GSL-XXVIII International Scale Vehicle Championship

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Opening Text: Mark S. Gustavson Photos/Captions: Gregg Hutchings

ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END ...

The GSL Championship was created in 1979 to provide an hospitable venue for sophisticated scale vehicle modelers to compete against other great builders where craftsmanship, technical innovation, and accelerating building skills would be recognized and rewarded. The goal was plain: by openly embracing the pursuit of high-end building in a subjectneutral venue, the goal of enjoyable advanced scale vehicle modeling could be fostered.

Over the years, the GSL Championship hallmarks of judging impartiality and congenial competition attracted an everwidening group of the best competitive scale vehicle builders ever gathered to match talents and exchange information with fellow builders. By the seventh competition, competitors could attend seminars on the latest building techniques and, after the Museum was organized in 1988, view displays of the latest acquisition of historic items. Eventually, tours of the off-site Museum would be enjoyed. And in each of the 28 competitions, winners were announced at a congenial Sunday morning meal where we all dined together before learning which builders had been successful.

The Championship has been held at uneven intervals at eight different hotels and has hosted hundreds of competitors who collectively entered more than 6,186 models since the Championship commenced 44 years ago.

But, there is a natural age to all events. In 2017, GSL Trustees announced that the Championship would come to an end at a time when the aging administrators could still play an active and happy role in the event. Uneasily, the Trustees learned that it is one thing to speak of the planned demise of GSL, and quite another to actually work out the details of the demise of an international contest and convention that had configured the competitive landscape and hobby. But there was one overriding principle: GSL would conclude while in its prime. The Championship would not just fade to an ignominious end.

The announced Finale was the largest of the Championships: 159 competitors entered 752 models (39 person-hours of judging were required!) and 61 adults displayed models not in competition. The display tables hosted an array of historic models from GSL history, the MPC contest, and a 1968 Car Model dragster contest display hosted by successful competitors Tim Boyd and Jim Keeler, and prior GSL winning models. Six seminars were presented, hundreds took the bus tours to the Museum, a trade show was successfully presented, and the benefit auction raised good revenue for the Museum. Historic and new competitors were on hand and developed and renewed friendships, and enthusiastically shared ideas and techniques. As the capstone, 258 people swamped the Sunday morning breakfast where the awards presentation was often punctuated by outright emotion. All of this could not have happend without the work of a dedicated staff which the Trustees are truly thankful.

After remembering the decades of effort on the part of so many, and the uncounted expenses and late night work, the occasional gaffes and the greater number of successes, the strength of the success of the core idea of the GSL Championship was evident late one night when I was standing, alone, in the Contest Hall and looking at the more than 700 excellent models that vied for recognition. All of the work was worth it.

The GSL Championship has many legacies, not the least of which is the amazing array of recorded seminars in which leading hobby craftspeople demonstrated a wide array of techniques that could lead to better scale vehicle modeling. GSL will morph into an educational site for techniques and new ways of building scale vehicles. Many dozens of historic GSL videos and books are presently available on the "Library" page of the GSL website. All videos and printed books are free downloads.

Scan here to learn more about GSL History:







This slammed Lamborghini just had that "look." GARY KULCHOCK is well known for his wild and super clean builds, and this curbside Koenig Countach was no exception, especially when he built it over 30 years ago! The fingernail polish paint and Viper wheels are timeless, and the model always gets attention at shows.



PAUL MACKIE started with a Revell/Monogram 1934 Ford Coupe kit, added a blown LPH 1320 Chevy engine, dirt track rear wing, LPH wheels and tires, and hand-striped flames to create this eye-catching street rod beast.



You don't see these Lindberg 1948 Lincoln kits built up that often, and you usually don't see them done as well as AL CAMACHO'S model. Al used House of Kolors Red over a gold metalflake base. He stretched the hood and fenders two scale inches and converted the top to a Carson-style top.



MARK HUBBARD painted this Lindberg 1932 Ford Pickup Kenworth Green from ScaleFinishes, after he added the Revell fenders, a '29 bed, Ala Kart frame, and a scratchbuilt oil filter and exhaust.

SIMON RIVERA-TORES took home the Model Cars Magazine Editor's Choice award and First Place in the small scale class for his incredible Model Factory Hiro 1/43 scale Porsche 917/30 CanAm build. Simon detailed the kit with RB Motion nuts and bolts, ProTech braided lines and fittings, Detail Master wires, and a ton of additional work. The paint is from Gravity Colors.



STEVE PERRY was awarded Third Place in the Custom Class with his own factory concept car replica, combining an AMT 1964 Mercury Marauder with an AMT 1960 Ford Streamliner, shortening the body eight scale inches, and shortened the wheelbase five scale inches.





Starting with the Revell Land Rover Series III kit, MIKE FELIX added resin tires and wheels, a tow hitch, winch, and a stout bumper, with very realistic weathering. Mike took home Second Place in the Speciality Class for his great work.



This super clean and well-done Revell 1930 Ford Five-Window was built by ANDY BEHRENS. Andy took home Second Place in the Box Plus class for his Dupli-Color Maui Blue Model A.



RYAN SHINJO came in from Hawai'i with a few of his models. His C1 Models Porsche resin slant nose is one of his recent builds. He individually drilled and installed all the wide body flares with small rivets from Zoom-On.



STOCKTON MARTIN did well in the Junior class, being awarded both Best in Class and second place. His Revell '55 Ford Panel Truck was very cleanly built and featured an eye catching paint job and excellent decal application.



MIKE HARTJES built this clean and modern looking street machine from the MPC '71 Cyclone NASCAR kit, converting it to Pro Touring, with the interior and engine from a 2014 Mustang kit. The hood and grille are from Missing Link, with Pegasus wheels and tires, and decals from Keith Marks. It sits on a '69 Cutlass chassis.



This NASCAR 1964 Mercury was built by **LEN WOODRUFF**. He used an AMT 1960 Ford chassis and running gear under the Mercury body, creating a expertly detailed version of his favorite vintage NASCAR race car. Len used authentic ScaleFinishes paint to complete this well done replica..



Moebius Model's 1952 Hudson is beautiful car, and **ROBERT GEORGE** really did it justice. Robert used House of Kolor's Candy Apple Red over Dupli-Color Seatle Silver, opening the doors and trunk. Robert made two hoods to display, open and closed!



The MPC Datsun California Sunshine was a Town of Newburgh Model Car Club project, built by **MIKE KENNEY**. Mike opened the doors, flush fit the glass, and laid down Snowhite Pearl, Sunrise Pearl, Tangelo Pearl, and Pink Pearl stripes.







TERANCE KOROASH built this 1929 Ford Puller, stretching the chassis to fit the blown and nitrous-fed Top-Fuel engine. The rear tires are from a Monster Jam diecast truck model.



The Common Kit class was pretty full, and DON STRONG'S 1929 Ford Model A had a VW engine mated to a Ford frame, with a surplus aircraft fuel tank.



WES HOFFERBER'S Bonneville-style '29 Model A Roadster is painted with Tamiya and Krylon paints. Under the extended nose is a V12 flathead with a front-mounted supercharger. He accomplished his goal to have it completed for the GSL.



The faded House Of Kolors Purple to Silver paint job really stood out on CHUCK FAILNER'S Revell 1929 Ford. Chuck added a Bolide Motorworks engine, with a lot of engine wiring and detailing.





PATRICK PARNELL wanted to build an import model, and he chose this MPC Toyota 2000GT Roadster. Patrick painted the GT Tamiya Titanium Silver, added photoetched wire wheels, and scratchbuilt the fuel system, linkages, and hinges.



JAY WHITTAKER'S AMT 1967 Shelby GT350 had a scratchbuilt Paxton supercharger setup, working hood pins, opened grilles and scoops, valve stems, and a guitar string for the antenna.



Second Place in Competition Circle Track/Road Course went to VINCE LOBOSCO for his 1965 Shelby GT350. Vince used a long out-of-production Thunder Valley Miniatures detail set for all the extra touches, topped off with Tamiya Racing White.



ANDY CALDWELL displayed several well done 1/43 scale cars. His AMT 1969 AMX is detailed with window cranks, seatbelts, grab bars, and exhaust tips. Andy made the decals for the stripes, and painted it with Tamiya and Gravity Colors paints.



The Revell BMW DTM kit looks intimidating sitting in the box waiting to be built, but when you build it box stock, they do turn out to be great builds! MIKE PEARSALL did a fine job on this one, adding SK Decals for the Crowne Plaza livery, with Mr. Hobby and Zero Gravity paints topping it off.



Would you believe that this 1/18 scale Alpha Romeo P3 model is a paper model? JOHN OSZAJCA builds a lot of different types and styles of models, and this downloaded preprinted paper model goes to show you can't always tell a book by its cover!



AMT's Piranha was a huge hit back in the day, and STEVE ROULLIER was inspired by the original photo on the box art to build one as a kid. Now, his standards have improved, and it was even more difficult to build this time. Steve liked being able to closely replicate the earlier version of the car.



MARK GUERRERO is well known in Hawai'i for his super clean and well-detailed models, and his Banzai Ford altered is a great example of his style of building. The Testors' Candy Apple Red paint job topped off this period perfect gasser.





HENRY FINCH used an AITM Resin Mack B73 1/25 scale truck kit, a lot of 3D designed and printed parts such as the headache rack, and finished it all off with a Krylon lvory and Red airbrushed paint job.



WAYNE HOLMES took home Second Place in the Street Rod class with this 1930 Ford Roadster. The amount of detail in this model was incredible which featured a beautiful Hemi engine. He also scratchbuilt many of the steering and suspension parts.



DAVID BEST took the Revell 1958 BMW 507 Roadster, added a scratchbuilt dash, resin cast his own wheels and trim rings, and finished it all off in a clean Tamiya Bright Red paint job.



Revell's Ford Bronco kit is a favorite of a lot of people, and **CHAD SMITH** built this one box stock, using Gravity Colors White and Ford Dynasty Green paints. Chad says this turned out to be one of his most enjoyable builds so far.







BRANDON BOYD took the Revell Ford Focus tuner kit and added a wild paint job using Createx paints. Brandon made the custom roll cage, dropped the suspension, added BBS wheels, took out the passenger seat, and added a Nitrous bottle.



The Datsun 2000 S311 is the original Fairlady, and it was a force to be dealt with on the race courses. GLENN MAREK created the first racer of the Pete Brock/BRE Racing team from a Fujimi kit. The decals are from DMC Decals.



TIM KOLANKIEWICZ entered this model he calls the Jet Boat Car. He combined a Westcraft Boat from the AMT 1964 El Camino with the turbine engine from the MPC Howmett TX. Custom designed fish scale decals compliment the pearl white paint.



First Place in the Group 23 class went to RICK HANMORE. He added many vintage parts including a nose from a '58 Edsel, a bubble top from a '63 Thunderbird Convertible, and the interior from a '61 Thunderbird to create this cool custom.

GSL-XXVIII Awards

BOX PLUS

1st Chad Smith, Ford Bronco 2nd Andy Behrens, 1930 Ford Coupe

3rd Jim Boulukos, 2013 Mustang Boss 302

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COMMERCIAL & MILITARY: LIGHT DUTY

1st Brad Norgaard, Carney Wagon

2nd Andy Sapiro, VW Transporter

3rd David King, 1936 Ford "Ute"

4th Kurt Womack, 1948 Chevy Canopy Express

COMMERCIAL & MILITARY: HEAVY-DUTY

1st Daniel Valencia, Mercedes Benz Altos Hauler

2nd Terry Jessee, Iron Butterfly Gun Trunk

3rd David King, Peterbilt Wrecker4th Gene Hunting, Mack Dozer Lowboy

COMMON KIT (AMT 1929 Ford)

1st Vince LoBosco, '29 Ford Gray-Green

2nd Tim Kolankiewicz, Purple Roadster3rd Chuck Failner, Purple Haze

4th Ken Leslie, Satin Black & Red Roadster

COMPETITION: CIRCLE TRACK/ROAD COURSE

1st Daniel Valencia, Opel Race Truck Conversion

2nd Vince LoBosco, 1965 Shelby GT 350

3rd Andy Sapiro, Maserati 8CM

4th Mike English, 1948 MGTC

COMPETITION: STRAIGHT LINE

1st John Teresi, Guardian T/F Dragster

2nd Jeff Dykes, 1/16 1934 Ford Arizona Hangman

3rd John Teresi, "Jocko" Wynnsliner

4th Mike North, "Bomber" Car

CONCOURS SLOT CAR

1st George Zmuda, 1936 Chevy Asphalt Modified

2nd George Porter, 1930 Ford Woody

3rd Tony Hartjes, 1969 Ford F-100

CUSTOM

1st Terance Kordash, Dodge Charger Coupe

2nd John Teresi, Throttle Demon

3rd Steve Perry, Super Marauder

4th John Teresi, ZZR Spy Rod

DIORAMA

1st Brad Norgaard, Teardrop Camper

2nd Don Strong, Thomas Flyer

3rd David King, Abandoned Gas Station & Model T

4th Zaylio Little, McLaren Ford MP4/8, In the rain

FACTORY STOCK

1st Bob Jernigan, 1961 Pontiac Ventura

2nd David Best, 1958 BMW 507

3rd Mark Johnson, 1969 Z-28 Camaro

4th Vince LoBosco, 1970 Ferrari Daytona

GROUP 23 (1949 Ford)

1st Rick Hanmore, Custom Orchid 1949 Ford

2nd Ryan Rice, Purple Coupe

3rd David King, 1949 Ford Flatbed

4th Charles Hepperle, Yellow 1949 Ford

"IF I HAD DESIGNED IT"

1st Gary Kulchock, NSX Manx

2nd Paul Anagnostopoulos, Aston Martin DBS-C

3rd Terance Kordash, Acura Integra GSR-X

4th Kurt Womack, 1964 Ferrari 250 GTO Spyder

JUNIOR

1st Stockton Martin, 1965 Ford 4 x 4

2nd Stockton Martin, 1955 Ford Panel Truck

3rd Kaiden Hartjes, Batmobile

4th Jackson Reeves, City Slicker Charger

MOTORCYCLE

1st Mike English, BMW Cycle/Sidecar

2nd Steve Perry, Honda VF 500 Interceptor

3rd John Teresi, Porsche Killer

4th John Teresi, Air Radial Chopper

REPLICA

1st Randy Derr, Sebring '75 Corvette

2nd Jeff Jones, Ed Roth Mysterion 1/8 Scale

3rd John Teresi, Thundervan Van

4th John Teresi, M/T Mustang Funny Car

SMALL SCALE

1st Simon P. Rivera-Torres, 1/43 Porsche 917/30

2nd David King, 1916 Nash Quad Truck Tractor

3rd Andy Caldwell, 1969 AMX

4th Andy Caldwell, 1966 Mario Andretti Lotus 38

SPECIALTY

1st Jay Coburn, 1969 Camaro Harrier Jet Car

2nd Mike Felix, 1973 Land Rover

3rd Kurt Womack, 1953 Studebaker Pickup

4th Steve Perry, 1987 Chevy El Camino

STREET MACHINE

1st Mark D. Jones. Lola T70

2nd Terance Kordash, Mitsubishi Eclipse

3rd Patrick Parnell, 1967 Toyota 2000GT

4th Jason Schofield, 1969 Chevelle Yenko

STREET ROD

1st Michael Scott, Ford T-Bucket "Precious Metal"

2nd Wayne Holmes, 1930 Ford Roadster Light Blue

3rd Terance Kordash, 1932 Ford 5-Window

4th Mark Hubbard, Spearmant "T"

PRIVATE AWARDS

MCMA KLINGON KRUISER AWARD

Rick Hanmore, 1949 Ford "Summer of 1963"

RICKY COUCH SHOW ROD AWARD

Patrick Parnell, 1935-Auburn Boattail Street Rod

MODEL CARS MAGAZINE EDITOR'S CHOICE

Simon P. Rivera-Torres, 1/43 Porsche 917/30

MCMA BOB BARNETT MEMORIAL AWARD

Jay Whittaker, 1950 Chevy Custom Pickup

ED ROTH MEMORIAL AWARD

Tim Kolankiewicz, 1961 Comet "Astrorod"

THE MOOSE IS LOOSE AWARD

Renee Kallen (deceased)

"THE AUGIE" BEST MACHINING/METAL WORK

Mark D. Jones, Lola T70

MASTER AWARDS

MODELER'S CHOICE

Randy Derr, "Sebring 75" Greenwood Corvette

BEST INTERIOR

Daniel Valencia, 1/24 Scale Opel Race Truck

REST DETAIL

Randy Derr, "Sebring 75" Greenwood Corvette

BEST PAINT/FINISH

Daniel Valencia, Pontiac Catalina

DAVE SHUKLIS MEMORIAL ENGINEERING AWARD

Randy Derr, "Sebring 75" Greenwood Corvette

GERALD WINGROVE SCRATCHBUILDING AWARD

Andy Sapiro, Masarati 8CM

BEST OF SHOW

Randy Derr, "Sebring 75" Greenwood Corvette





MARK S. GUSTAVSON takes his Predicatas very seriously! We thank Mark for the decades of dedication to our hobby and we look forward to him finding more building time!





The GSL staff were overwhelmed yet ecstatic with the enthusiastic turnout. The tables were jam packed with some of the most incredible models gathered in one room.