



GTR

Newsletter

April 2008

The Newsletter of IPMS Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers

This Issue:

- GTR News and Calendar
- Revell Germany Ferrari 250 GTO Kit Review



GTR Auto Modelers

Based in the Northwest Chicago, IL Suburbs

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

2007 IPMS/USA Region 5 Newsletter of the Year

2008 Meetings: Every 3rd Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

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

No April GTR Meeting: We will have a club display at the Milwaukee NNL in Waukesha, WI

Your current GTR Officers are:

President: John Schaefer	630-553-0719	johndstp43@cs.com
Vice President: Steve Jahnke	847-516-8515	stevejahnke@comcast.net
Secretary/Contact: Chuck Herrmann	847-516-0211	gtrchab@yahoo.com

The GTR Newsletter is edited by Chuck Herrmann

Please send all correspondence, newsletters, IPMS information, articles, reviews, comments, praise, criticism to: Chuck Herrmann 338 Alicia Drive Cary, IL 60013

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

GTR Mailbag

by Chuck Herrmann

Real World

Porsche to acquire majority stake in Volkswagen

from cars.about.com

3/11/08

Porsche appears to be well on its way to becoming one of the world's biggest automakers. Porsche plans to up its 31% stake in the Volkswagen Group to over 50%, giving it control of the company. Volkswagen owns several brands we see here in the United States (Audi, Bentley, Lamborghini and Bugatti) as well as several we don't (SEAT, Skoda, and truckmakers MAN and Scania). Porsche's plan is to topple Toyota as the number-one selling automaker in the world.

New Sports Racers

Here are some photos of some of the more interesting new LeMans racers at Sebring last month.



Corvette GT2



Ford GT in GT2



Peugeot Diesel LMP1



Dodge Viper GT2

Hobby Industry News



On the website for Revell Germany we see details about their Neoplan Cityliner bus, kit # 07650 scheduled for August release. This will be huge, as it is in 1/24!

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, Winnebago Auto Modelers (WAM), Back Porch Modelers Group, Maryland Auto Modelers Assoc (MAMA), IPMS/Racing Plastic Modelers (RPM), IPMS/Quad Cities, *Concours*, from IPMS/San Diego Model Car Club, and Lake Michigan Model Car Club.

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

Events

Lots of events in April. On April 12 GTR will have a club table at the **Ferrari Expo** at Continental Motorsports in Hinsdale. Members can bring stuff to sell, also there is a nice contest for sports and racing cars.

On April **19 The Milwaukee NNL** hosted by the AMG club will be held in Waukesha, WI, and GTR will have our usual club display table.

The big news is that GTR will be the host of the **GTR Summer NNL**, to be held Sunday, August 3 at the Algonquin Township Offices in Crystal Lake, IL. This show, coordinated by GTR's own Steve Jahnke, will be similar to the Meltdown events held in 2005-2006. This time it is an automotive only NNL style contest, along with the Trunk Sale swap meet, where vendors sell their wares in the parking lot at no fee for vendors. This will be one of the few summer shows in the area. We will be sending out flyers and I will (try to) set up a page on the GTR website with details.

See the events calendar for details and for all the events I know of. If any readers are aware of any other events of interest to GTR please send them along to me.

Random Thoughts

By Les Whitfield

2007 was a good year for Porsche. Profits tripled over 2006. Earnings for 2007 were \$6.18B (as in billion, take that Toyota). Most of this can be credited to its partial ownership in VW. Revaluation of Porsche's 31% ownership of VW resulted in a one-time gain of almost \$760M. 20% of VW is owned by a German state (I find that scary where a government can control a business). The German state of Lower Saxony can create a roadblock to Porsches acquiring a 75% stake in the company needed for domination. The Government plans to maintain its 21% stake to protect the 82,000 VW jobs. The articles of association allow minority investors with at least a 20% stake in the company to block certain key strategic decisions. By the way Porsche employs 12,000 workers while VW employs 324,000 people.

A recent European court decision, reported on PBS Nightly Business Report, struck down the German law limiting non-German investors from purchasing majority stakes in German companies. I guess people in Germany are as afraid of outsiders taking over their businesses just as Americans are. After Porsches supervisory board approved an increase of 50% of VW, VW announced the purchase of Sweden's truck firm Skoda. Money has not been an obstacle for Porsche. Porsche has already borrowed 10 Billion Euros. The shareholders have authorized it to raise its share capital worth another 10 Billion Euros. In his column in Forbes magazine on the best-run automotive company in the world Jerry Flint (who has been following the industry since 1958) named Porsche.

Are you aware that Porsche paid \$5 million in CAFE fines in 2001? That is another reason for its interest in combining with VW. This way they can combine their emissions and fuel economy numbers with VW and lower them.

Are you aware VW supplies 30% of Porsches parts?

A recent fire at the 911 plant halted production for a short time. I am sure all the GTR members with one on order are relieved.

California based Tesla, producer of electric vehicles, began to produce of the Tesla Roadster at a Lotus plant in England on March 17. 600 units will be built this year and are sold out. 2009 will produce 100 units a month and there are already orders for 400. The zero emission vehicle (except for the emissions belched out at the electric plant so you can charge it) has a driving range of 230 miles and up to 60 miles per hour.

Ford Motor Company finally dumped Land Rover and Jaguar to Indian auto manufacturer TATA for \$2.6 Billion. That is 1/3 what they paid for them eight years ago (remember that \$6 Billion figure?). They must also put \$600 Million into the Jag-Land Rover pension fund. Now if they could get rid of money losing Volvo, all purchased when Jacque Nasser was president, their bottom line may improve. I wish they kept Aston-Martin.

The Chicago Auto Show is long gone. I found it somewhat boring. All the manufacturers did have something to showcase (Ford with the Shelby, VW with the bright blue Jetta diesels, Cadillac with the new CTS in bright colors, the Corvettes [and the chassis display] in their special colors, Acura with red cars, the blue Dodge SuperBee). But, the rest of the show was gray or silver blah. Just boring. No wonder the country has no excitement. Everything is neuter. In the car shows I went to as a kid the manufacturers showed off their best. They created excitement. Now the excitement is as bad as is their bottom line, my opinion anyway.

I did enjoy seeing Ginger Zee, the channel 5 weather girl, who is prettier in person.

Gasoline prices are going to go wayyyyy up. Diesel will go beyond the gas increases according to insiders because the plants cannot increase production of diesel due to the way the plants are constructed. Changing the plants to produce more diesel is supposedly expensive and would take years. That never stopped the government from doing things. According to Nightly Business Report on March 26, 2008; the cracking plants are running at only 82.2%, below the rate during the October 2005 hurricane season. Valero Energy, the nation's largest refiner, admitted reducing supply because of low margins (reported in the same program). If things are not bad enough there the price of a bushel of wheat has doubled in the past year because farmers are producing more corn for ethanol. With the high prices of corn I do not understand why farmers are getting subsidies from the government. I just love the Indy type car need to switch from menthol wood based alcohol for which there is no shortage to ethanol that is corn based. I guess I will be watching reruns of old sitcoms instead of racing from those groups. What will I snack on? Maybe fruit instead of chips. They will probably be cheaper. We do have one salvation to these high oil prices. Fadel Gheit, Oil and Gas Analyst of Oppenheimer & Co. mentioned if there is a recession prices will come down as people will not purchase as much and there will be an over supply.

GTR News

GTR Classifieds

For Sale - as a set. Note: 6 kits added March 2008

All original issue Tamiya 1/12 Scale Formula Cars Boxes unwrapped, mint except where noted.

Kit BS 1218 Brabham MARTINI BT 44B Big Scale Series 16
Kit BS 1207 Ferrari 312B Big Scale Series 7 Spots on box cover
Kit BS 1219 Ferrari 312 T Big Scale Series 17
Kit BS 1225 Ferrari 312 T4 Big Scale Series 23
Kit BS 1201 Honda F-1 (Slight water damage to bottom of box)
Big Scale Series 1

Kit BS 1202 Lotus 49 Ford F-1 Big Scale Series 2
Kit BS 1204 Lotus 40B Ford F-1 Big Scale Series 4
Kit BS 1213 J.P.S. Lotus 72D Big Scale Series 13
Kit BS 1222 J.P.S. Mk. III Team Lotus Big Scale Series 20
Kit BS 1205 Matra MS11 Big Scale Series 5
Kit BS 1226 Renault RE 20 Turbo Big Scale Series 24
Kit BS 1216 Texaco Marlboro M23 McLaren Big Scale Series 14
Kit BS 1209 Tyrrell Ford F-1 Big Scale Series 9
Kit BS 1221 Tyrrell P34 Six wheeler Big Scale Series 19
Kit BS 1224 Wolf WR1 Ford F1 Big Scale Series 22
Kit BS 1217 Yardley McLaren M23 Big Scale Series 15

Accessories:

RM 1201 Motor racing team driver
RM 1205 Motor racing team manager
RM 1203 Motor racing team mechanic engine tuning
RM 1202 Motor racing team mechanic wheel changing
RM 1204 Motor racing team tool set

Contact Les Whitfield whitfield1@yahoo.com

Wanted: Porsche 356 kit (Fujimi or Testors).
Poor quality built up or bag kit okay, need parts
(wheels/tires, lights) to do Jimmy Flintstone resin
550 Spyder transkit. Contact: Chuck Herrmann
ctrchab@yahoo.com 847-516-0211

Wanted: Buffing wheels for a hobby grinder. 6"
Dia 1/2 wide for a 1/4 shaft on motor
Contact Les at 773-774-4156 or
whitfield1@yahoo.com

GTR Update

In April the Milwaukee NNL falls on our meeting night, so instead of a regular meeting we will have our usual road trip to the NNL along with the GTR display table. In May, we will be back at the Fountains of Crystal Lake. We are looking for any member to bring up ideas or suggestions for this year's meetings or activities, either at the meetings or contact me.

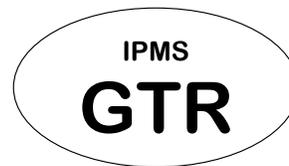
Some big news for GTR is that we will be the sponsor of the **GTR Summer NNL**, to be held Sunday, August 3 at the Algonquin Township Offices in Crystal Lake, IL. This show, coordinated by GTR's own Steve Jahnke, will be similar to the Plastic Summer Meltdown events held in 2005-2006. This time it is an automotive only NNL style contest, along with the Trunk Sale swap meet, where vendors sell their wares in the

parking lot at no fee for vendors. The date has been approved for IPMS/USA. This will be one of the few summer shows in the area. It is a rather low key event, trophies will be awarded based on popular vote for a few classes, but mostly modelers are encouraged to bring stuff to put on the display tables to share with fellow modelers. We will be sending out flyers and I will (try to) set up a page on the GTR website with details. See the website for a page with pictures from the 2005 Meltdown event. GTR members are asked to support the event, volunteer if you can (although the point is to minimize the effort, keep things simple and enjoy the event).

GTR club dues for 2008 will remain at \$15. With most newsletters going out electronically, we will have a little more money to help support some local shows this year. Please pay at the next meeting, or mail me a check (made out to Chuck Herrmann, not to GTR since we do not have an account). 2007 dues expire in April.

GTR is a local chapter of IPMS/USA. I urge 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, or see me for membership forms.

Past issues of the GTR newsletters are now available on line. Our website is rather basic, as are my webmaster skills, but if you go to www.carsandracingstuff.com, then click on Newsletters, find GTR and our newsletters are achieved back to 2004, more will be added. Thanks to Bill Crittenden for storing our newsletters on his site.



March GTR Meeting

The March meeting was held March 15th at the Fountains of Crystal Lake. Among the business items we discussed the treasury report, upcoming shows, and ideas for meetings away from the Fountains this year. So far we are planning meetings at Doug Fisher's in Elmhurst in May and at my house in Cary in June, these will be firmed up as we move closer to the dates. We voted to support the summer contest proposed by Steve, see above for the details.

Then it was on to Show and Tell. Here are pictures from the meeting.

Chuck Herrmann:



1/43 K-Line Kruiser diecast 1952 Mercedes 300SL from the Carrera Panamericana. Interior painted out.



Maisto 1/24 pre-painted diecast kit in progress: VW 1600 Notchback



Monogram 1/24 Porsche 911 Slant Nose Cabrio



Ron Spannraft:



Motorcycle models and accessories.



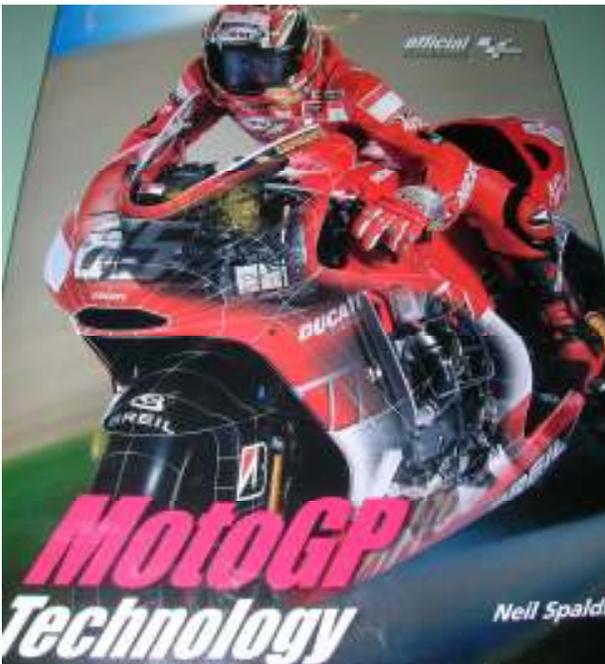
1/12 Tamiya Honda RCV211 2003 in the cool 60's Mod markings



A very nice Top Studio 1/12 motorcycle detail set, found on the internet.

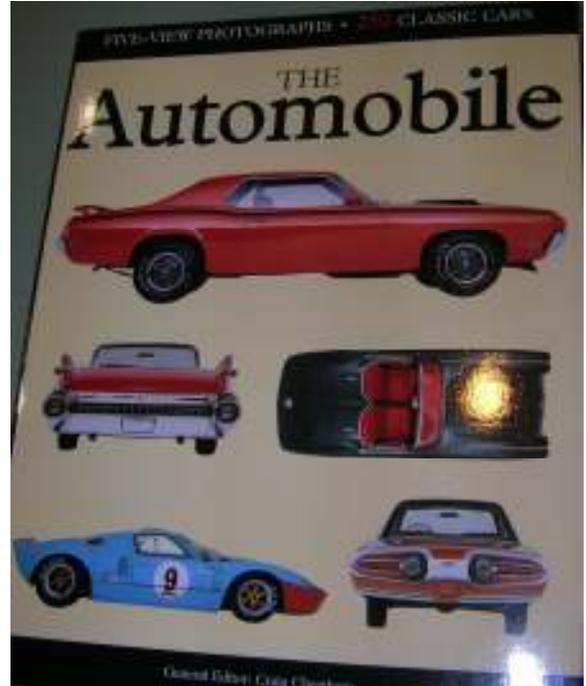


1/12 Tamiya Honda RCV211 2003 in the regular season colors



Book: *MotoGP Technology*, a great reference guide for building racing motorcycles, lots of close up photos of details.

Steve Jahnke:



Book: *The Automobile*, containing all around views of several hundred famous cars.

IPMS USA

International Plastic Modelers Society

National Conventions:
 Aug 6-9, 2008 – Virginia Beach, VA
 2009 – Columbus, OH
 2008 Region 5 Convention:
 May 16-17, Council Bluffs, IA (Omaha)

2008 GTR Summer NNL



NNL Style Contest and Trunk Sale Swap Meet

**Sunday, August 3
 Algonquin Township Offices,
 Crystal Lake IL**



Kit Review: Ferrari 250 GTO
Mfg: Revell Germany
Kit #: 07395 Scale: 1/24



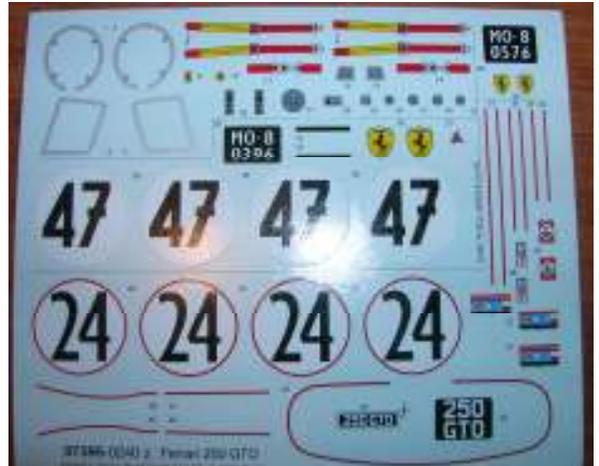
The 250 GTO, that is still regarded as one of the finest of all Ferraris, was designed with the primary aim of suitability for private use, but at the same time for winning races in the three-litre class. The Gran Turismo body shape was aerodynamically optimised and resulted in a perfect combination of suitability for purpose and beauty. The front of the 250 GTO was particularly attractive due to the three cooling vents for the 2953 cc engine. The 250 stood for the capacity of one of the 12 engine cylinders, the O for omologato (= type approved), the FIA approval for races in the GT class. The GTO was shown for the first time in 1962. Thanks to its 300 hp engine and good aerodynamics it achieved a speed of about 280 km/h with acceleration from 0 to 100 in just 5.6 seconds. For three whole years (1962, 1963 and 1964) the GTO dominated its racing class in inimitable style.



This kit is a reissue of a kit from I believe either Protar or Fujimi. It is a full detail model, lots of parts. It is molded in white and black plastic, with a chrome tree for small details and multi piece chrome wire wheels that mount on rubber tires. The body features separate movable bonnet, doors and boot lid. Molding looks nice and clean considering the age of the tool, minimal mold lines and flash.



There is a detailed, multi-part 12-cylinder engine featuring six Weber carbs. Separate exhaust assemblies (for road and race versions) are included.



Included are decals and detailed painting instructions for one road and two racing versions. Included are decals for the blue Mecom Team car #24 driven by Roger Penske and a green #47 driven by David Piper.



GTR Event Calendar

2008

April 12 Ferrari Expo with Model Contest
Continental Motorsports, Hinsdale IL

April 12 14th IPMS/Plastic Surgeons Contest
Point of Grace Church Waukee, IA (Des Moines)
Rob Folen viper.models@gmail.com
www.ipms-plasticsurgeons.co

April 19 Milwaukee NNL 16
Hosted by Automotive Modelers Group
Excellence Center Waukesha, WI

April 20 Milwaukee Miniature Motors Show
Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha WI
www.milwaukee-miniaturemotors.com

May 3 28th Annual Miniature Vehicle Collectors
Swap Meet and Model Car Contest
Hoosier Model Car Association
Jim Casassa 317-475-0653 casassa@juno.com

May 16-17 IPMS Region 5 Convention
Hosted by IPMS/Ft Crook
Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs IA
<http://fortcrook.hobbyvista.com/>
or e-mail to ipmsftcrook@cox.net

May 25 Indianapolis 500
Indianapolis Motor Speedway

May 31 IPMS/Alexander Lippisch Model Show
New Hiawatha Comm Center, Hiawatha IA
Jeff Stevens 319-365-3987
jdsdesigns@hotmail.com

June 7 NNL North (formerly GMONNL)
Hosted by Racing Plastic Modelers (RPM)
Ramada – Mall of America Bloomington, MN
www.RPMMModelClub.com

June 1 AJ Foyt 225 IRL Race
Milwaukee Mile Milwaukee, WI

June 14-15 24 Hueres du LeMans
LeMans, France

August 3 GTR Summer NNL
NNL style contest and Trunk Sale swap meet
Algonquin Township Offices, Crystal Lake, IL
Steve Jahnke 847-516-8515
Or gtrchab@yahoo.com
www.gtrautomodelers.freesevers.com

August 6-9 IPMS/USA National Convention
Virginia Beach Convention Center, Va. Beach, VA
www.ipmsusa2008.org

August 9 American LeMans Series
Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI
www.roadamerica.com

August 23 Plastic Car Model Contest and Show
(with 15th Annual Erie Car Show) Erie, IL
Northern Illinois Tabletop Crusiers
Tom Border 815-441-0720
Gtcs07stang@yahoo.com

Sept 28 52nd Illinois Plastic Kit & Toy Show
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL
Past Time Hobbies 708-485-4544
pthpowerinc@aol.com

Oct 11 Toledo NNL and Toy Fair
Maumee, OH

Oct 16-19 iHobby Expo (18-19 Open to Public)
Donald Stephens Convention Cntr, Rosemont IL
www.ihobbyexpo.com

October 19 Countryside Collectors Classic Toy
Show with 1/43rd Collectors Club
Park Place of Countryside, IL
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

Nov 2 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap Meet
Serb Hall, Milwaukee
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

Nov 8 13th Annual Southern Nationals NNL
Atlanta Model Car Enthusiasts
Smyrna Comm Center, Smyrna GA
www.acme-ipms.com/2008_nnl.htm



Seen at Sebring, 2008. Ciao, y'all!

GTR Summer NNL

1st Annual Contest & Swap Meet

Hosted by: IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers

Automotive Modelers; we have a summer show and swap meet for you! You are invited to our GTR Summer NNL contest and swap meet.

The Summer NNL will be held on Sunday August 3rd 2008 from 9:30AM to 3:00PM at the Algonquin Township Building, 3702 US Highway 14, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

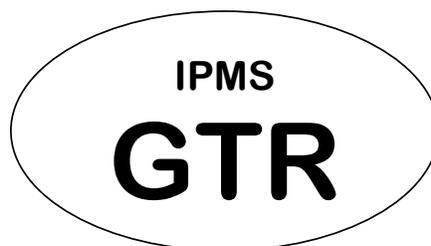
(Find us on Mapquest.com)

For the out-of-towners, there are tons of local accommodations from Days Inn to Holiday Inn. Admission to the show is a measly 5 bucks; you can enter as many models on the tables as you like (at no additional charge) and we will serve a pizza lunch (again, no additional charge, soda extra) to all show entrants.

There will be a free "trunk sale" swap meet in our spacious parking lot, vendors and show goers are encouraged to open their trunks and sell-sell-sell rain or shine. Vendor set-up starts at 8:30 AM.

NNL style contest bestows "Best Of" awards as mandated by popular vote as determined by show attendees, official judging and nit-picking is strictly forbidden, praise and admiration of your fellow modelers strongly encouraged.

SEE YOU AT THE NNL.....



Contact: gtrchab@yahoo.com

See: www.gtrautomodelers.freeservers.com

GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter

IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers

Chuck Herrmann
338 Alicia Drive
Cary, IL 60013

No April GTR Meeting: Join us at the Milwaukee NNL!
www.gtrautomodelers.freemembers.com