

## Back to the 50's Model Car Contest

By Gary Krueger #667

I did a lot of work and research this winter to keep the Build and Boogie Program going for the children at the Back to the 50's Model Car Contest. It included a lot of fun for me and I got to visit with some great people who had all been involved with the Make 'n Take program for many years before the sad day that Revell closed their doors for good. All of them had great stories about experiences that really made for happy kids over the years but they all also told me with Revell being gone they were no longer going to have the kids building models at their events. None have experienced the growth in their programs that we have. Ron Bradley from Maryland, who runs Bradley's Car Collectibles and has been a big distributor for years, told me that Blitz, the new owners of Revell of Germany, no longer are willing to consider the Make 'n Take program. So we had to go the extra mile here and luckily we have two excellent sponsors of our contest who pulled through for us again. Bruce Gardner of Scale Model Supplies was able to get us 300 Ford Mustangs and Alex Geiger of Model Empire was able to get us 200 Camaros and 100 Prowlers. So my volunteers are all very excited that the show will go on with lots of smiling kids Building and Boogieing.

More excitement for the contest comes by way of our move to the Education Building with the Cruisin' Arts Craft Fair. We will have more space, great lighting and all our model builders will be together in one area without the spectator traffic dividing the work area of the Build & Boogie. More space for our model contestants and two way cool special tables for the RPM Model Club Display and Mike Scott's large Ed "Big Daddy" Roth diorama. I don't believe this great hobby would be what it is without Ed Roth! My right hand man of many years Duane Barclay is heading up the Survivor's Table (please see his article with the details). I am bringing my 1971 Peterbilt 359 model that I built when I was 17. Model trucks are my favorites since I contracted "truck disease" at age 5 standing in the back of my Dad's 1949 Ford Business Coupe between Granite Falls and Echo Minnesota. Ah, the good old days when trucks belched huge clouds of black diesel smoke. Blew by us in a cloud of glory. That's how I got this way, LOL.

Just have to say several things in closing. One is a Big Thank You to Don Stadick for heading up the judging for our model contest for over three decades and his right hand man Clint Williams. Don has provided our judging team with many excellent judges, with Clint being there every year Don was. Great job Don! And just my feelings about being a part of what it has been like to be a part of MSRA all these years and a volunteer for so long.

The Grand National Roadster Show (GNRS) in Pomona was simply an amazing experience. For an indoor car show it truly is The Grand Daddy of Them All and the cars, people and history there were a near spiritual experience. Three days of 80 degrees and light breeze and bright sun were a great escape from Minnesota's crazy winter. Meeting Rusty Price who runs the GNRS Model Car Contest was great and the models there were top shelf like ours. I took the picture of the Lowrider table because they were phenomenal. But the coolest thing was walking the fairgrounds and visiting

with the car people. The outside part of the event proves what I have always felt correct. There is nothing in the world like Back to the 50's. When people saw my MSRA volunteer shirt they either said "Best Show we've ever been to or "OH, that ones on our bucket list!" See you all there!