



# GTR Newsletter

## June 2006

The Newsletter of IPMS Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers

In this issue:

- GTR News, Events Calendar
- Build the 1981 LeMans Winner



## GTR Auto Modelers

2002/2003 IPMS/USA Region 5 Chapter of the Year

2006 Meetings: Every 3rd Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

Location alternates between member's homes and the Fountains of Crystal Lake

**Next GTR Meeting: June 17, 2006**

**At the Fountains of Crystal Lake**

**On Rt 31, about one mile north of Rt 176 in Crystal Lake**

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The GTR Newsletter is edited by Chuck Herrmann

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Unless indicated, all articles written by the editor. All errors, misspellings and inaccuracies, while the editor's responsibility, are unintentional. Feel free to copy for any other nonprofit use.

**Check out the GTR Auto Modelers website at:**

**[www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com](http://www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com)**

# GTR Mailbag

by Chuck Herrmann

## Events



The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Microcar and Minicar Club Meet will be held right in GTR's backyard this year. Date will be August 12<sup>th</sup>, at the old OAK Mfg plant on Main Street in Crystal Lake. It is said to be the largest gathering of micro and mini cars anywhere, featuring such cars as Goggomobiles, Isettas, Messerschmitts, Minis and Fiats. Details at: [www.microcar.org](http://www.microcar.org)



The 2006 Plastic Summer Meltdown event, hosted by IPMS/CARS in Miniature, Lakes Region Scale Auto Modelers and GTR, has been set for August 20, at the same location as last year, the Algonquin Township Offices in Cary.

The 48<sup>th</sup> Illinois Plastic Kit and Toy Show, with model contest, will be held August 27, at the usual site, the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton.

See the Events calendar for details and for all the events I know of.



## Real World



2006 Indy 500 Winner Sam Hornish



2006 Indy 500 Pace Car: Chevy Corvette



All past Chevy Indy pace cars

## Newsletters

Since last time, we have received print and electronic newsletters from:

IPMS/Lakes Region Scale Modelers, IPMS/Seattle, AMG Milwaukee, IPMS/C.A.R.S. in Miniature, *The Wingman* from IPMS/Bong Chapter, Rockford Wheels in Scale (RWIS), MAMA (Maryland Auto Modelers Assoc), Winnebago Auto Modelers (WAM), Lake Michigan Model Car Club and *Dew Line* from the Upper Peninsula (MI) Scale Modelers.

Copies of all these will be available for viewing at the next meeting.

# GTR News

## GTR Update

The June meeting will be at the Fountain of Crystal Lake, on the usual 3rd Saturday, June 17.

2006 dues are still being accepted, cost remains \$15.00. Please pay at the next meeting or mail to Chuck Herrmann. Make checks payable to Chuck Herrmann, not GTR. Last years dues expired March 31.

The deadline for getting articles, reviews, etc. in the next (July) issue of the newsletter is June 28. Submissions are **always** appreciated.

## May GTR Meeting



The May meeting was back at the Fountains of Crystal Lake, on the usual third Saturday, May 20. After the treasury and business updates, we moved on to Show and Tell.

Among the stuff on display:

Chuck Herrmann: diecast 1/24 Hummer NASCAR U.S. Marines promotional vehicle, 1/24 Tamiya Porsche 936 with the 1981 LeMans winning markings, Fujimi Ferrari 348 "rat rod" with a diecast custom car hauler.



John Schaefer: Three NASCAR projects: a 2005 chassis, a resin MCW 1973 Chevelle body and a 1961 Plymouth. Also some new JWTBM decals, including markings for several unique versions of the cars on the Rusty Wallace Last Call farewell tour of last year.



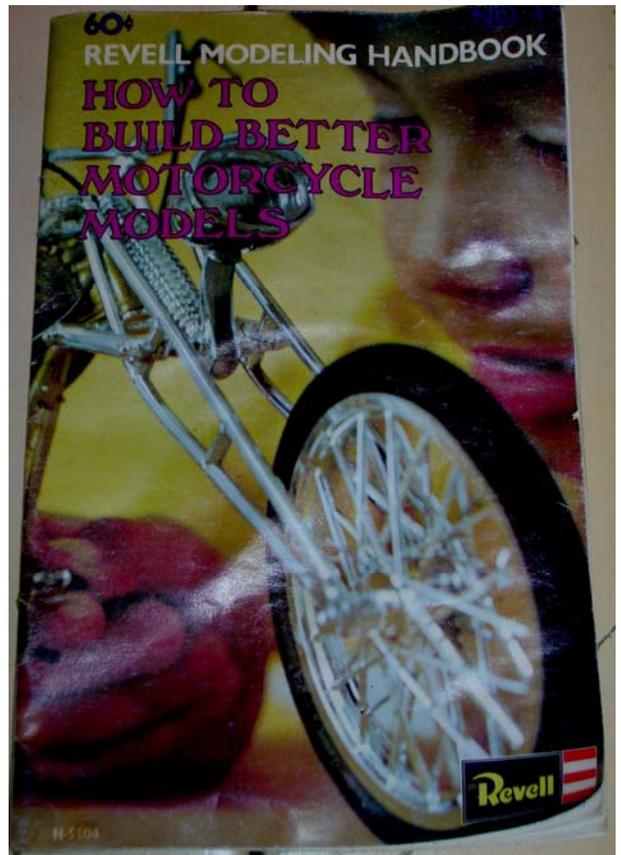
Dave Edgecomb: some new kits, the Fujimi Ferrari F430, and Ferrari 612 Scaglietti kits from both Fujimi and Revell to compare the two versions of the same subject.



Michael Larson: Tamiya Mercedes CLK-GTR.



Ed Sexton: a 1/24 Formula 2 Braham, from the old Heller/AMT kit. Also, a resin 1/24 Porsche 917 L&M Can car by Formula Canada.



Ken Zinnen: a 1/43 Tamiya Ferrari in progress showing his technique of soldering, not gluing, the complicated modern wing assemblies. Ken promises a demo of this technique at a future meeting. Also a 1/12 Tamiya kit of a Yamaha Y2R motorcycle along with the Scale Motorsports Spiderman decals and a Tamiya photo etch fork set. And finally a neat vintage reference book for detailing motorcycle kits that was published by Revell in 1973!



# Building the 1981 LeMans 24 Hour Race Winner in 1/24 Scale



**Subject: Porsche 936-81**

**Kit: Porsche 936-78**

**Mfg: Tamiya**

**Kit #24012**

**Scale: 1/24**

*by Chuck Herrmann*

To sports car racing fans, June of course means the 24 Hours of LeMans at the Sarthe circuit in northern France. So I thought this would be a good month to describe building one of the cars that won the race. For modelers, kits of many of the winning cars have been issued by various manufacturers over the years, in all scales. Being a Porsche fan, when Tamiya reissued a run of their 936-78 Porsche kits a few years ago, I picked one up.

Having built one many years ago, I was going to do another one to see if my skills have improved. But the car replicated in the kit did not win in 1978, it finished second. So when I saw some aftermarket decals by Scale Designs on a table at the old Strictly 43<sup>rd</sup> show a few years ago, I decided to build the car that won the race in 1981.

**History:** After the classic years of prototype racing in the 60's and early 70's, the cars evolved into more production based vehicles, like the Porsche 934/35. Great race cars, but not as sleek as the earlier Ferrari and Porsche prototypes. Later rules changes allowed Porsche to develop the 936 series of prototypes for the LeMans 24 Hours contest, versions of which competed from 1976 thru 1981.

The 936 was a very successful race car, the long tail chassis was based on the 908, with open cockpit bodywork and was first brought to LeMans in 1976. Run by the factory team in the famous Martini Racing markings, it won the race in 1976 and 1977, Jacky Ickx co-driving both years, and finished second in 1978. After that private teams ran the car. The 1981 winner actually was an offshoot of the Porsche Indy program from 1979, which was canceled at the last minute due to some political issues with the GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter

Indy/USAC people. The turbo 3.0 liter engine designed for Indy was modified for endurance racing and installed in the old 936 chassis and designated 936-81. With Jacky Ickx now teamed with Derek Bell, it dominated the event in 1981, again as a factory entry but with Jules replacing Martini as the title sponsor.

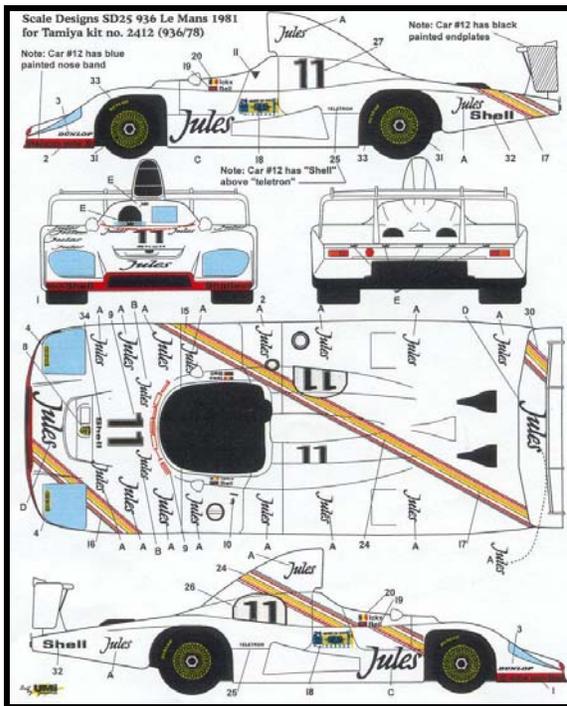
**Kit:** This kit by Tamiya was initially available in the late 70's when the real car was still active. Like most Tamiya kits of that vintage, it was designed to be a motorized model, with space for an electric motor, gears, etc. Fortunately for this subject, other than being a curbside kit without a full engine, it still allows for a fairly accurate replica, that with a little extra work does build into a nice curbside shelf model.



**The Build:** Making the 1981 winner out of the kit of the car that finished second in 1978 is a relatively easy task. The exterior of the cars are very similar. As noted above, the main difference in 1981 was the engine, but since this is a curbside and simplified in design, that is not an issue.

There are several minor modifications to the body. There was a small clear windscreen added for the 1981 winner which was not in the original kit. The bulge in the front "hood" vent/duct should be removed and the opening sanded smooth. Also the fuel filler needs to be filled in and moved back on the body to replicate the car in the race.

Of course the markings are the most notable difference. There have been several options, for this build I used the Scale Designs sheet pictured below. This one is no longer in production, but an alternative would be the sheet by Fred Cady. The stripes over the top of the scoop were tricky to match up, but Solvaset helped snuggle them down. I probably put it a bit too high which threw off the number roundel a bit but it doesn't look too bad.



The paint scheme is basic white, I used Tamiya lacquer from the rattle can. There is red striping around the nose, but by that time I did not want to mask and paint so I cut out some of the red from the Martini decals that come in the kit and applied it in pieces. Some photos I have seen of the real car look more fluorescent but I am not sure if that was the restored car which might be a little different than the original. Also I used the headlight borders around the front lenses.

The body modifications mentioned I did not find out about until the paint was on, but they are minor enough so I left them off.



The interior is pretty basic, I painted the seats Tamiya gray acrylic, with some aluminum around the side panels. The dash is flat black

with painted details for the instruments. I did add some seatbelts from masking tape with some photo etch buckles from the parts bin.



The chassis pretty basic, it is molded in black so I left most of it as is. There is molded in detail for the bottom of the engine, and separate exhausts. I painted this aluminum with some weathering and washes, also there are frame rails visible that I painted aluminum.



The wheels covers were painted black with gold spoke decals. The Dunlop lettering was also on the decal sheet. The wheels mount on metal axles, however the rear wheels needed several spacers to line up correctly as the gear that was to be used with the electric motor was not included. The front wheels mount with some pins from the outside, there are no pins for the back so I cut some large headed nails and glued them on to balance it out then, painted them all metallic grey.

Overall this is a straightforward build that resulted in a colorful replica of a LeMans winner as driven by two famous drivers.



# GTR Event Calendar

June 10 GMO 8 NNL  
Greater Minnesota Open NNL Model Car  
Exposition  
Comfort Inn, Bloomington, MN  
jkampmann@comcast.net

June 17-18 24 Hours of LeMans

August 2-5 IMPS/USA National Convention  
Hyatt Regency Crown Center  
Kansas City, KS  
[www.IPMSUSA2006.org](http://www.IPMSUSA2006.org)

August 6 NASCAR Brickyard 400  
Indianapolis Motor Speedway

August 12 15<sup>th</sup> National Microcar and Minicar  
Club Meet  
100 S Main St. Crystal Lake, IL  
Ken Weger 815-459-5005  
Knsweiger@mc.net

August 20 ALMS Road America

August 20 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Plastic  
Meltdown hosted by:  
IPMS/CARS, Lakes Region and GTR  
Algonquin Township Offices  
Crystal Lake, IL  
[GTRchab@yahoo.com](mailto:GTRchab@yahoo.com)

August 27 48th Illinois Plastic Kit and Toy  
Show: swap and contest  
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL  
Past Time Hobbies 630-969-1847

September 9 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Zoo Contest  
IPMS/W Michigan and Kalamazo Modelers  
Air Zoo Museum, Kalamazoo MI  
Clarence Wentzel cewentzel@yahoo.com

September 17 Scale Auto Swap Meet  
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

September 23 IPMS Twin Cities Aero  
Historians – details TBA

September 16 IPMS/Gateway Event  
First Baptist Church, St Charles MO  
314-645-1117 [CRM@inlink.com](mailto:CRM@inlink.com)

October 7-8 Toledo Swap and NNL

October 19-22 iHobby Expo  
Public days Sat/Sun 10/21-22  
Stephens Convention Center  
Rosemont, IL  
[www.ihobbyexxpo.com](http://www.ihobbyexxpo.com)

October 21 IPMS/Bong Event  
Midway Best Western Hotel  
Brookfield, WI <http://www.ipmsbong.org>

October 28 IPMS Glue Crew  
Wausau Inn and Conf Center  
Wausau, WI  
Joe Drew jdrew@dwave.net

November 5 Scale Auto Swap Meet  
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

November 11 IPMS/Butch O'hare  
Lakeview Jr High Darrien, IL

Nov 12 Tri State Collectors Classic Toy Show  
Park Place of Countryside Union Hall  
Countryside, IL  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

December 10 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Swap Meet  
and Model Car Contest presented by  
Milwaukee Miniature Motors  
Waukesha Expo Center, Waukesha WI  
[www.milwaukeminiautoremotors.com](http://www.milwaukeminiautoremotors.com)  
Contest: Loren Busswitz 414-353-0720

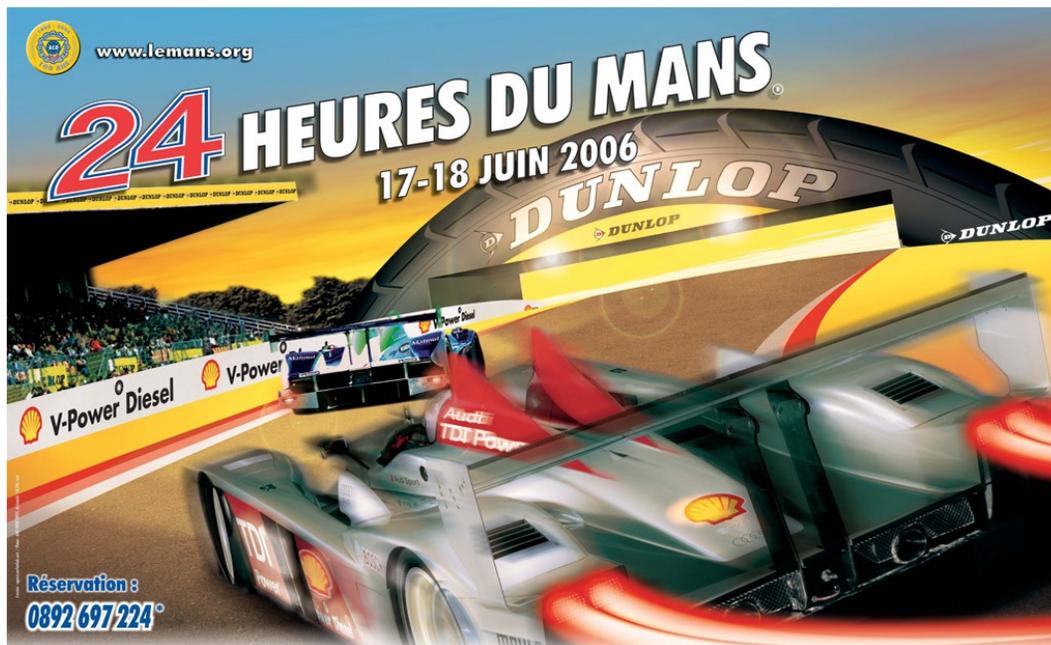
? = event or date not yet confirmed as of this  
printing



**IPMS USA**  
International Plastic Modelers Society

National Conventions:  
August 2-5, 2006 Kansas City, MO  
August 22-25, 2007 Anaheim, CA  
2008 – TBA – East Region location

# GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter



IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers  
Chuck Herrmann  
338 Alicia Drive  
Cary, IL 60013

Next GTR Meeting: June 17, 2006  
[www.gtrautomodelers.freemembers.com](http://www.gtrautomodelers.freemembers.com)