

# Conecaw

The Official Newsletter of the San Diego Model Car Club

April 2010



Every month at about the same time, I have to make a difficult decision. I have to decide whether to use the limited amount of free time I get during the week (and weekends, for that matter) to finish a model I've been working on (well, off and on, anyway) or do this newsletter, and every month the newsletter always takes precedence. That's the way it'll be this month, too, but I've started it a little earlier (it's Sunday night about 8:30 as I'm writing this) so I may still have a little time left tomorrow night and part of Tuesday to get my Theme Night build done by the meeting.

I'm particularly pumped about this month's Theme because of (a) what it is and (b) who picked it. The Theme is NASCAR and the guy who picked it is none other than our illustrious leader Jesse, better known as the anti-NASCAR. It was Jesse who coined the term NASCRAP to define a genre of models that he never liked very much. But clearly, his view is softening a little.

NASCAR used to be a BIG part of the car modeling hobby, at one time probably bigger, more popular, and better supported than any other genre before or since. Big name contests had NASCAR specific categories, sometimes even multiple NASCAR categories at the same contest with large numbers of entries in every one. The aftermarket was FULL of all kinds of NASCAR items like resin parts and bodies, photoetch, a HUGE selection of decals that seemed to grow every week, and virtually every model magazine had at least one NASCAR modeling article in EVERY issue. For a while, MPC, AMT and Monogram all had NASCAR kits available at the same time, sometimes even the same cars. There was even a NASCAR modeling specific magazine out for a short while called In-Scale.

But like all good things, NASCAR modeling got too big and started to wane in popularity, especially out here on the West Coast. Some people still build NASCAR models (there were a couple of real stunners at the Good Guys contest last weekend) but overall, interest has really dropped off. Predictably, support for the genre dropped off, too. Slixx decals, which made its reputation with its fast growing selection of high quality decals for NASCAR models suddenly stopped producing them completely. Revell, who picked up the NASCAR line when they bought Monogram announced last year that they were no longer producing NASCAR model car kits anymore. And AMT stopped producing NASCAR kits several years ago.

Interestingly, This week's issue of Time Magazine had an article on the real NASCAR's waning popularity, too. It seems that in many ways, NASCAR has priced itself out of the blue collar market with high ticket prices and by making all of its competitors adhere to strict aerodynamic and other restrictions, which in turn makes all the cars look almost identical. In short, NASCAR has become too big, too expensive, too corporate, and quite frankly, too boring for a large number of former fans and it's starting to feel the impact of those decisions.

But for us modelers, we can always enjoy NASCAR the way it used to be. While no models of NASCAR subjects are being mass-produced today, you can pick up kits on eBay, kit shows or from friends for pretty low prices. And at least two on-line stores still exist that provide kits, decals and other NASCAR related items. They're BSR Replicas ([www.bsrrrep.com](http://www.bsrrrep.com)) and Southern Motorsports ([www.smhracing.com](http://www.smhracing.com)). There are several others, of course, but these are great jumping off points if you want to get back into this colorful and exciting aspect of the model car building hobby. And, Round 2 has announced 4 new NASCAR kits that will be issued later this year. Sadly, these will come as snap kits with pre-painted bodies and such (will they NEVER learn?!) but they'll be the latest design cars called Car of Tomorrow (COT) and that might be fun to tackle.

Last month's meeting was a lot of fun and had a great Theme which was Show Cars. I put some pictures of some of the cars that were entered, but I think it bears mentioning here that the winner was Cinda Anton, wife of our own Evan Anton. Her rendition of Ed Roth's Beatnik Bandit II was very impressive, especially when you consider that this was the first model car she's ever built. She has a good teacher, of course because Evan is one of the best model builders I know, but nevertheless, Cinda can be very proud of what she built. Having built this kit several years ago, I can attest to how difficult some of the fits are, but she handled those just fine. But it was her clean, smooth paint work on this model that impressed me the most. I'm really looking forward to see what she does next!

Jesse will talk about this more in his column (yes, he actually wrote one this month!) but I want to mention that we're losing a key member of our club. Dave Allin is leaving San Diego to move to New Mexico in the next month or so and this represents a real loss to us. In addition to being our treasurer, Dave is also a terrific model builder and a delightful guy to know. I'm really going to miss him a lot and wish him and his wife a happy life in the Land of Enchantment.

On a happier note, our buddy Pete Johnson is recovering nicely from Prostate cancer. He had surgery for this a few weeks ago and the doctors feel very positive about his progress. Dan King and I had lunch with Pete a few days ago and picked on him mercilessly about the details of his recovery and he seemed to handle it very well. That's always a GOOD sign! However, his penchant for Egg Planes is starting to get a little out of hand. I wonder if this is related to his surgery!

One of the social events of the season is the Citrus Nationals in Riverside and Dan, Dave, Jesse and I piled into Dave's Honda Minivan and drove up to take it all in. All of the local modeling superstars were in attendance including John Teresi, Paul Rowe, Ron Ramsey and many others. Some SDMCC members were there too, including Darryl Gassaway and Kurt Wilson. I don't think Darryl had anything on the tables but the talented and prolific Kurt sure did. I really enjoy looking at his stuff! We didn't stay very long this time for some reason and headed off the Busy Bee Hobbies in San Bernardino. FYI, this is the model geek's equivalent of going to Spagos after the Academy Awards. Everyone who's anyone heads off to Busy Bee. However, the glamour sort of wears off once you get off the freeway and pull up in front of the store. No red carpets or paparazzi. Just a nice little hobby shop with a surprisingly good selection of kits. Most of us picked up our first copies of the new AMT 1925 Ford T kits there and the prices were much better than one of the vendors at the show was selling them for.

Then it was off to Pegasus Hobbies in Montclair for more reckless spending, a side trip to the NHRA Museum in Pomona to snap a few pictures, with a nice fattening lunch at Everest in between. All in all, a lovely day was had by all.

Speaking of contests, The Annual Good Guys Car Show in Del Mar had a little model contest of its own last weekend, and I'm proud to say that the San Diego Model Car Club had an excellent showing at this event. I'm not sure how the judging was handled because I spent a lot of the time walking around taking pictures of 1:1 cars and eating like a pig. I can tell you, however, that several members won awards at this event. Timi Schahn won the People's Choice Award for her Monogram Beer Wagon, and Cinda Anton won Best Novice for her Beatnik Bandit II. Also winning awards were Mike Sund, Kurt Wilson and Glenn Day. Other members in attendance that I knew about included Kyle Allen, Jesse Chavez, and Paul Mendoza. If you were there and I missed your name, it's Jesse's fault. Take it up with him.

And finally, The **San Diego Model Car Club** got a couple of pages of coverage in the latest issue of **Model Cars Magazine** thanks to our pal Darryl Gassaway. Remember that little contest we had last Fall where we built (well, actually YOU built) various versions of the Testors small scale Bonneville Salt Flat cars? Well ole' Darryl took a bunch of pictures of those little models, cobbled up an article about them and sent it off to Gregg Hutchings at Model Cars Magazine and darned if he didn't put it in the magazine. So if you're dying to see your name and models in a fancy-schmancy high end model car publication, pick up the latest issue of Model Cars Magazine at your local hobby shop. And just in case you didn't know where your local hobby shop is, it's called **Phillips Hobbies** at 325 West Main Street in El Cajon. By the way, Phillip now has a website at ([www.phillipshobbies.com](http://www.phillipshobbies.com)) and if you happen to go out there, you'll notice that he's hosting an airbrush demo on Saturday, April 21st at 10:00 AM. If you're interested in attending this, (and you SHOULDK be!) give him a call at (619) 562-1790 or email him at [p18oiler@sbcglobal.com](mailto:p18oiler@sbcglobal.com).

Well, that about covers it for this month. I'll look forward to seeing most of you at the meeting on Tuesday, April 20 at 6:30. And don't forget to bring some extra money along. Don Davis will be bringing in a bunch of car kits to sell at very low prices. I've seen what he's selling and I know a lot of it's going to appeal to a lot of you.

Later,

Skip

I had a little extra space at the bottom of this page so I thought you might like to see our own Glenn Day trying to figure out how to assemble the Revell snap kit that was used for the Make-N-Take at the Good Guys contest in Del Mar last weekend.



## **SDMCC THEME NIGHTS FOR 2010**

1. January – GM – Anything built by any GM brand, live or dead! (The winner was Bruce Snyder!)
2. February – Dragsters – It is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Winternationals, so lets us Drag! Any drag racing related vehicle qualifies! (The winner was Glenn Day!!)
3. March – Show Cars, Customs, Celebrity Cars - It's the World of Wheels! Bring out your crazy show rods, customs, trikes, bikes, go karts or anything wacky! Bring it! The Winner was Cinda Anton!!)
4. April – NASCAR – If it falls under the NASCAR banner and turns to the left, over and over, it qualifies! Any year stock car is welcome!!
5. May – Resin – Resin bodied cars, conversions or just a bunch of resin parts on your car, it qualifies!
6. June – MOPAR – Knuckle Draggers rejoice, Mother MOPAR is in the house! Anything Chrysler qualifies!
7. July – Foreign – Anything but American Iron qualifies!
8. August – Annual BBQ – No theme night
9. September – Commercial Vehicles – Fire trucks, Police, Ambulances, Cabs, Tow Trucks and the like. Never Forget 9-11!
10. October – Anything but a car! – Scare us with something different, like an airplane or spaceship! Show us what else you like to build!
11. November – Ford – Anything under the FoMoGo! Banner qualifies.
12. December – Red – Simply Red! Anything in the color red or red in it!



# President's Column

Surprise! When was the last time you read something I wrote for the newsletter? Yeah, it has been a while. But not because I have nothing to say, to the contrary, some folks would love to see me be quiet for a change! But it is because of that thing called life that I have been rather absent from these pages, but not in the form of slander which Skip relishes dumping upon me, but in the form of a Presidents Column. (It ain't slander if it's true, Jesse. I'm just sayin'! ed.)

After attending and participating in the Good Guys Model Car Contest and getting some quality time with total strangers, I realized it was time to return to these hallowed pages once more and see what kind of trouble I can stir up.

First I would like to thank our members who volunteered their precious time to make the Good Guy's contest and Make-N-Take a total success and fun time for all involved. Once again our good friend Rusty Price was at the helm of the contest and ran it with great enthusiasm and organization. All of the models got built, no one got hurt and we all had a blast, thanks Rusty!

Also, some of our member brought home some awards and they where very well deserved. Two of them being Timi Schahn and Cinda Anton! Who would have thought that our club would someday have more than one female member and award winners at that! Who knows, maybe one of them will take over my spot someday! Congrats to all our winners!

And second, our dear and esteemed treasurer, Mr. David Allin will be leaving us soon for the lovely state of New Mexico. I really do hate to see Dave and his lovely wife Jan leave us, but, they are moving on to bigger and greater things and I wish them all the best in their new journey and I thank them for being great members of our club. Thank you and you will be missed.

OK, and to follow that, myself and the secret council of three have made the executive decision to offer the position of treasurer to Timi and she accepted. So hence forth, Timi Schahn is your new Treasurer and will carry out her duties as all the treasurers before her. Also, she has my full support and that of the Secret Council of Three when it comes to enforcing policy in the club. So Timi, Welcome to the big table!

For those that missed it, the last issue of **Model Cars** had coverage by Darryl Gassaway on our Salt Racer Project and it looks great! So, if you missed it go buy, borrow or steal the issue and check it out!

And to finish, what kind of president would I be if I did not spend your dues money on something and give it all away. Yes, there is something coming and we will talk about it at the meeting.

So go build and have some fun, Summer is almost here again!

Color Me Gone!

Jesse Chavez  
President



March and April turned out to be pretty good months for our pal Timi. First off, she built a great looking rendition of the Monogram Beer Wagon which alm ost won our Show Car Theme Night. Then, with the same model, she won the People's Choice Award at the Good Guys model car contest in Del Mar last weekend.

And finally, Jesse, Pete, Dan, and Myself asked Timi to replace Dave Allin as our new treasurer and she generously accepted.

Congratulations, Timi!

## PHOTOS FROM THE MARCH MEETING BY Skip Samples

The March Theme was Show Cars and the turnout was pretty impressive, although not as large as other Themes we've had in the past. The big winner was newcomer Cinda Anton who "claims" to have never built a model car before. However, her work was so good that I'm beginning to think her husband Evan sent her in as a ringer!

As always, Dan King provided the award model kit which was, in this case, the Revell Ed Roth Outlaw. If Cinda can handle this Beatnik Bandit II, the old Outlaw kit ought to hand her a real challenge. But her work shows she's definitely up to it!



*Cinda Anton*



*Dave Allin*



*Glenn Day*



*Bruce Snyder*



*Timi Schahn*



*Glenn Day*



*Dave Allin*



*Evan Anton*



*Justin Pitner*

# KITS I'D LIKE TO SEE REISSUED

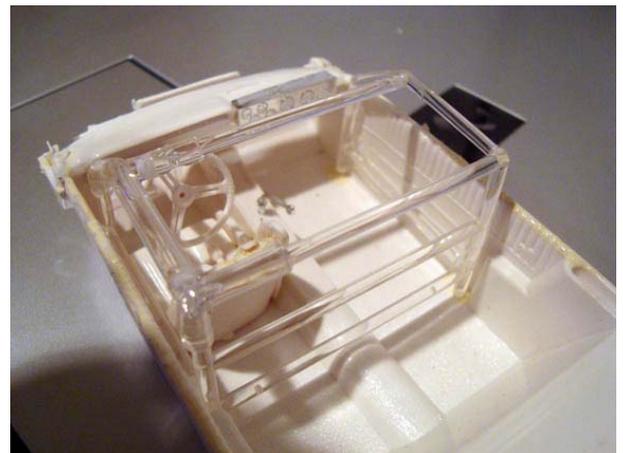
By Skip Samples

In keeping with our April theme of NASCAR, I thought it might be fun to take a look at a really old NASCAR kit that came out back in 1965. Actually, this old 1965 Ford kit from AMT was an annual kit, but unlike most of their other kits that came with a few NASCAR parts, this kit was marketed primarily as a Stock Car Racing version, albeit somewhat inaccurate. The first NASCAR kit that I know of was the Johan 1964 Petty Plymouth and every now and then, you might find one available on eBay or at a show for a reasonable price. It was a pretty good kit and pretty accurate, too. In fact it could only be built from the box as a NASCAR racer.

This AMT 1965 Ford was, however, a multi-option kit with parts to make either a factory stock, custom, or Stock Car racer, which is what we care about here. NASCAR parts included 2 4bbl carbs with a special air cleaner (which I don't think were legal in NASCAR at the time) a deep oil pan, seat padding and shoulder harness, a roll cage, shifter, steering wheel, special exhaust parts, headlight and taillight covers, back window straps, and decals to do Fred Lorenzen's Holman Moody prepared LaFayette Ford. This was actually a very famous race car and was featured in the movie Redline 7000, which was quite possibly the worst racing movie ever made. Lorenzen won the rain-shortened Daytona 500 in this car along with several other races, so it's an important model subject.

The model has several significant inaccuracies, though, even for an old kit like this. For one thing, the roll cage is molded in clear plastic! I can't imagine why AMT's engineers thought they should do that. But it could be painted so that's not a big problem. However, the kit doesn't offer you steel wheels like all stock cars ran with in those days. Instead, they give you a set of very trick, and very wrong Cragar SS mags mounted to Firestone street tires, the same ones you would use to make a street stock version from the kit. While inaccurate to the max, the Cragars do look pretty cool on the box art, don't they?

My kit is a true glue bomb I bought off eBay several years ago just to get the box art and isn't really restorable. However, AMT has reissued the '65 Ford kit many time since this first issue, but without most of the Vintage NASCAR stuff and without this way-cool box art. In fact, I think the kit may still be available today. I can't imagine it would take much for Round 2 to create or restore the missing NASCAR parts and decals, reproduce the colorful box art, and give us back this fun piece of modeling history.



# Skip's MODEL SHOP

I was planning to write an article on how to do something interesting in this column, but I thought you might enjoy seeing some shots from the Good Guys show last weekend instead. Besides, it's after 10:30 on Sunday night and I'm getting kind of tired now!





We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at the San Diego Automotive Museum in Balboa Park. The doors open at 6:30 PM and the meetings usually run until 9:00 PM. Dues are \$35.00 per year.



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