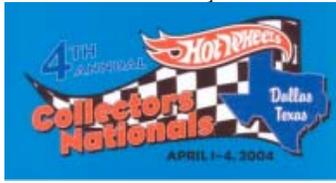


T-TOWN WHEELERS NEWS

TULSA OKLAHOMA



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DALLAS HOT WHEELS CONVENTION

The 4th Annual Collectors Nationals was held from March 30 through April 4th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dallas Texas. As any of our convention goers will tell you there was a ton of things to see and do.



convention event pass. This identifies you as a convention participant and will allow you admittance to other convention events. It will also give you admittance to purchase convention souvenirs, shirts & t-shirts, hats and a limited number of convention cars made especially for the convention. These are the cars available to convention ticket holders only and are always highly collectible due to low quantities. Your convention event pass is also necessary for events such as Charity Bingo, Special Dinners, Autograph sessions, Custom Car Contests, Charity Auction and one of my favorites Room-To-Room Trading. Your pass signifies to other convention goers who you are and also helps the Hotel identify you.

Remember:

- The next TTW Club meeting will be at the NEW Hardesty Library just east of 93rd and Memorial. From 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., Saturday, **May 1, 2004.**
- We need your Hot Wheel related articles for the Newsletter or a story about how you started collecting.
- **Check us out on the web www.microcollector.com**

It was about time a nationals collectors convention was within a decent driving distance from the Tulsa area. Although I did hear griping about the city location from all the east coast collectors and a few gripes about the hotel itself from just about everyone I talked to, the convention had something for everyone and after all, there were hot wheels everywhere!

For those of you that have not made it to a collectors nationals event I will try to give you an idea of events and a flavor of the convention itself. One other point to consider if you plan to go to a convention in the future is plan to stay at the hotel hosting the convention if possible. The reason for this is simple, "most of the stuff you will be doing and buying will be at the hotel!". Why spend any of your convention time traveling between where you are staying and where you want to be most of the time. Also the three or four hours of sleep you get a day will be within walking distance of where you are spending all your time.

Obviously the first thing you want to do when you arrive at the hotel is get checked into your room and then pickup your

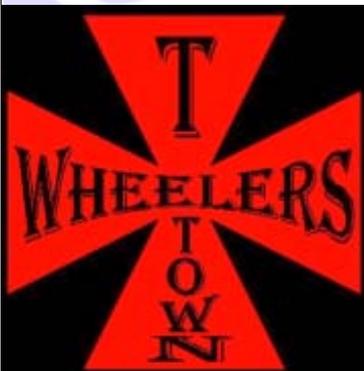
Usually trading action starts a day or two in advance of any scheduled convention events. You can expect some things to be the same each day in your schedule of events. Every day the registration desk will be open so those just getting in can get their event passes. You also have daily times when souvenirs and convention cars are available. Since this convention is sponsored by the Hot Wheels Newsletter



Robert, Paul, Doug, Steve, Jeff, Bart, Larry, Geary, Larry there are limited times when HWNL members can pick up their special HWNL cars.

Thursday evening most of us attended "An Evening with Larry Wood" dinner. This was a very nice dinner honoring Larry Wood for his 35 years of creative design work for Mattel. This was a special event requiring advance tickets. Unlike most

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Hobby Wheels Deals



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all prices in U.S. dollars

www.hobbywheelsdeals.com

Over 1400 Hot Wheels auctions available at: **HOBBYWHEELSDEALS.COM**. NO LISTING FEES, pay **ONLY** when and if you sell. Check out the hot wheels available from HWDVVY.



Hot Wheels Collection/Detection Unit #1 for sale or Trade. **David 918-437-3873**

T-TOWN WHEELERS CORNER

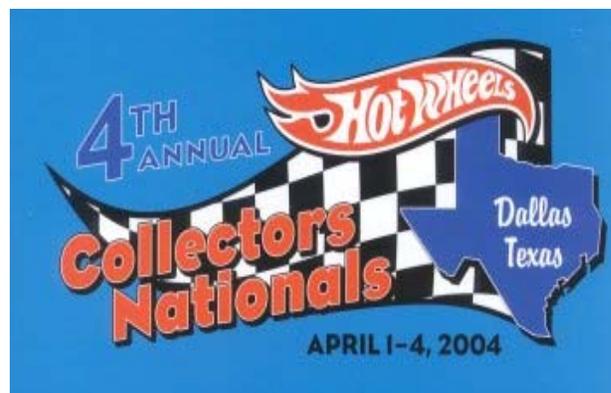
Upcoming TTW Shows

Mark your calendars for our next two scheduled TTW Hot Wheels Shows. June 19th & September 18th both shows are the third Saturday of the month and we will also have our regularly scheduled club meeting the first Saturday of the month. Both Shows will be at St. Marks Church. Watch your newsletter and website <http://microcollector.com/t-town-wheelers.htm> for more news on these shows in the days to come. The Show Committee members are: *David Smith, Robert Priebe, Paul Bales, Geary Fowler, Larry Allen, Joe Foster and Bob Chanley*

2004 Club Car

The 2004 Club Car is the 1968 Nova. There will be a limit on how many you can buy and your deposit of \$5 per car must be paid before May 15th to reserve your car. Keep in mind total price of car may be as high as \$10 to \$12 depending on how they are finished and final cost of materials. You may pay your club car deposit to Robert Priebe at the next TTW meeting or you can mail your payment provided it is post marked before May 15th to:

T-Town Wheelers
P O Box 54211
Tulsa, OK. 74155-0211



Check out pages 5 & 6 for convention feedback from TTW members that attended the convention.

We kicked off the 2004 Club Car project by removing about 70 68 novas from their blisters, removing the chassis from the body, removing the axles & wheels and cleaning all the blisters so they can be reused later on the 2004 TTW Club Car Card we will make. Good job guys! See Page 7 for pictures.

2004 Club Car Committee

Gary Aaron	Joe Foster	Robert Priebe
Dave Batow	Geary Fowler	Kelly Real
Barry Bulman	Kurt Kazmierski	Steve Richards
Eli Bulman	Jeannette Peterson	David Smith
Bob Chanley	Jeff Peterson	Rob Wilson
Joe Dake	Jeannette Preston	
Sherry Dake	Ron Preston	

2004 T-TOWN WHEELERS CLUB OFFICERS

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Secretary: Steve Haney (918) 592-6897

Co-Vice Presidents:

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Newsletter Editors

Geary Fowler & Larry Kupp (405) 701-8383

Membership Chairman:

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P.O. Box 4138
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74159

Sergeant of Arms:

Paul Richards
David Rutledge
(918) 834-0017

Webmaster:

Geary Fowler
www.microcollector.com

Treasurer: Robert Priebe (918) 251-2128

What a busy time of the year for T-Town wheelers ! We have had a fantastic T-Town show, and a National Convention (not to mention the constant chase for new cars) all in the space of a few weeks. With regard to the Dallas convention, I was amazed at the number of Tulsa area collectors that I saw at the Convention. Since I drove down by myself I was wondering if I would see anyone that I knew. As I walked to the front of the Hotel the first thing I see is David Smith in the front drive of the hotel in his Hot Wheel Collection Detection Unit ! I could not hunt for more than a few minutes without seeing a T-Town Wheeler somewhere in the Hotel. We definitely made our presence known !

The convention itself was a lot of fun and it brought back some memories of David Brisco's Arkansas shows in the late 1990's. While the layout of the Hotel was less than desirable, one could search and find nearly anything that could be on a Hot Wheel shopping list from blister pack redlines to the latest first editions, it was all there.

Most noteworthy were the collectors (and now new friends) that I met while I was there. Without exception I found them to be truly nice people with varied interests when it comes to Hot Wheels collecting, but all of them with a distinct passion for the little cars. If I get another chance I definitely want to stay longer than the two days that I had in Dallas. I want to have the opportunity to meet more collectors.....buy more cars and at least for a few days have all the normal day to day worries become secondary and take the time to really enjoy the hobby.

My recommendation to other T-Town Wheelers is to find your own way, through going to the next Nationals or by getting more involved with The T-Town club, to put aside your daily problems by enjoying this great hobby and make a few lifetime friends while you do it.

Kaz

MEETING MUG SHOTS

The following pictures were taken at the April 10, 2004 TTW meeting.



Paul Bales was the winner of The Toy Peddler's Side Loading Beach Bomb registration giveaway at the 4th Nationals collectors Convention in Dallas, Texas.



Come and join the fun next month. It is a great time for all and a free Treasure Hunt is given away at every meeting.

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dinners of this magnitude the various meals were delicious and filling. I did not hear any complaints about the food or food service for that matter.



The custom finished Merc being presented to Larry Wood.

Immediately following the dinner Larry Wood was presented with a custom finished 1:18th scale 53 Merc woodie complete with wood replacements of the plastic woodie sides.



Larry Wood being presented the framed artists painting of the Larry Wood designed 60's box art.

He also received a framed artists rendering of 60's style box art that Larry had designed.



When the formal presentations were complete, Bart Dalton was called to the podium to present Larry Wood with a custom built VW Drag Bus Lamp. The bus lamp was presented to Larry Wood in behalf of Hot Wheels collectors worldwide and was built by TTW



members and painted by Johnny Young. This lamp was complete with a



VW hubcap for the lampshade and a miniature Larry Wood driving the bus. Several TTW members were sitting approximately 20 or so yards from the stage at a couple different tables. We



could see that Larry Wood was not only taken by surprise, he honestly appreciated our humble gift and the effort that was put into building it.



Charity Auction—Lee Knight Auctioneer

Friday the convention was seeing more and more conventioners register. Momentum is building at this point and along with all the other daily scheduled events the afternoon offered practice sessions to the sizzler track and downhill track. The In-Room Redline Display Contest Judging was going on and the charity auction kicked off at



7:00 p.m. with the TTW getting a total of \$1075 for the other two VW Drag Bus lamps we built and 10 charity cars we carded for the event.

Saturday the convention was in full swing with conventioners still arriving and walking the halls for deals on Hot

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Wheels and so many things going on it was difficult at best to take them all in. Newsletter subscribers were getting their free cars, chapter leaders were



One of Two VW Drag Bus Lamps built by the T-Town Wheelers for the Charity Auction.

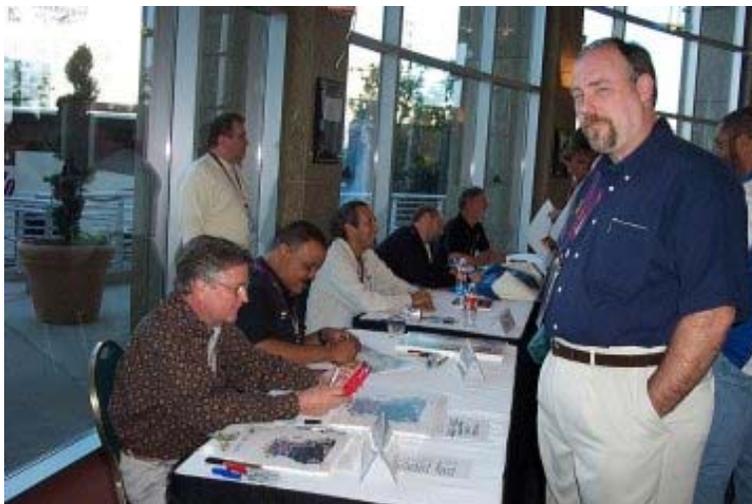
meeting with Mike Strauss, auto graph sessions, souvenir sales, custom car seminar, custom car contest, downhill races, sizzler races, XV Racer races, Redline Display Contest announcement and the Entrance to Finale

where you get your very limited (one per ticket holder) convention car. At this point everyone is ready for some more room-to-room trading.

Sunday things started out a little quieter and people started early with a Hot Wheels Show

and Sale that was made available to the public in one of the large banquet halls. I was a little disappointed with the turnout of so few dealers setting up but after all most of these folks had been selling and trading all week and had sold most of what they brought with them.

It was good to see so many familiar faces from Tulsa at the convention and I believe everyone had a great time. Paul Bales won a Rear Loading Beach Bomb given away by The Toy Peddler. I believe everyone that made



the convention was able to acquire something for their collection and at a good price too.

Jim Simpson did fairly well for his first national custom contest and I believe Amy Boylan (of Mattel and hotwheelcollectors.com) wanted to buy a couple of his creations.

If you get the chance to attend a national collectors convention I would highly recommend you go for it. You will be happy you did. -Geary

CONVENTION FEEDBACK FROM OUR MEMBERS

Dallas Convention Story —David Smith

I found out Thursday, the 1st of April that I was able to attend the conference without really attending the conference. I was too late to get a ticket for the event but the Hotel just happened to have a room available. I made my reservation for Friday and Saturday night and scrambled to get ready and go. My wife Heather and daughter Bethany decided to tag along and were actually able to get ready to leave no later than 9 am Friday morning.

We drove the old Hot Wheels Aerostar down and everyone was happy except Bethany, she sat in the back so she couldn't see out the left side of the cargo van. I can now recite from memory several books on tape including 2 "Winnie the Pooh" books and a couple more "Franklin turtle" books.

We had no room available for us even though we showed up at 3 pm (check-in time) and were told that our room, when it was ready, would be on the 17th floor. We put all our things in Geary and Larry's room (thanks again guys) and I went to park the van and wait for a room. The only thing that we didn't store in G & L's room was a spinner rack for blister packs that was too big to fit on the luggage cart so I carried it in after parking the van down the street. While standing in the lobby waiting for our room I was approached by a man in a suit named Dave that said the rack was exactly what he needed for his Hot Wheels at home. I told him it was for sale and that if he bought it now I wouldn't have to carry the thing around for however long it took to get our room (Bart had told me the nightmare of how it took 5 hours to get their room so I was resigned to a long wait). Dave asked if I was waiting for a room

and I explained the situation. He asked what type room we were waiting for and I showed him the reservation slip they gave me at check-in. He excused himself and in a couple minutes came back with a key to our room on the 6th floor. Turns out the guy was in charge of pretty much every convention in the Hotel except for the Hot Wheels group. God supplies our needs, Heather had been over to the side praying for a room to come up quickly so I wouldn't have to carry that rack!

The Hot Wheels were great, I sold a few and brought home about 50 cars (Hot Wheels, Johnny Lightning, Matchbox, Ertl and more. I was hoping to sell or trade the van, I got lots of lookers and plenty folks wanting to take pictures but so far no sale.

I wasn't able to attend anything at the conference aside from the final get-

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together Saturday night and the Sunday show (Both of which I was able to get into with Steve Richards badge since he had to leave early, THANKS STEVE) and I didn't get to spend much time with fellow T-Towners either since My Daughter and Son-in-law from Ardmore drove down Saturday and I was stuck in my room quite a bit as well.

Next time I'll 2nd Mortgage the house if that's what it takes to be able to be fully involved (as long as they'll come back to the center of the country again). I have to say though, Tulsa is much better set up for a conference than Dallas is. The Hotel wasn't very user friendly and I have a few things to place on the comment card I brought home. We need to gear up to get a great event here in a year or two. If we build the way we have it's entirely possible.

I wish all of the T-Town Wheelers had all been there, maybe next time!!!

- David

Dallas Convention Story

—Robert Priebe

I had a wonderful time, it was interesting to meet some of the people that you here about and from in person. You get a chance to meet all kinds of collectors from the hard core Redline, error, variation, customizers and off of the wall collectors. They all come together for these little cars, each with there own story and reason for getting into these cars.

It was interesting to meet some of the designers and hear their stories of how they got to where they are today. I am glad to have finally had a chance to finally make it to a National convention.

- Robert

Dallas Convention Story

—Larry Kupp

I have been to 5-6 of the Hot Wheels conventions in the past few years and for the first time I was able to sit down with actual designers and management and hear their stories and ask questions. I won an auction at the Charity event on Friday night that earned me a lunch with Michael Heralda, Phil Riehlman (VW Drag Bus) and Dave Weise. Not only was it at the top of the tall tower (Landmark) shaped like a

spike ball restaurant, our time was only limited by the number of questions we could ask. I was one of 7-8 other auction winners to attend this lunch. Michael Heralda is an interesting individual. not only is he someone at Mattel who is highly respected and has tons of creativity, he also has become a respected public speaker on the Aztec (<http://aztecestories.com>).

His Mattel story telling was really great. He talked of Mattel as it were a fine tuned machine and that even though



the factories were thousands of miles away, the lines of communication were open and even the smallest changes were communicated as it they were in the same building.

Phil Riehlman was a bit more reserved. (<http://www.hwrealcars.com/Nat02PhilFamily.jpg>) He told us of the car that almost wasn't (VW Drag Bus). There were design issues that it was too heavy. They almost went with a plastic top versus 100% die cast. He said NO. If it was not going to come out the way it was designed, then don't do it at all. He was however given freedom to create it 100% of his own design. He did the engine, the wheels the original graphics. What a piece of art we have today. Can you believe that design is already 8 years old? WOW!

Dave Weise, all I can say is "take a breath". He was almost non stop passion about what they do at Mattel. He talked about policies, copyrights, legal issues, tampo fights, Coke, Ferrari, YuGiOh. Some companies were willing to pull their logos if the colors were not correct or if their logo was not bigger than the Hot Wheels logo. How silly is that? I asked the question: "Why does my '67 Camaro keep showing up so often?" "I have a hard time getting all

the variations". His response was they try to run a casting no sooner than 8 months apart. That way they do not over use a casting and that they keep a wide variety out there of each model. They did say that there would be no more Final Runs at this time. Again, too many copyright issues.

All in all, it was a great 2 hours and I only wish I could go back for more. These guys were true blue Mattel Hot Wheels employees. I am sure they bleed HW blue if stuck with a needle.

Dallas Convention Story

—Jim Simpson

This was my first Nationals Convention but not the last. The room to room trading, sales and gawking were the best part of the convention. There are all kinds of Hot Wheels to see and talk about and you get a chance to meet people that you normally only talk to on the Hot Wheel boards on the internet.



The custom contest was awesome. I received a favorite pick from HW Amy for my Hyper Mite Delivery custom.

I also met a lot of nice people and saw a lot of great customs (many were out of my league.) This was my first convention but not the last. -Jim



Steve Richards, Bob Chanley, Kelly Real, David Batow, Joe Dake Jeff Peterson and of course the blonde hair belongs to Jeannette Peterson.

Sherry Dake is demonstrating proper blister busing technique to the guys.



Cleaning Blisters so they can be reused on the new TTW Club Cards



Joe Dake cleaning up old glue and paint from blisters.



Jeannette Peterson and Sherry Dake cleaning blisters.



Everyone had a good time and got a lot done in a short amount of time. We removed about 70 cars from their original blisters, separated chassis from body, removed axles and cleaned all the blisters.

T-Town Wheelers

P O Box 54211
Tulsa, OK. 74155-0211

Email: microcollector@cox.net or
Email larman4@aol.com
Phone 405-701-8383

VISIT <http://microcollector.com> often and click the TTW Logo or NEWS to see what is new with our club.

Support the site by clicking and voting BEST for microcollector.com by clicking the TOP 100 LOGO.



ABOVE- A close-up of the tag that was made for the back of the VW Drag bus that was presented to Larry Wood at the Nationals convention in Dallas Texas on April 2nd, 2004. (See page 4 of this newsletter)

Mattel, Inc. Announce Recall of BATMAN™ BATMOBILE™ Toy Vehicle

Hazard: The rear tail wings of the Batmobile are made of rigid plastic and come to a point, which pose a potential puncture or laceration hazard to young children.

The recalled "BATMAN™ BATMOBILE™" toy car is a 20-inch blue and gray plastic vehicle with a detachable motorcycle. Model number B4944 is written on the bottom of the toy vehicle.

Remedy: Parents should take these toys away from children immediately and contact the firm for information on receiving free replacement wings. Mattel is providing free repair kits containing two replacement wings without pointed ends that snap onto the toy vehicle. The repair can be done quickly and easily at home; instructions will be provided.

Consumer Contact: Consumers can call Mattel at (888) 271-9891 anytime or visit www.service.mattel.com to determine if their toy is among the recalled models and to order the free replacement wings if needed.

