



GTR

Newsletter

January 2014

Inside this issue:

- GTR News & Calendar
- GTR's 15th Anniversary 1999-2014
- First Look: Revell 1968 VW Beetle



HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM GTR AUTO MODELERS

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
2014 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: Open

Vice President: Steve Jahnke

Secretary/Contact: Chuck Herrmann

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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.freeservers.com



And on Facebook at GTR Auto Modelers



GTR Mailbag



by Chuck Herrmann

REAL WORLD

GM quitting Holden Australian Production

Holden, the Australian car brand, a GM subsidiary since 1948, is pulling out of Australia for a number of economic reasons.

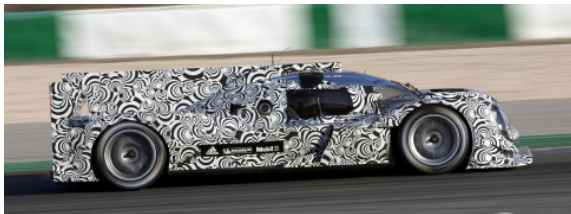
By the end of 2017, Holden won't build any more cars and engines Down Under. To further twist the knife, the name may also disappear just one year before its 70th anniversary.

Citing a strong Australian dollar and a "fragmented" local market, GM said it would stop all Australian manufacturing and leave only a small team of engineers, designers and marketing staff. Holden dealers will continue to receive cars after 2017, although GM did not specify if they would be rebranded with a different GM nameplate. GM has cited high production costs -- the highest of any GM market, at a difference of more than \$3,000 per car -- and an Australian dollar that has risen from about 50 U.S. cents to more than \$1 today, which made Australian goods and labor 65 percent more expensive compared to just a decade earlier. Sales have gone down, too.

GM will cut 2,900 jobs from the Holden plant closures in Victoria and South Australia. Holden's exit comes seven months after Ford announced it would halt all Australian manufacturing by October 2016.

That would leave Toyota as the only automaker producing cars in Australia, something the company said would "place unprecedented pressure on the local supplier network and our ability to build cars in Australia."

New Porsche LMP1 LeMans Car



The first photos of the new Porsche LMP1 LeMans car, set to compete in 2014, have been surfacing on the web. We'll see if any model manufacturers do this as a kit.

Newest Lambo: The Huracán



The new Lamborghini Huracán

This new mid-engined coupe is set to replace the long-serving Gallardo as the "base model" in the Lamborghini lineup. It will make its public debut at the Geneva motor show in March prior to a planned start to North American sales during the second half of 2014. The initial model, which carries the designation LP610-4, will be only be available in a four-wheel drive version. Like its predecessor, a lighter rear-wheel drive version of the Huracán has been conceived and is planned to go on sale in 2015. It is a safe bet that we will see this in plastic, probably multiple versions.



DAKAR Rally 2014

The 2014 racing season kicks off with the Dakar Rally this month. Two weeks (January 5-18) of racing cars, motorcycles and semi trucks through the deserts and mountains on Bolivia, Chile and Peru. This is scheduled to be televised in the US via nightly updates on NBC Cable sports network.

INDUSTRY NEWS.

Revell Germany VW Beetle Limousine 1968 and VW T1 Panel Van are Models of the Year 2013



From the Revell Germany Website:

We are proud to announce that the around 15.000 readers of the German magazine "Modell Fahrzeug" have voted two of our models as "Model Car of the Year". Our New Tool VW Beetle Limousine was honored in the category "Cars 1:24/25 Model Making", and in the category "Utility Car 1:24/25 Model Making" our model of the VW T1 Panel Van has especially convinced the readers. We are also very glad that the readers have honored us this year again with the title "Premium Brand Model Making".

These awards are a spur for us to repeatedly develop new and exciting model kits.

(Editor note: The VW Limousine (Beetle) kit is now available in the US packaging – see my review in this newsletter. Hopefully we will see the panel van over here?)

REPROGRAPHICS Favorite "shop-that-isn't-a-hobby-shop"

Submitted by *Walt Fink* (from *IPMS/Lakes Region Newsletter*)

Reprographics has moved from its old location on Virginia Road in Crystal Lake to new digs---26 Crystal Lake Plaza, three doors west of Joseph's Marketplace. More room and expanded stock and services.

Reprographics has long been my go-to store for modeling supplies like soft-lead Derwent pencils (to draw in panel lines), pastels, foam-core board, airbrushing and artists' supplies, ellipse templates (to cut decal film and the like), and circle templates for that same purpose and to use for airbrushing wheel hubs. Great store and very helpful, knowledgeable folks there.

(ed: they also carry a line of aerosol spray paints from Montana Black – lots of different

colors with a flat/satin sheen. I will be trying these and letting you know the results next issue)

Phone number: 815-477-1018 Hours Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 6:30 PM Friday 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

E-mail: image@mc.net

Top Selling NASCAR Diecasts 2013

NASCAR has released their listing of the best selling 1/24 officially licensed diecast models for 2013. The top selling car was that of Dale Earnhardt Jr., but more specifically his National Guard liveried car took top honors. Next on the list was Earnhardt Jr. again, with his Diet Mountain Dew car, and he also took home the third place best selling die casts with the National Guard/Man of Steel car. Tony Stewarts Bass Pro scheme took fourth, while Jeff Gordon and his AARP/Drive to End Hunger car took fifth. With Danica Patrick's GoDaddy schemed car taking sixth.

Minicraft to do new 1/24 Kits?

In an interview that appears in a recent issue of Fine Scale Modeler, top executives of Minicraft mention that they are considering developing some new automotive subjects in 1/24th scale.

January is National Hobby Month!

MEDIA

GTR's own Ed Sexton, Senior Manager of Product Development at Revell, is featured in a video interview by *Scale Auto* magazine.



Check it out at:

<http://www.scaleautomag.com>

EVENTS

The Rockford Wheels in Scale swap meet has been confirmed for January 26.

And the Cedarville, IL event is on March 9.

See the events calendar for details for all of the events that I know of. If any readers wish their events or any other events of interest to GTR listed send the information along to me.

GTR News

GTR Update

2014 7th Annual GTR Summer NNL

GTR will again host our annual Summer NNL, on Sunday August 3, 2014 at the traditional location, the Algonquin Township Center. The theme will be 50 Years of Pony Cars

The next regular meeting will be Saturday, January 4 at the Algonquin Township Building.

The last photo shoot for the 2014 GTR Club Calendar was at the December Meeting. Steve will have details on ordering the calendars soon.

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 me.

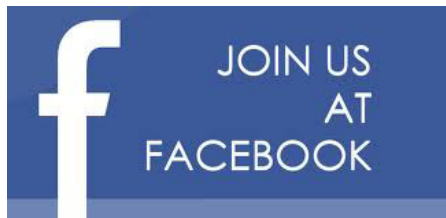
GTR Classifieds:

Wanted: Builder(s) for some vintage Can Am/USRRC/sports racers, Nickey Chevy sponsored car. Kits provided. Payment TBD.

Wanted: Wheels and tires for Tamiya 1/24 Porsche 961 kit.

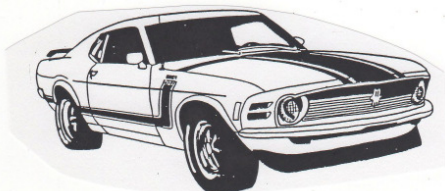
Contact Chuck Herrmann at gtrchab@yahoo.com

GTR is on Facebook



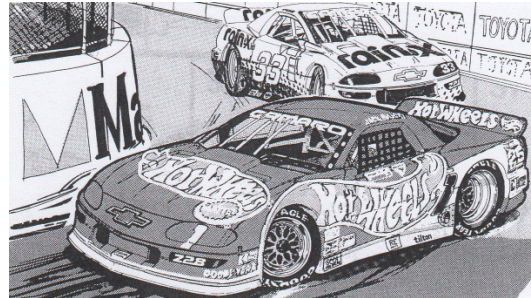
GTR now has a Facebook page. Check it out and join up! We now have over 80 friends.

2014 GTR Club Project



The 2014 GTR Club Project will again reflect the GTR Summer NNL theme, which is 50 Years of Pony Cars. Finish a Pony Car between now and the NNL in August, bring it to a meeting, the GTR Auto Modelers Newsletter January 2014

NNL or send a photo to me and your 2014 dues will be refunded!



So start planning and building! Let's get more built project models next year.

December Meeting

The December 2013 regular GTR meeting was held Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Algonquin Township Building. It was the GTR Christmas Party, which was attended by no less than 17 members and guests! We picked up a new member, Glenn Synder. Glenn has posted photos of his Porsche 917 and GTR Mustang on the GTR Facebook page. We dined on Italian Beef and mostaccioli. After the treasury report and the mailbag, we talked about the club T-Shirts for next year, while John Walczak modeled a sample of a bowling shirt style club shirt. Joel Peters talked about the Detroit NNL event he attended. Then it was on to Show and Tell, here are pictures of some of the stuff on the tables.

John Walczak: Two rare Johan 70 Javelins for the club NNL project build. The one he brought last time has since been stripped own successfully.



And another one was recently purchased in decent condition.



John also had a 1971 Mercury Cougar.



Doug Fisher: his 1/12 William F1 that has won multiple awards at various contests, and



Two Tamiya Ford Capris.



Glen Synder: Our newest GTR member brought in this Fujimi Porsche 917, with aftermarket decals for the Watkins Glen 1970 race.



Also a Monogram 1/24 Mustang IMSA GTP.



Paul Heber: Paul brought in a built UPS truck, made from two separate AMT/ERTL kits.



Ed Sexton: a 1967 SCCA Corvette, from a Revell kit and the Tero Vette decal sheet from Fred Cady, (also see the cover photo).



And he had the latest Fujimi Pantera kit.



Larry Fulhorst: Larry had some 1/43 build ups, including this LeMans Porsche 962.



Dave Green: As usual, Dave had a lot of new stuff. The AMT Camaro police car, the Revell 50 Olds Custom version and the AMT 41 Willys reissue. And the new Revell VW kit.



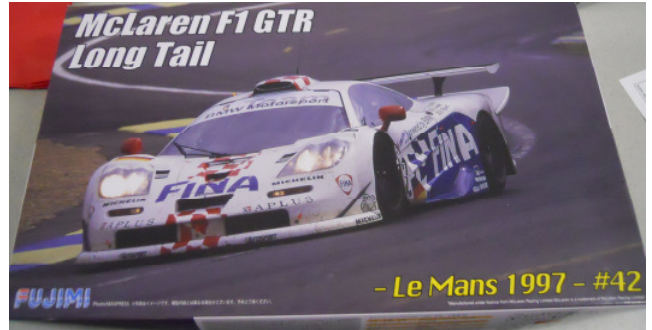
Dave Edgecomb: Dave had a nice 1/18 diecast of the Ferrari 156 Shark Nose, also



The new Tamiya La Ferrari kit.



Finally he also had the latest McLaren F1 Lemans kit from Fujimi.



Rick Hanna: Rick had his current project, a 1954 Chevy custom from a Revell kit.



He also had the vintage magazine article he is using for inspiration for the build.



Gerry Paquette: a Fujimi Ferrari 365/GTS Daytona kit, and



the Model Factory Hiro Ferrari 512BB LeMans racer kit.



Steve Jahnke: two new kits, the Revell 1969 Shelby GT500 convertible, and



the new 1956 Chrysler 300 kit. Watch for a full review of this kit on the IPMS/USA website soon.



Chuck Herrmann a Jimmy Flintstone Santa figure, with model kits in his bag, for Christmas.



Also a 1969 Penske Trans Am Camaro, along



With a just completed AMT 1933 Willys, built as a vintage street rod.



IPMS USA

International Plastic Modelers Society

IPMS News



GTR is a local chapter in Region 5, of IPMS/USA, which is celebrating its 50th year in 2013. Local chapters need five active national IPMS/USA members to remain an IPMS chapter. For 2014, we have been successfully renewed as an IPMS chapter, we had enough National IPMS members but we always can use some more. So we 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.

The 2014 IPMS/USA National Convention website is now up, link to it through the IPMS/USA page.

IPMS USA

International Plastic Modelers Society

August 6-9 2014 50th Anniversary
 IPMS/USA Nationals at Hampton, VA.
 Oct 18 2014 IPMS Region 5 Convention
 hosted by IPMS/West Central Missouri
 Kansas City, MO
 2015 IPMS/USA Nationals in
 Columbus, OH

First Look: Revell's 68 Volkswagen Beetle



Description: 1968 Volkswagen Beetle
Mfg: Revell **Kit#:** 85-4192 **Scale:** 1/24

Reviewed by Chuck Herrmann

Revell Germany released an all new tooling Classic VW kit last summer, and now it is available in the Revell US packaging. This kit is the 1968 Beetle Sedan version, released in the California Wheels Series (even though there are no custom wheels or parts included). The convertible is also available from Revell Germany (with no plans to do a US version at this time).



This new tooling is a welcome sight for VW modelers, as the old Revell Beetle molds have been used so many times that the most recent releases have lots of fit and quality issues. This version is in 1/24, not 1/25. It looks much larger than the 1/25 version.

Kit: The kit is a full detail version of the classic late 60's Beetles. It comes molded in white, with chrome and vinyl rubber items. My example indicates it is produced in Poland. It is well packaged, and the molding looks crisp with minimal mold lines. There are also chrome plated and clear plastic "glass" parts. It can only be

built as a factory stock Beetle. I guess the California Wheels series designation just refers to the fact the VW Bugs are so common in California,

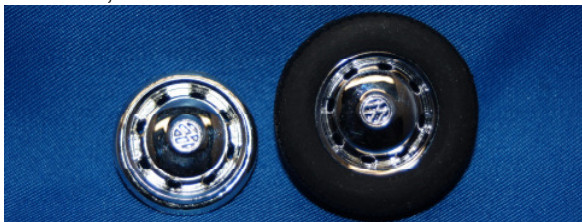
Engine: The 21 piece engine is the 1500 cc single carb basic engine, with no chrome pieces. My only issue is that the top portion of the engine, with the upper cylinders, is molded into the mounting pan. So you cannot build just the engine without some extra work, if you wished to use it for something else. But it looks like it will work well for this stock version.

Chassis/Suspension: The pan chassis features full suspension details, with separate front wheel wells.

Interior: The interior builds up off the floor pan. There are separate pieces for the floor and door panels. The kit includes two dashboards, to do either left or right hand drive versions. The seats feature separate mounting rails, a nice detail feature. The headliner is a separate piece.

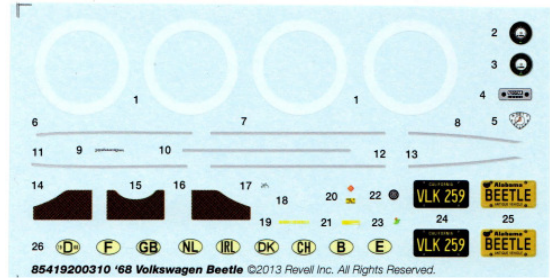


Body: The body features separate hood and trunk, with a hinge provided for an opening engine cover. While the front trunk is separate it is not hinged nor is there any detail underneath, such as the spare tire. The vent windows are not part of the body, they are molded into the side windows, which mount from the outside.



Wheels/Tires: The tires here are vinyl blackwall tires with no logos. As with recent Revell new tools they are hollow so the wheels mount into the hollow grooves. I am not a fan of this style since it is unique and makes swapping wheels a bit more challenging, but it does work well as designed. The tires are chrome plated stock VW wheels with hubcaps. I do wish Revell did provide plain steel wheels with the dish style hubs as separate pieces to allow for more options. But again, these work fine as is, you will just need to

paint the edges of the wheel to depict most basic stock Beetles.

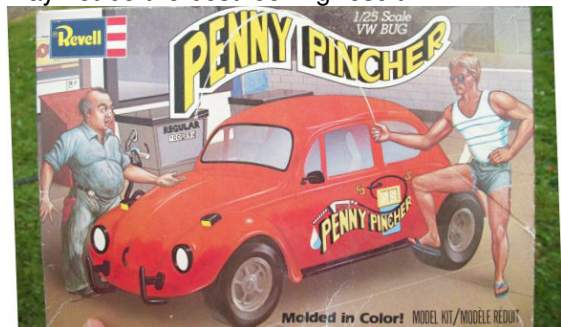


Decals: The decal sheet is pretty basic, just some standard pinstripes, a few stickers for the engine compartment, some country bumper stickers and two different US license plates. Missing are any international license plates if you build a right hand drive version. And there are whitewall decals for the tires.

Summary: This looks like a nice kit, a welcome upgrade from the old Beetle Revell tool. My initial test fittings do not reveal any significant issues. I do wish there were some additional items, and that the wheels were steelies with separate hubcaps, to allow for some variation. But it looks like it does a very nice factory stock build up. I assume we may see some additional versions with more options later?

Build Notes: Some things I noticed in this first pass. The wide whitewall tires from the Revell 50 Olds kit fit right onto the VW kit rims. This gives it a different custom look, also these tires are taller so it fills the wheel wells better. The whitewall decals provide in this kit I imagine will not work out well, same as the in the 50 Olds.

As noted, the vent windows are not molded into the body. Since lots of customized Bugs use the Cal Look, which removed the vent windows this makes customizing easier, but I think that painting the window frames for a stock Beetle may not be the best looking result.



An old issue of a custom version.

Happy Anniversary GTR! Fifteen Years, 1999-2014

This month marks the 15th anniversary of the first meeting of the Grand Touring and Racing Auto Modelers. On January 16, 1999, about ten modelers met in my basement in Cary, IL to discuss forming a new model car club, with an emphasis on race cars (Grand Prix, Indy, Lemans and sports cars as well as NASCAR) and sports/exotics/import road cars. We decided to go ahead and we are still at it. We have been a chapter of IPMS/USA from our beginning and were the 2002/2003 IPMS/USA Region 5 Chapter of the Year as well as being the 2007 and 2008 IPMS/USA Region 5 Newsletter of the Year

Most of the membership has since turned over, from my records only myself and Doug Fisher are still around and active from that first meeting. But the club is still going strong, attendance recently has picked up with many new guys being very active. We had a lot of our early meetings at members' homes until we were able to meet regularly, on the third Saturday each month at the Fountains of Crystal Lake.



GTR
Auto
Modelers
IPMS/Grand Touring
and Racing Auto Modelers

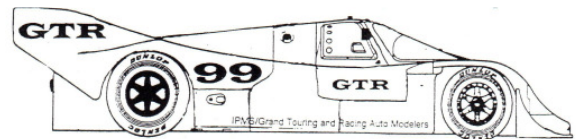
This was our first club logo

The club newsletter was first published in February 1999, we have had a basic webpage since soon thereafter and we now have a Facebook page that is generating increased interest.



Issue #1 of the newsletter

In the early years we had a different logo race car each year, reflected in the numerals on the body. In 1999 it was a Porsche 962.



I will be highlighting some historic milestone events in this newsletter throughout the year. We also plan to get new club shirts this year.

Thanks to all our members, friends and supporters over the years.





GTR Event Calendar

2014

January 5-18 Dakar Rally
Argentina, Chile, Bolivia

January 19 Scale Auto Hobby & Toy Show
American Serb Hall Milwaukee WI
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

January 25-25 Rolex 24 Hours
United Sports Car Championship
Daytona, FL

January 26 Rockford Wheels in Scale Swap Meet
Ken-Rock Community Center
Rockford, IL

Feb. 23 Daytona 500 NASCAR

Feb 23 63rd Illinois Plastic Kit and Toy Show
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL
Past Time Hobbies 630-969-1847

March 2 Scale Auto Hobby & Toy Show
American Serb Hall Milwaukee WI
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

March 9 Cedarville Contest & Swap
Cedarville, IL

March 22 Ferrari Expo with Contest
Continental Auto Sports
Hinsdale, IL

March 23 Countryside Collectors Classic Show
(formerly Strictly 43rd Show)
Park Place of Countryside Countryside, IL
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

March 15 Sebring 12 Hours
United Sports Car Championship
Sebring, FL

April 12 Milwaukee NNL 22
Hosted by Auto Modelers Group
Theme: Semi Trailers, Pick Ups & Lite Commercial
Sub Theme: 50 Years of the Ford Mustang
Excellence Center, Waukesha, WI
scottiekl@charter.net

Apr 13 Milwaukee Miniature Motors Show,
Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha, WI
Call (262) 646-4114 (Voicemail) or email
jdunn07@centurytel.net
<http://www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com>

May 25 Indy 500

July ??? Attack of the Plastic
Lake Delavan WI

July 12 NIMCON III
Hosted by IPMS/Lakes Region
McHenry County College, Crystal Lake IL

August 3 GTR SUMMER NNL 7
Theme: 50 Years of Pony Cars
Algonquin Township Building
Crystal Lake, IL
www.gtrchab@yahoo.com

Aug 6-9 IPMS/USA National Convention
Hampton VA
www.ipmsusa.org

Sep. 28 63rd Illinois Plastic Kit and Toy Show
DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL
Past Time Hobbies 630-969-1847

Oct 18 2014 IPMS Region 5 Convention hosted
by IPMS/West Central Missouri
Kansas City, MO

Dec 7 Tinley Park Annual Holiday Toy Show
Tinley Park High School, Tinley Park, IL
www.uniqueeventsshows.com

Dec ? Milwaukee Miniature Motors Winter Show,
Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha, WI
Call (262) 646-4114 (Voicemail) or email
jdunn07@centurytel.net
<http://www.milwaukeeeminaturemotors.com>

???=Awaiting confirmation