

T-Town Wheelers NEWS TULSA OKLAHOMA

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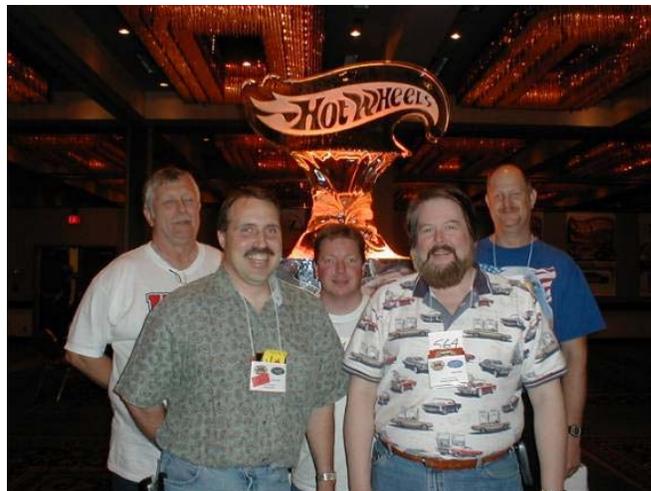
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2003 COLLECTORS NATIONALS—CINCINNATI, OHIO

The TTW members that traveled to Mattel's 35th Anniversary Collectors Convention all drove this time. The trip from Tulsa to Cincinnati was a distance of about 750 miles and included driving in Five States. All had a very good time and a convention/collecting experience that will be long remembered.

The Mattel folks really know how to put on a show and are also some of the nicest people you could meet. This was my first show/convention that Mattel was the primary sponsor. It was everything you would expect it to be from Mattel. With just short of 2000 registered convention goers there was non stop action 24/7. Room-to-room trading with fellow collectors was common and also let you talk to individual collectors one to one. From the moment you got your convention package there were lines to stand in. There were car lines, autograph lines, event lines, custom car viewing lines and of course RED LINES!

The Hyatt Hotel had 22 floors and was booked almost totally with Hot Wheel collectors. A



constant return to a hotel floor you already visited was a necessity to find the rooms that were closed when you were on the floor previously. The only show I personally had for comparison to this was the Arkansas Collectors Show that David Brisco put on in 1999. It was an awesome show with a great turnout and I hope David gets time to do more of them.

A big show like the 35th Mattel Anniversary brings the rare and hard to find collectable cars and the most interesting collectors you could ever meet. If you have not figured it out by

now there is so much going on that you really have to focus on your personal interests or you may miss something that would be important to you. Mattel is already talking about extending the Convention in Irvine this October to another two days to allow everyone more time.

I would hope that everyone has an opportunity to make a national Hot Wheel convention one day and experience first hand the sights, sounds and Hot Wheels like we that attended did. Happy hunting all. Geary Fowler

Remember:

- **The next TTW Club meeting will be at Reed Park from 1:00—3:00, Saturday, April 26th.**
- **It's time to pay your Fees for 2003. Please contact Sherry Dake at 599-8440.**
- **CHECKOUT www.microcollector.com for all the convention pics we took. Geary Fowler will have his laptop at the meeting. Come see them.**
- **Do you have a meeting place that we can use every month? We are still in search of a new place. Bring your ideas to the April meeting.**
- **Update: Just a quick note to let you know that I changed my mind about moving out of town at this time. Sorry to say you are stuck with me. See you at the April meeting. Larry**

2003 T-TOWN WHEELERS CLUB OFFICERS

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Vending Machines at the Nationals

One of the events they had throughout the convention was the Hot Wheels Vending machine “pulls”. If you are a Red Line Club member, you were able to purchase “pulls” for \$10/ea. Each pull allowed you to receive an RLC exclusive (ones that were either returned to Mattel, damaged packages or bad credit cards). We saw several of the Red, Green and Purple Beach Bomb Too’s, along with every other RLC exclusive from last year. The lines were long on this event. They only did it about five times during the convention and you were able to purchase your tickets prior to the lines forming. It was cool seeing kids eyes open wide and big smiles when they walked away with a favorite car or one they could not get online due to selling out. At half price, these cars were a great deal. There was a rumor that they had put one of the Charity (only 1,000 produced) 1:64th White Flying Colors VW Drag Buses in each of the events (up to 5). On day two, there was a huge rumble of cheers and laughter as one guy received one from a machine. It was too cool. I walked away with a Mutt Mobile, which I opened quickly and a Purple Beach Bomb Too that I opened later in the evening at an “opening” party in one of the rooms. That was a lot of fun. Larry Wagle received (2) Nitty Gritty Kitty’s, a Twin Mill and a King Kuda. Bart obtained 3 RLC cars, but his 4th was the BEST. He got one of the White VW Drag Buses. It was AWESOME. Too Cool. Also a Custom Mustang, Heavy Chevy, and a ‘67 Dodge Charger. Way to go Bart!!! Just glad one of us from Tulsa got one of the Buses.



Larry Wagle



Bart Dalton

A WORD FROM ROBERT...

Hi all,
I am sorry I had to miss the last meeting, but I understand that we are now looking for a new Vice President. Sorry to hear that Doug had to step down. We will need some one to fill the position.

The next show is up in the air, the Serotoma has raised their rates drastically and it will not be feasible to hold it there any longer. The only other option for having a show, at this time, would be to have a Sunday show at another location. We will need your input

on that. So please, if you know of any place where we can have our show let any of the officers know so we can check out the location and price.

Hope to see you at the April meeting!
Robert

RONALD MCDONALD CHARITY AUCTION

The Ronald McDonald Charity Auction is one of the greatest times at the National's Conventions. You will see one of a kind diecast vehicles, prototypes, artist signed pieces, specially made for this event items, sets from years gone by and many really awesome donated pieces by Mattel employees, designers and even Mike Strauss. We had a good time at the auction. I

event went as far as bidding a "Signed" Red Line Club Black Striped '67 Camaro. Let's just say that I am glad that it went for \$400 or I would have owned that little jewel. Whew!!! While some items go higher than what you think they should., remember, it is for charity. The 1:18 scale Deora II pictured at right, was the talk of the night. Amy from HWC.com and Mike

Strauss of Tomart's and the Hot Wheels Newsletter had an unbelievable bidding war on this item. Amy finally won it at \$10,000. The auction raised well over \$100,000.00 for the Ronald McDonald Charity. It is a very worthy event and an excellent cause.

WOW!!! Larry Kupp



WHAT'S NEW?

dauids-wheels is BACK!!!!

Well, in less than 30 days, collectors from all over told David that he was greatly missed. He received so much support, even from HWC.com and Mattel that he restarted the web site. He continues to have the latest information on Hot Wheels and other cool collectibles. Please stop by his site and show your support.

I have to take a moment and apologize to you all. I am at a loss on any new cars. I do not hunt as much as usual and thought I could get some responses each month to keep the Club Members "in the know", but it has not happened for me. I know of no website that keeps an updated running list. I will ensure that next month's "What's New?" is informative. Worst case scenario, it might be a list of what's new on my block, at the grocery store, or "what's that in my fridge?"

"If you know of a cool new release, please e-mail Larry Kupp at larman4@aol.com and it will be in the next newsletter."

PROFILE OF THE MONTH—DAVID SMITH

Hello fellow T-Towners,

Most of the folks in the club know me, but for those of you that don't, the following is a little background on my history as a die-cast collector.

I started collecting *all* toys that were Ford, Lincoln, Mercury or Edsel related about 15 years ago. It didn't matter whether they were metal or plastic, new or old.

I got pretty deep in the hobby and then decided to try to concentrate on Hot Wheels and back away from other brands. In those days (the late '80s and early '90s) the hobby was totally different. There were no Treasure Hunts, 4 car series or first editions and limited edition cars were just starting to become an issue. You didn't have to beat anybody to the store and it was pretty easy to pick up just about as many of each version you wanted. Hot Ones wheels were still available on many cars and Speed Points packages were all over the place (If I'd only worked harder at getting some of those early number blue cards).

I enjoyed the hobby until 1995 when Mattel concentrated almost solely on collector marketing, at that point I started to move away from most of the new issues and really hunted down the older stuff.

My collection has seen Redlines, Real Riders (the old ones), Heroes, Scene

Machines, Ultrahots, Hot Ones, MegaForce, Flying Colors, LEOs, Scorchers, Sizzlers, Farbs, CrackUps, FlipOuts, Color changers, Park N Plates, Matchbox regular wheels from the '50s & '60s, many sets, accessories and loads and loads of generic items. I've attended all of the Arkansas collector shows put on by David Brisco since 1994 and was able to make it to the East coast convention in Hartford Ct. last year.

I'm drastically downsizing my collection and am again concentrating on the toys I collected in the early years. Lately, I've really enjoyed hunting down the newer Johnny Lightning issues. They're pretty nice little cars for \$2.99 (I hope Mattel works at competing in this area of the die-cast market). I love the JVZ and F&F plastic cereal cars from the '60s and early '70s, Lesney Matchbox and almost anything Ford from the '60s through the '80s. I'm now a loose car guy almost entirely, I love to hold 'em in my hands.

Most all of my Hot Wheels collection is posted at a new auction site called Hobby Wheels Deals under the user ID of HWDVY. I've used Ebay through the years but this new site is pretty well laid out and, best of all, there are no listing fees, no sellers fees and you can set up your auctions so that they automatically re-list (if unsold) for as many times as you like. Every T-Town club member should take advantage of this new site that has over 2000 auctions currently running.



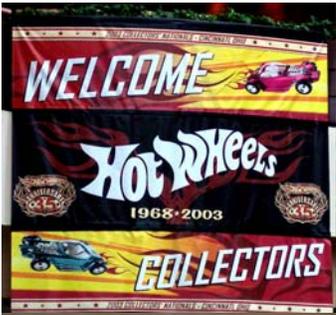
I've been a member of every club from Frank "Buzz" Sawyer's to the current T-Town group. I've seen folks come and go but one thing's for sure. Most of the people that have hung in through the years are dedicated to the hobby and not in it for the buck. I'd like to thank all of those that have given so much to the clubs and the hobby, you're much of the reason I've been able to make it through some of the tougher times that die-cast collecting has seen.

I hope to see you at the next T-Town meeting at Reed park, we decided to cook out again (weather permitting). Come and enjoy the Hot Wheels and hot dogs. David Smith
HWDVY@MSN.COM

Here is another picture of David as we normally see him; helping us by painting our club cars. Thanks David.



2003 COLLECTORS NATIONALS



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HW 2003 Poster Offer

Please send \$3.00 (checks or money orders only) for shipping & handling to:

**HW 2003 Poster Offer
PO Box 1229
East Aurora, NY 14052**

If you would like any of the convention cars, please contact any of the guys that went. (Larry Wagle, Geary Fowler, John Kimbrough, Bart Dalton or Larry Kupp) I know there are some extra Purple Passions, 40's Woodie's, Hyper Mites, Rodger Dodgers and '57 Chevy's. We should be bringing our extra's to the meeting on the 26th of April.

Hey, This is Rick Fizer from here in Tulsa of the T-Town Wheelers. Paul West, at Green Flag Collectibles, near the fairgrounds Target, is having a Nascar & Hot Wheels auction once a month on the second Saturday of each month. The next one is this Saturday, April 19th at 6 pm. It is a little more formal than Ken's used to be but stuff is flying out of there pretty cheap. This is another good source locally for collectors to shop for stuff cheap other than Ebay and the scalpers at the flea markets. Do you have email addresses of the other members so I can get a group listing together to tell them about this auction? We need another Hot Wheel venue to buy sell and trade. Even a few Nascar necks like HW's too. Thanks again. Rick



Rodger Dodger - #3 of 4 in the convention series: in blue with Real Riders tires. The red and yellow flame tampo was designed by Wayne Scott to evoke a modern take on the most prized Rodger Dodger of all. The original Rodger Dodger was designed by Larry Wood in 1975. This car is limited to a run of 10,000 pieces.