPOSE OF GARY'S ENTIRE COLLECTION (as in THROW it in the trash!!)!! We are talking about kits that were both still factory sealed, while others were open, but sealed inside.

THANKFULLY, Gary left instructions with one of his children—contact Ron Bradley! As an example, Dawn Powers has teased Tim for years that if he goes first, everything in the hobby room will be the first to go. And by that she means hire a dumpster and load everything into it. All kidding aside, she feels most model club widows would have no idea what to do except to trash everything. Sadly, that may not be an option for some down the road as modelers age and more die off. The hobby, quite frankly, is not of as much interest to the younger generations as in the past, so the market for new/used kits is shrinking by the day. Who is going to be interested in buying large collections as more modelers die off? How are people going to know how to dispose of this stuff if clear instructions are lacking? This then, is what would need to happen. Each of us must have a plan in place to not only take care of our collections when we are gone, but, more importantly, to ease the burden on our loved ones at a difficult time like this. Therefore, what we need is not necessarily put our model collections in our respective wills, but to have a plan in mind, based upon our own circumstances, about what should happen when this eventuality comes to pass. If your respective collection includes some very old and valuable plastic, then I highly suggest that you evaluate it by way of a price guide. Bob Shelton's book comes immediately to mind. And do not forget to update it periodically, either. As you all know, kits don't seem to get any cheaper, although one school of thought does not see twenty-somethings buying collections from deceased old modelers. Hence, the decline of the hobby once most or all of the "old guard" are no longer with us. Bottom line is that none of us has a crystal ball to predict the future. If you choose this option, once your collection is priced, ensure that the family has access to this information.

Now, the other side of kit value coin. It's okay to assign a kit a value for what it would bring now, but what happens in 5-10 years down the road when more modelers die off? If there are fewer modelers active in and devoted to the hobby, kits will actually become less valuable from over saturation of the market. While I did not research it thoroughly, a Google search turned up a few estate sale firms that could possibly handle the liquidation of your collections, thereby relieving your family of this task. Bear in mind though, that there will be some sort of fee involved for doing so. At an absolute minimum, spouses and family members should be consulted and left with instructions to contact a MAMA member of your choosing for help and guidance with the disposal process. You might want to discuss this with these members in advance, to ensure that they are willing to help out in this situation. And, please, do not forget to give spouses and family a current kit listing and

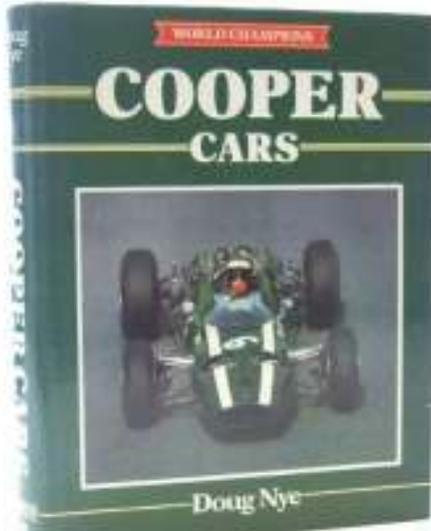
accurate contact information, either. Prepare paperwork with the name(s) and current contact information (home and cell phone numbers, email addresses) of who your spouse should reach out to for help in disposing of your model car kit collection in a way that ensures you receive the assistance you would need at a time like this, but also that you can hope for a fair value. And keep it up-to-date. It will do no good if the people listed pass away or go senile before you do. The best place for the note would be either posted on the door to the hobby room or somewhere obvious on the work bench. Make sure from time to time that the contact information is up to date since phone numbers and email addresses can change over time. That is why it is important to make sure your information as listed in the club directory is correct. By the way, does your spouse even know how to find the club directory? Also, if you have anything in a safe or lock box, like important papers, make sure someone has a copy of the combination and/or key! Also, decide now if you want models given to specific individuals or organizations such as the National Model Car Builder's Museum. Coordinate with them now to be sure they'll be able to accept and properly store/care for your donations. Make sure that your wishes are in writing, along with the recipient's full name and current contact information. Some MAMA members have completed models from members no longer with us. Ron Bradley respectfully inquired of Gary's widow as to the disposition of his completed collection. The family wanted to keep Gary's models, as a way of remembering him. You may have other ideas on the subject, or you can use what I have presented here, in any form that you feel will work in your particular case. If you have any other ideas and you wish to share them, by all means, please send them to me, and I can do so in the newsletter. In the end, please do SOMETHING to ease the emotional loss that your demise will have on your family, and dealing with something of this magnitude at such an emotional time.

Before closing, I'd like to take a moment to thank Ron Bradley and his crack crew (Norman Veber and Howdy Hoffman) for stepping in and taking on the gargantuan task of taking care of offloading Gary's collection from the family, and compensating them for it as well. He has been a very good steward, paying his widow upon removal of kits from the premises, and he has made numerous payments since. Ron informed me that this sad event was very well supported by MAMA club members and kit collectors alike. Thanks also to club officers, Lyle Willits and Ron Bradley for feedback, but moreso to the officers' WIVES, who chimed in with valuable insight. Finally, thanks to Gary, for opening many MAMA members' eyes.

# Book Reviews

## **Cooper Cars**

By Doug Nye HC 2003 (Latest Edition)  
392 pages by Ed Sexton



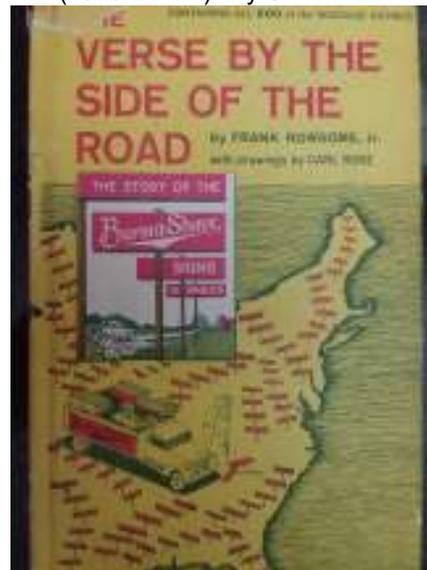
After reading a number of books on racing in the 1950s, I wanted to read more about Cooper Cars. They were mentioned in just about every book that featured road racing in England and Europe. This is a very comprehensive account of Cooper from the beginning to the end. The company was started by Charles Cooper who was later joined by his son John. While neither of them was a designer in the way of a Colin Chapman, they created the rear engine revolution. The book takes you through the progression of how it started until every purpose-built road racer had the engine in the back.

While the book does get bogged down a little in the history of each car they made, you get a complete understanding of how the rear engine revolution happened. In addition, there is the development and history of the Mini Cooper which lives on today. I enjoy reading how these race car makers go through the development process. How one idea follows another until you get the complete package. Then, especially in the race car business, you just can't sit there and make the same car year after year. You have to be constantly innovating and developing new ideas.

Finally, what I wanted to get to what happened to Cooper Cars in the end. Sadly, they could not keep up with the competitive nature of race car sales. Mainly this was because after the passing of the father Charles Cooper, his son John was involved in a severe road accident in of all things a twin-engine Mini Cooper. When an interested buyer came along John sold the business to a group more interested in selling road cars. It was a great ride while it lasted.

## ***The Verse by the Side of the Road: The Story of the Burma Shave Signs***

By Frank Rowsome Jr. 1965 Steven Greene Press (1970 edition) by Chuck Herrmann



For members of a certain age, this book will bring back memories of road trips from our youth.

Starting in 1925, the Burma-Shave Company started putting up advertisements along roads near their Minnesota company headquarters. These were slogans that were spread out, a few words each on six small billboards that motorists read in sequence as they drove by. Such as HIS FACE WAS SMOOTH/ AND COOL AS ICE/ AND OH LOUISE!/ HE SMELLED/ SO NICE/ BURMA SHAVE.

It proved successful and eventually spread across the country. At one point there were over 7,000 signs in 43 states. As cars and roads improved the signs were adapted, spaced further apart and farther from the roadside so they could be read at the higher speeds cars were travelling at.

This small book (121 pages) is a bit of Americana and history of business and the American road. There are less than 70 pages of text and several illustrations (no photos). The rest of the book is made up of all the various slogans used in these ads.

All good things come to an end. There was the increase in electronic media and advertising, also the need to reach into growing urban areas (these signs were out on the open roads). In 1963 the company was sold to Philip Morris, and the old signs were taken down. Another example of management moving in a new direction.

Some of these signs are in the Smithsonian Museum.

At this point the book is long out of print. I am a volunteer at the Wheels Museum in Albuquerque, NM and this book is in their collection.

# High Desert Modeler



**Description:** Shaker Trike

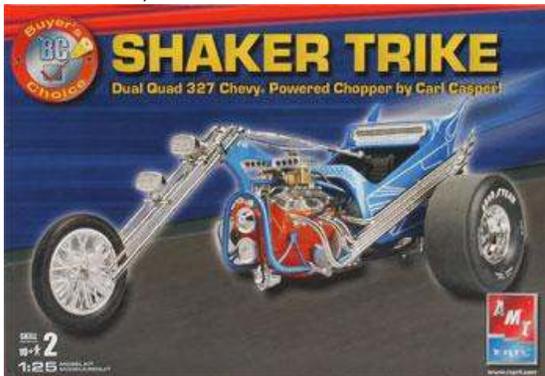
**Manufacturer:** AMT (former MPC)

**Kit #:** 38181 **Scale:** 1/12

*by Chuck Herrmann Albuquerque, New Mexico*



At the February meeting of the Albuquerque Model Car Club, this somewhat odd kit was on the raffle table. As we looked at the pile before the meeting, this one caught my eye. None of my tickets were winners, but when I mentioned to the guy who won it (as the last piece remaining on the table) something like "that is so unique I would actually try building it" he said here it is! So I felt obligated to build it. Besides it fit a theme coming up for the local IPMS club (2 or 3), with three wheels, so I build it I did.



This is an old 70's MPC tool of a custom/drag motorcycle designed by Carl Casper. This is a 2006 reissue by ERTL under the AMT label. One of the sprues was marked Mako Trike, so it shared some items with other designs.

I have built both Tamiya and Revell 1/12 bikes before, but this one seems huge in comparison. It must be the Chevy small block V8 and the drag slicks. Molded in gray and chrome, this kit shows its age. There was a lot of flash, pieces were attached to the sprue where obvious mounting marks would be visible and there were lots of serious mold lines. Especially on the chrome which would prove to be an issue. The scale threw me off for a while. The 1/12 V8 is taller than a 1/25 figure! Eventually I got into it. The engine was sprayed with some old Testors NASCAR #88 Ford Red. The spark plugs are

actually separate pieces and vinyl tubing for spark wire is included. The flex of the tubing causes fit issues but I got it close enough.



While I had more ideas to modify it the poor fit and quality made me decide it was not worth it. I did swap out the front wheel and more modern disc brake from one of the Revell Chopper kits. The kit air cleaners were chrome blower style, no way those would look good after gluing without rechroming so I also used Iron Cross style air cleaners from the Revell kit. The chrome exhausts had serious mold lines, I sanded down the worst and applied some Tamiya clear blue and yellow along with some steel to cover the worst and make it look like heat effect.



The frame was adapted to the ride height for the new front wheel and painted semi gloss black. The drivetrain is from a car, the rear wheels just push onto a solid rod, no brakes of hubs. There are no shocks or shifter. I left the body as is, and painted it Testors Fiery Orange lacquer from the rattle can.



I added a skull made from a bead/jewelry piece in place of one of the headlights.

The design of this kit is simplified, quite unlike the great detail of Tamiya motorcycle kits so the end result is a little toy like. And the mold lines on all the chrome, of which there is a lot, would need addressed for a "serious" build. But for what it is it came out okay, looks good on the shelf and is an interesting nostalgia piece.



# 2020 Event Calendar

*With all the disruption and uncertainty caused by the Corona virus crisis, all dates are of course tentative. Please check directly with the event hosts as events are being rescheduled or canceled daily. I will update as I am informed of changes, also I will share the notices on the GTR Facebook page.*

**Postponed TBD April 18** 28th Milwaukee NNL  
Host Automotive Modelers Guild AMG  
Theme: Hot Rods  
Sub Theme: Rat Rods  
The Excellence Center, Waukesha WI  
scottiek1@charter.net

**July 29-Aug 1 Canceled** 2020 IPMS/USA Nationals  
San Marcos, TX

**Postponed June 13-14 now Cancelled**  
Heartland Model Car Nationals  
Hosted by KC Slammers (Kansas City area)  
Overland Park convention Center, Overland Park  
KS (special Theme American Graffiti)  
-www.kcslammers.com

**Postponed May 24 now August 23** Indy 500  
Indianapolis Motor Speedway

**Postponed May 15-16 now September 19**  
40th Annual Hoosier Model Car Contest and  
Swap Meet.  
Johnson County Fairgrounds, Franklin, IN  
[mike51oleary@gmail.com](mailto:mike51oleary@gmail.com)

**Postponed June 13-14** 24 Hours of LeMans  
**now Sept 19-20** LeMans, France

**Sep 26** IPMS/Nordic-Con 2020  
Veterans Memorial Community Center  
Inver Grove Heights, MN  
robertmaderich69@hotmail.com

**Sep 27** Illinois Plastic Kit & Toy Show  
DuPage County Fairgrounds Wheaton IL  
Info contact: (630) 969-1847 or  
Email: pthpowerinc@aol.com

**Oct 18** Countryside Collectors Classic Show  
Park Place of Countryside, Countryside IL  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

**Oct 25** US Grand Prix **CANCELLED**  
Circuit of the Americas, Austin TX

**Oct 31** Winnebago Area Model Classic  
Hilton Garden Inn, Oshkosh WI  
WAMclassic@gmail.com

**Nov 1** Scale Auto Hobby & Toy Show  
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

**Postponed May 17 now Nov 1 NNL North Contest**  
Knights of Columbus Hall, Bloomington, MN  
[www.NNLNORTH.com](http://www.NNLNORTH.com)

**Postponed March 21 now November 14** Sebring  
12 Hours IMSA  
Sebring Intl Raceway, Sebring FL

**Nov 14 Canceled** Southern NNL Atlanta  
[acme-ipms.com](http://acme-ipms.com)

**Nov 7 Canceled** IPMS/Butch O'Hare Contest &  
Swap

**Nov 15 Detroit NNL**  
The Macomb Community College informed The  
Detroit Area Auto Modelers our show has been  
canceled..

**Dec 6** Tinley Park Holiday Toy Show  
Tingley Park HS, Tingley Park IL  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

If any readers wish their shows or any other  
events of interest to GTR listed send the  
information along to GTR.



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