



C.A.R. Times

Volume 27 Issue 7
This Month:

July 2012

* officer's reports * on the drawing board * bench racing *



* upcoming events * kit review *



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the president's report

Greetings Model Citizens!

I hope you are all doing well in the heat of the summer. It is hard to get much modeling done this time of year when there are so many other things that need our attention. My model bench has been full of guitars lately instead of models but I love working on both!

Late in June we had a Challenge Committee meeting to start working on ideas for CC18 next April. I urge you all to attend July's meeting as we have some serious recommendations to put forth about that event. This is one of those times when the majority of the membership can directly help with the Cincinnati Challenge so please make the effort to be there. See you all on the 9th.

Rockne

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contest director's notes

Contest Results May In-House 2012

Comp other

- 1 Bill Owen 66 Penske Corvette
- 2 David Ginandt #25 Midget

PreDec

- 1 Randy Wilson VW Van
- 2 Randy Wilson 67 Mustang
- 3 Randy Wilson 71 Mustang

Misc

- 1 Rockne Riddlebarger Park Ranger 6x6
- 2 Kevin Belanger Lego Truck

Out-of-Box

- 1 Curtis Epperson Rail Rider RR
- 2 Curtis Epperson Moster (?) Semi

Out-of-Box Plus

- 1 Paul Schneider 70 Torino Cobra
- 2 Rockne Riddlebarger Pinto Wagon

Theme (Six or More Wheels)

Rockne Riddlebarger Park Ranger 6x6

Model-of-the Month

Marshall King 68 Dodge Dart Hemi

Curtis

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from the editor's desk

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, so far. I'm getting a lot of advice about dealing with the heat - not just getting by, but surviving! Seems that this kind of weather is hard on us old timers with heart conditions..... So, I'm staying in the AC'd part of the house, not doing anything too strenuous, just working on a few models & doing a lot of reading. Also doing a bit (probably too much) of on-line shopping. One of the things I've ordered, but as yet, haven't received, is the latest AMT Parts Pack w/w tires. They look good in the ad - we'll see.



Robb

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Bench Racing by Bill Bench

Since hearing that AMT/Round2 would be releasing the AMC Gremlin, I'd looked forward to it. (see also: KIT REVIEW, 1976 AMC Gremlin X, elsewhere this issue) While I've never owned one, my sister did: the 'Levi' edition Gremlin with denim upholstery complete with 'Levi' rivets.



My brother also owned one, his a plain-jane rust colored one with tan interior. They were unique cars that had a style all their own. Most of 'em had inline, six cylinder engines that were economical, but not very... fast. You could order the 304 V-8 from the factory, & there was a company that installed AMC 401 V-8 engines in 'em that made things veeeeerry interesting back in the day.

They even ran Gremlins in Pro-Stock! Longtime Chevy racer Wally Booth was the first to break the Pro-Stock 8 sec barrier, with a Gremlin using a unique siamese-type, cast iron, AMC cylinder head, which was later banned by NHRA. This was a good thing, as it lead to the development of aluminum pro stock heads & blocks, which trickled down into high-performance parts for both race & street use by the average hot rodder. Despite its cool looks, the Gremlin had its drawbacks, with aerodynamic & weight-transfer issues, prompting Booth to switch to the AMC Hornet body. This later paid off, as he was the first to break the 7 sec barrier.

Those deficiencies aside, you have to admit that a Gremlin looks absolutely wicked with a wide set of tires on the back & raked stance!



Bill

A note about submissions: please try to place articles, comments, event notices & photos in my hands before the last weekend of the month. If e-mailed to me, ask the system to let you know it was delivered. I still do not have a positive grip on my e-mail system. Thanx, robb

The C.A.R. Calendar

2012 C.A.R. Meeting Themes

- Jul 9 Film and TV Cars (ready for their close-up) + Contest Night
- Aug 13 Gassers (breaking the wind) + Swap Meet & NGDA Gravity Drags
- Sept 10 Daniels vs. Roth (custom genius) + Contest Night
- Oct 8 Same Kit Night (Chrysler C-500) + Swap Meet & NGDA Gravity Drags
- Nov 12 End of Year Contest
- Dec 10 EOY Awards, Election of Officers, Gift Exchange, Pizza Party

Upcoming Events

- Jul 26-29 KKOA Leadsled Spectacular, Salinas KS
info: 317-847-2940 or < www.kustomkempsofamerica.com >
- Jul 28 Derby City Shootout Louisville KY
info: vendors 502-637-7628/ contest 502-239-1761
- Sept 15 SCIMA Contest & Swap Columbus IN
info: contest & vendor 812-552-3318 or < scima58bz@yahoo.com >
- Oct 27 Circle City Contest & Swap Indianapolis IN
info: 317-372-0569 or < cqbeach1221954@yahoo.com >
- Nov 25 Midwest Automotive/Armor Toy Show, Contest & Swap Auburn IN
info: 260-489-5015 or 260-493-2032

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NEXT C.A.R. MEETING: North-Central Branch Library  
 11109 Hamilton Ave Cincinnati OH 45231  
 visit us @ < [www.cincinnatiautoreplicas.org](http://www.cincinnatiautoreplicas.org) >

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EDITORS NOTE: I received the following in May, for inclusion in the June newsletter, but I lost it in the 'workings' of my computer. By the time I'd found it again, June had come & gone. For the July issue, I've cut it in two & hereby present it as two separate submissions. See also this month's "Bench Racing". My apologies to the author.

KIT REVIEW: 1976 AMC Gremlin X

(AMT #690; 130 pcs, in white, clear, smoke tint, chrome & black vinyl, decals & instructions; modified reissue, two building version, 1/25th scale, skill level 2.)



It was a happy day for this gray-haired model builder when AMT/Round2 announced that they were going to reissue the AMC Gremlin with some added parts & the restored grille & body.

The time comes for the release date. I call my local hobby shop, Hamilton Hobbies, & he tells me they have three of 'em. So I go up there, perusing the shelves, but I don't

see 'em! Surely they haven't sold out in the 20 minutes since I called! They're busy at the counter so I look again - still don't see 'em. So I go look at the paint & then decide to pick up something else with the money that's burning a hole in my pocket. That's when I spot 'em, on the bottom shelf in a wider, flatter box than I'm accustomed to seeing.

The box art is gorgeous. The clerk tells me that they sell almost as fast as they get 'em in, which is a good sign. It's a 1976 Gremlin with the big, ugly bumpers that were common from 1974 until the last Gremlin rolled off the assembly line, to be replaced by the slick looking AMC Spirit. While I would have preferred a 1972 Gremlin, I can live with this one.

Delving into the box, I liked the way everything was packaged into its own little divided compartments like most Tamiya kits are packaged. The kit, itself, looks nice with very few mold lines & no sink marks to be seen. It has stock, drag racing & some custom pieces included. The chrome parts tree looks very nice with stock & racing parts. There are some generic Cragar S/S wheels & some stock wheels that look a little too wide & deep-dished for stock, for my eye. The decals are nice. There are stock Gremlin X side stripe decals printed blue, white & black to give the builder more body color options. There's no matching decals provided for the back panels. You'll have to mask & paint that one. There's some "THE GREMLIN" logos & sponsor decals for the drag version. Also included are some Gremlin figure decals in various sizes & colors to use or not use as your imagination sees fit. A high-point of this reissue has to be the tampo-printed M&H Racemasters. They are gorgeous, & would look great on any 60's-70's drag car that would use a 10.5x15 slick.

There are some 'gremlins' that are affecting this kit, unfortunately. The front grille facia is at least .060" too wide & overlaps the front fenders, noticeably. I may be wrong, but it's my understanding that Round 2 had to retool the piece that was missing from the last reissue. To me, it's almost as if the part were 1/24 instead of 1/25. I fixed mine by cutting the facia in half & removing material from both halves until it was the right size, & then gluing the halves back together. No biggie & not a deal breaker, but QC dropped the ball on that one.

The other 'gremlin' in this kit is 70's engineering & marketing that was giving us shelf models instead of the accuracy that adult builders started demanding in the 80's. The shock towers, while there, are way too small & the chassis is pitiful. There is no front suspension, whatsoever other than a plastic rod to pass through the engine block to hold the wheels together. The chassis is also about 1/4" too narrow & when assembled the interior tub sits too low.

For anything other than a shelf model, there are fixes:

- 1) You could modify the chassis from the scarce Johan '69 Scrambler, for a somewhat accurate factory look.
- 2) Use the chassis & shock towers from the 'easy-to-come-by' AMT '67 Mustang kit for a passable factory or street machine look.
- 3) Use the chassis & shock towers from the AMT '66 Nova kit (stock or street machine), for a street or race look.
- 4) Go radical! Ditch the kit chassis & interior all together, & modify the R/M pro-stock Camaro or Firebird unit. (One of our club members, I'll call him Al, has just such a one in the works.....)

Despite all these flaws, I really like this kit & plan on building more of 'em in the future. Hopefully, I'll have made more progress on mine, by the time you read this.

Bill

on the drawingboard

Whenever I reach a low spot in my model building enthusiasm, I turn to an ongoing series of builds I call the "Modified Project". This project is actually a number of Northeast/Reading style modifieds, c.1970-75. They will all be 'slammer' type builds, old coupe-era bodies draped over simple, scratch-built frames rolling on era-correct wheels & tires. I've already completed a couple of 'em:



& while I have a couple more under construction, I can't resist starting new projects. I recently found a kit box in my shed that was marked 'incomplete' - a Revell 40 coupe - that I couldn't recall where it came from.... Inside I found the complete coupe bod w/o chassis or engine. It sat on my workbench for a couple of days, tempting me, so I gave in & started scratch'g a chassis - a modified chassis. I'd just come back from a show where I'd crossed paths with Bill Coulter & scored some of the 'wide 5' wheels he carries & of course I'd picked up some of the old MPC Goodyear dirt track tires - never pass 'em up, actually. Anyway, those wheels & tires were also lying there, so it seemed rather karmic, if you will. So I've gotten this far in about a dozen hours of off-&-on whacking & hacking.....



Robb

The NGDA (Cincinnati Chapter) Points Chase Top Ten

Entry	Points as of 6-1	Entry	Points as of 6-1
Custom Ranger	28	Challenger	9
72 Chevy PU	24	Grn 'Burb	8
"Trustee"	17	ZR1	8
39 Chevy Panel	16	70 Mustang	8
"Kahuna"	15	"Bomber"	7

