



# GTR Newsletter

October 2011

The Newsletter of IPMS Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers



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## GTR Auto Modelers

Based in the Chicago, IL Northwest Suburbs  
 2002/2003 IPMS/USA Region 5 Chapter of the Year  
 2007 and 2008 IPMS/USA Region 5 Newsletter of the Year  
 2011 Meetings: Every 1st Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.

**October Meeting at Algonquin Township Building,  
 Rt. 14 about one mile east of Rt. 31**

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

Your current GTR Officers are:

President: Tim Leicht

815-344-9109

[benzwrench@msn.com](mailto:benzwrench@msn.com)

Vice President: Steve Jahnke

847-516-8515

[stevejahnke@comcast.net](mailto:stevejahnke@comcast.net)

Secretary/Contact: Chuck Herrmann

847-516-0211

[gtrchab@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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**Check out the GTR Auto Modelers website at: [www.gtrautomodelers.freeservers.com](http://www.gtrautomodelers.freeservers.com)**

# GTR Mailbag



by Chuck Herrmann

## REAL WORLD

### New URC Series Announced



The American Le Mans Series announced its association with the Unlimited Racing Championship (URC) as the new "Heritage Series" for the 2012 season and beyond. The URC will feature identically built NuArt CanAm cars reminiscent of the "glory days" of the original Canadian-American Challenge Cup (Can-Am) from the 1960-70s.

The NuArt CanAm cars are purpose-built from the ground up and engineered for safety, aerodynamics, driver comfort and speed. (*Driver comfort?? They must anticipate lots of gentleman drivers*). The cars 700+ horsepower, big block V-8 motors and state-of-the-art aerospace quality components with an emphasis on safety.

The new URC Series will feature identically prepared NuArt CanAm cars, racing against one another on original historical Can-Am circuits around North America. The format includes eight races; two 30-minute races on four American Le Mans Series circuits beginning in 2012. Cars will be fully prepped for the owner/driver by the URC series organizer and ready to race at each venue. Initial cars are offered at \$485,000.

## INDUSTRY NEWS

This year is the 51st edition of the All-Japan Mokei ("Model") Hobby Show! Scheduled for October 13-16 at Makuhari Messe in Chiba, Japan, it will focus on new hobby products being released this fall and winter. Details are from Hobby Link Japan ([www.hlj.com](http://www.hlj.com)).

New kits of interest include:

**Aoshima:** 1/12 Honda '89 NSR250R SP Motorcycle Kit 05005



**Fujimi:** 1/12 Yamaha YZF750 1987 Lucky Strike - Roberts Kit 14136



**Fujimi:** 1/20 Ferrari F10 Japan GP Kit 09087



**Fujimi:** 1/24 Lamborghini Aventador Kit 12397



Fujimi: 1/24 Mercedes Benz SLS F1 Safety Car Kit 12398



Hasegawa: 1/24 BMW Mini Crossover Kit CD21



## Model Expo

The iHobby Expo will be held Oct 20-23 at the Stevens Expo Center in Rosemont IL. Public days are Saturday and Sunday 10/22-23. On Saturday there is a Model Display, free admission if you bring in a model, with voting to award trophies for various categories. Hopefully we will have some of the details around new products and industry happenings next issue.

This is the last year in Chicago, next year it is moving to Cleveland. For details see [www.ihobbyexpo.com](http://www.ihobbyexpo.com).

## MEDIA



The Sept/Oct issue of *Car Culture Deluxe* magazine has a three page feature on "George Barris: King of the Customizers...and Models" and his impact on the model car industry. Also in the editorial they discuss the current state of the hot model car hobby.

## RANDOM THOUGHTS

### *By Les Whitfield*

I was watching a European news program on PBS when they brought up the new CFL (compact FLORESCENT light bulbs). It seems that day 60 watt incandescent bulbs are outlawed (Sept.1) in the EU and the price of CFL's are going up 25%. The public thinks there is a conspiracy. The public is hoarding the bulbs because they believe the old style gives off a better light. Philips (French manufacturer) stated the rare earth minerals needed to produce them has gone up 8 times. Another conspiracy? China is reported to have the largest quantity of rare earth minerals.

*American Wheels Chinese Roads* is a new book reviewed in the 17 August 2011 issue of *WSJ*. The book mentions how the GM executives decided to save the Buick brand because of its importance in China. I mentioned in a previous column, how the LaCrosse was partially designed in China to reflect their tastes because more than half of them were sold in China. The last Emperor had a fondness for Buicks (along with Harley Earl).

Michael Waltrip Racing competed in this year's 24 Hour of Le Mans in a Ferrari GT. Next year they hope to be involved in the Grand Am Rolex series with a pair of Ferrari F458's.

What's with all these horse's patooties driving around with their bright lights on?

Ferrari announced the introduction of the F458 Spider. The vehicle will not have a collapsible top but one similar to the last iteration of the Superamerica, where the glass top pivots behind the seats and lays flat behind the occupants.

I have received word VW will begin producing the BlueSport in two to three years. This is the mid-engine diesel roadster that was its concept a few years ago. I hope that they will market it as Mazda did with their Miata at a fair price and the dealers do not add their own "added fees and accessories". I could see myself in one if the taxes were not so high here. "

To my recollection no one has produced an economical vehicle such as the Triumph Spitfire or the "Bug Eye" Sprite since the 1960's. The closest vehicle I can think of was the Pontiac Fiero that was marketed as a commuter car

Warren Buffet claims he and other wealthy individuals need to pay more taxes. He claimed his tax rate is 17.4%. In the 17 August 2011 issue of the *WSJ* explained that he doesn't

receive a salary as his secretary does but he receives his as dividends, which are taxed at 15%. All dividends we receive are taxed at 15%. Would you also like to have your dividends taxed higher when the banks are paying below 1%?

Did you know back in 1975 88% of our clothes were made here? Now we make 2%.

Since *National Speed Sport News* went out of print publication I received a one-year subscription to *Autoweek*. *Autoweek* published **every other** Monday?

Speaking of *Autoweek*, they reported in the 8 August 2011 issue Bernie Ecclestone paid Gerhard Gribkowsky, a bank executive, \$44M in connection with the sale of F1 to CVC Capital Partners. Gribkowsky has been in a German jail as he was arrested in connection with that transaction. He is charged with breach of trust, tax evasion, and receiving "corrupt payments" from Ecclestone and his family trust, Bambino. Ecclestone is being investigated for alleged bribery and abetting breach of trust. *Autoweek* further stated, "...without using the exact phrase, that Gribkowsky blackmailed him". Gribkowsky worked for Bayern LB (bank) and had extensive dealings with Ecclestone when the bank sold its 47.2 % share of F1 holding company SLEC and CVC. Investigations by law enforcement continue. Further information can be found in the article.

I love these red light cameras. People are stopping a car length or so from the white line at an intersection because they are so camera shy. What made me laugh the other day was someone had a line of cars behind them because they did not pull up far enough to trip the sensor to turn the light green. According to a study by the Virginia Transportation Research Council rear end accidents had increased 27% in the study area. Researchers at the University of South Florida pointed out in 2008 that red light cameras tend to increase accidents. In 2003 Ontario (Canada) Ministry of Transportation noted a 2% increase in fatal and injury collisions compared to a 12.7% decrease in the camera-free intersections. There is a running joke that you know a Chicago driver because they wait 10 seconds after a light turns green before they enter an intersection. Right on red violations are nothing more than taxes for not stopping behind the line or long enough. This is tax revenue for cash strapped local governments.

No *WHAT??* this month as I need to get this to the editor... though these are still my random thoughts.

## EVENTS

The IHobby Exp is this month, see above. Also the Toledo swap and NNL is October 8.

See the events calendar for details for all of the events that I know of. I will be adding the 2012 events I am aware of soon. If any readers wish their events or any other events of interest to GTR listed send the information along to me.



## GTR Update

The next regular meeting will be Saturday, October 1, at the Algonquin Township Building. October thru December are all scheduled to be 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 me.

Past issues of the GTR newsletters are now available on line.

Go to [www.carsandracingstuff.com](http://www.carsandracingstuff.com), then click on Newsletters, find GTR and our newsletters are archived back to 2004, more will be added. Thanks to Bill Crittenden for storing our newsletters on his site.

## September GTR Meeting

The September GTR meeting was at the Algonquin Township Office on September 3. We did a bit of business, reviewed the GTR NNL and approved going forward with the event next year. We looked at the treasury update, and decided to pursue some kind of club project for next year, maybe doing a Christmas party? Details need to be worked out on these. We also discussed the Meadowdale club display event. After we did the mailbag then it was on to Show & Tell. Some of the stuff on the tables is pictured below.

**Ed Sexton:** a 1/18 resin built up model by Spark of the 1973 LeMans Matra,



and a LeMans miniature 1/32 slot car of the Renault Alpine A442 from 1978,



also the Tamiya 1/20 kit of the Wolf F1 WR1.



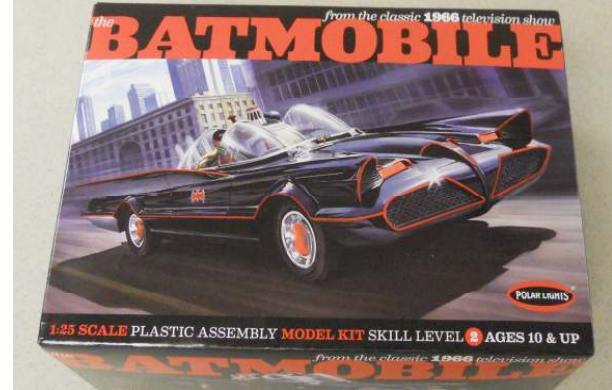
**Steve Jahnke:** Revell 1965 Mustang (seen below shown at the Meadowdale display), also



a new 2010 Revell Mustang GT in progress,



and the new Round2/Polar Lights Batmobile full detail kit.



**Larry Fulhorst:** his first completed build in "a few years", a Saphire 1/43 Porsche 917 Can-Am



and a built up 1/43 1968 Camaro Penske Trans Am by Spark,



Finally some vintage clear plastic 1/24 slot car bodies he intends to build up as static display models.



**Chuck Herrmann:** Hasegwa Kremer Bros/Kenwood Porsche 962C in progress,



and Porsche 356 Carrera Panamericana racer, converted from a \$1 swap meet bargain radio control toy using Scale Design decals,



## IPMS News

GTR is a local chapter of IPMS/USA, in Region 5. This month the annual chapter renewal process began, We needed five active national IPMS/USA members to renew, and this was an issue in past years. This time I sent our latest membership list and fact sheet back the same day it arrived via e-mail and we have been accepted. The check was in the mail the next day so we are good for another year. Thanks to all our members who have kept up their IPMS/USA membership. We still 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](http://www.ipmsusa.org), or see me for membership forms.

IPMS also underwent elections for national officers, and the winners have been announced. They are:

President: Dick Christ  
 1st Vice President: Steve Collins  
 2nd Vice President: Mike Ronnau  
 Director of Local Chapters: Larry Randel  
 Secretary: Dick Montgomery  
 Historian/Publication Director: Jim Pearsall



## Meadowdale Event

GTR hosted a model display at the Meadowdale Motorsports and Memories Car Show at Raceway Woods in Carpentersville, IL on September 17. This is an annual daylong event to commemorate the history of the former Meadowdale International Raceway, a road course that hosted races up until 1968. The area

is now a forest preserve called Raceway Woods, with portions of the old track preserved. The annual car show is organized by the Meadowdale International Raceway Preservation Association. For details on the group and about the track see:



[www.mirpa.org](http://www.mirpa.org)

It was a beautiful fall day, the GTR tent was set up on what used to be inside of the final corner, the famous Monza Wall banked turn. There were show cars and displays there and out along the old front straight, there were over 100 cars on display. We had a lot of visitors throughout the day who reminisced about building models from when they were younger, and a few potential new members stopped by.



GTR's display tent



GTR Models on display



Ron Spannraft's large scale models drew a lot of favorable response all day.



The Purple People Eater, the SCCA National Championship winning 1959 Corvette that was developed in the Nickey Chevrolet Race Shop in Chicago, was the featured race car of the 2011 show. Driver James Jeffords, Crew Chief Ronnie Kaplan., Team Manager Lindy Lindheimer, and members of the Jack Stephani Nickey Chevrolet race team were on hand signing autographs.



McKee Can Am race car (GTR tent in background)



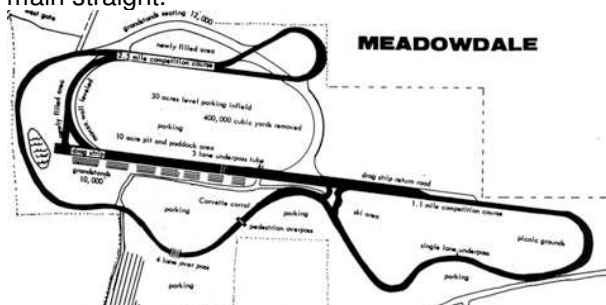
Ramo Stott's Plymouth Superbird stocker.



It was a great day, thanks to GTR's Ron Spannrafft for setting this up (and putting up the tent) and to Linda Daro of MIRPA for inviting us to participate.

# Meadowdale History

Meadowdale International Raceway was built in 1958 to promote growth in the Carpentersville area, 40 miles northwest of Chicago. The original track was 3.27 miles long with a variety of turns and elevation changes. Its signature feature was the Monza Wall, a 180 degree steeply banked turn that led onto the 4,000 foot main straight.



Meadowdale underwent a series of track and management changes in its brief life. It hosted major spectator road races from many different sanctioning bodies: USAC, Midwestern Council, SCCA regions, AMA motorcycles and kart clubs. An NHRA drag racing sanction was issued late in 1968 for the 1969 season. It was also used for police training, new car introductions and local club events.

The last major event at Meadowdale was an SCCA Trans-Am race July 6-7, 1968, won by Mark Donahue in the legendary Sunoco Penske Camaro. A few sports car club races followed, but for all practical purposes, the track closed down after that pro event. Plans to revive it were announced periodically, but none were successful.

The combined park districts who bought the north 90 acres of the Meadowdale Raceway property in 1994 purchased the balance of the track in 2002. The track is now a forest preserve, nature area, recreation area called Raceway Woods. When they put up buildings at Raceway Woods, they have indicated they would devote some space to the track history.

While we will never again race on the track, a vigorous clean-up campaign is being waged by volunteers to clear open areas for activities and picnics and a walking path around the old course. This is being done to assure that Meadowdale Raceway retains its important position in American racing history.

# Product Review: M&H Racemaster Slicks Parts Pack from AMT

**Manufacturer:** AMT/Round2

**Kit#:** AMTPP001

**Scale:** 1/25

*by: Chuck Herrmann*



Round 2 Models continues to help bring back memories of the "Golden Age" of plastic modeling by reissuing some classic vintage model products as well as some new updated products in vintage style packaging. Their reissues of AMT and MPC kits feature some great new box art that retains the feel of the original.

This updated AMT Parts Pack set that has just been reissued contains four sets of M&H Racemaster dragster slicks. Each of the sets comes with nice sharp tampo pad printing. There is a set with wide white walls, a set with lettering only, a set with narrow whitewalls and the final set which contains a whitewall with a narrow red stripe, exclusive to this parts pack. These will be great to use in vintage custom and drag projects. On a recent visit to Model Empire in Milwaukee, I picked up a set and they look really nice. The quality of the printing is first rate, and the packaging, as all recent Round2 products, is first class.





# 2011 GTR

October 8 Toledo Swap Meet and NNL

Oct 15 – IPMS/Glue Crew Contest & swap  
Howard Johnson Inn & Conf Center  
Wausau, WI Joe Drew 715-842-0173

Oct 16 Countryside Collectors Classic Toy Show  
With 1/43<sup>rd</sup> Collectors Club  
Park Place of Countryside Countryside, IL  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

Oct 29 Circle City Modelers Contest & Swap  
Knights of Columbus Hall, Indianapolis IN  
Cgbeach1221954@yahoo.com

October 20-23 iHobby Expo  
Public Days 10 am – 5 pm Saturday and Sunday  
Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont IL  
[www.ihobbyexpo.com](http://www.ihobbyexpo.com)

Nov 6 Scale Auto Hobby and Toy Swap Meet  
Serb Hall, Milwaukee WI  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

Nov 12 29<sup>th</sup> Annual IPMS Butch O'Hare Model  
Contest and Swap Meet  
Lakeview Jr HS Downers Grove IL  
John Wendt 630-969-9016

December 4 Tinley Park Toy Show  
Tinley Park HS, Tinley Park IL  
[www.uniqueeventsshows.com](http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com)

December 11 Milwaukee Miniature Motors  
Winter Show – Swap and Contest  
Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha WI  
[www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com](http://www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com)



**IPMS USA**  
International Plastic Modelers Society

2012 Region 5 Regional - TBD  
2012 Nationals: Aug 8-11 Orlando, FL  
[www.ipms2012.org](http://www.ipms2012.org)  
2013 Nationals: Aug 14-17 Loveland, CO

# **GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter**

**IPMS/GTR Auto Modelers**

Chuck Herrmann  
338 Alicia Drive  
Cary, IL 60013

**Next GTR Meeting: October 1, 2011**

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