

T-TOWN WHEELERS

TULSA OKLAHOMA



NEWS

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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, **January 8, 2004.**
- We need your Hot Wheel related articles for the Newsletter or a story about how you started collecting.
- **DUES ARE DUE NOW!**
- Update your contact info with Paul Bales.
- Check us out on the web www.microcollector.com



CHRISTMAS DINNER/MEETING

To say that a good time was had by all at The club purchased the turkey and Robert the year end Christmas Dinner/Meeting Priebe donated a ham, (both were excellent would be an understatement. We elected I might add) and everyone brought our 2005 officers and got the meeting part beverages of all kinds, ice, cups, eating of the event out of the way in short order. utensils and some of the best covered Had our door prize drawings and Sherry dishes and desserts on the Duke won the Treasure Hunt. Then we planet. -Geary
 adjourned the meeting and lined up for some of the best food in the Midwest.



2004 VARIATIONS

The number 2 Treasure Hunt ('67 Camaro) is out, as well as the new 2005 First Edition Airy8 is starting to show up, this would be #4 of the Realistix, and the first 2 Torpedos are out for 2005 First Editions.

#85 2004 First Edition Exhausted is now in blue (originally came in pink)

There is also a new group of cars (36 in all), that is 4 teams of drivers of 9 cars each to make a full set. They are called AcceleRacers. They come with 3 collectible Game Cards, and there is a 6 digit code on the bottom of the cars that you have to go to CartoonNetwork.com/HotWheels to unlock exclusive content. These have been seen at Kohl's Department Store, Target and Wal-Mart.

-Jeannette Peterson

2004 TOY DRIVE REPORT—SHERRY DAKE

"Thanks go out to all the T-Town Wheelers for their generous giving of toys this year".

Last week Joe took 35 stuffed animals to the emergency room at St. Francis Broken Arrow Hospital. They were so excited to get them for the kids. Most of the kids who come to the emergency room are scared anyway and this little token toy means so much to them.

Then today, Dec. 21, 2004, I took the remaining toys, 4 large boxes full, to the DHS Shelter. This is where we took the toys last year. They were very glad to see me with all the toys. The kids who end up in this shelter have been taken from their home and usually their parents too for one reason or another. They have nothing and this

means so much to them. The ladies who work there remembered that we were the T-Town Wheelers Hot Wheel Club and they think the world of us. Everyone gives to the Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army, but sometimes these kids that we helped get left out. This is the best feeling I could have at Christmas and you should all feel the same way. Without our little club many kids would not have a gift at Christmas or a stuffed toy to keep them company at the hospital. This is what it is all about folks. Thank you for allowing me to be Santa Claus this year. Thank You to everyone who donated toys. Let's see if we can't make it even bigger and better next year. Merry Christmas and have a safe and happy New Year!

Sherry Dake

2004 PERFECT ATTENDANCE—PAUL BALES

CONGRATULATIONS to the following for achieving perfect attendance for 2004.

*Bales, Paul
Chanley, Bob & Bev
Foster, Ken
Fowler, Geary & Marcia
Haney, Steve
Kazmlerski, Kurt
Peterson, Jeff
Priebe, Robert
Rutledge, David*

2004 T-TOWN WHEELERS CLUB OFFICERS

President: Kurt Kazmierski (918) 747-6766

Co-Vice Presidents:

Jeff Peterson & Jeannette Peterson
(918) 251-8198

Treasurer: Robert Priebe (918) 251-2128

Secretary: Steve Haney (918) 592-6897

Newsletter Editors

Geary Fowler & Larry Kupp (405) 701-8383

Membership Chairman:

Paul Bales (918) 637-2247

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Sergeant of Arms:

Paul Richards

David Rutledge
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Webmaster:

Geary Fowler

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Greetings! Hey...Where did 2004 go?!? What an action packed year for die cast it was for all Hot Wheels collectors. Whether it was trying to track down the Hot 100 First Editions or trying to nab the cars offered to Hot Wheels Redline Club Members, it was certainly a challenge for collectors who want to "Collect them all!"

During 2004 the folks at Hot Wheels made several moves to bring diecast to the collectors that was both new and different at prices points across the board. One example was the collector oriented 'oil can' cars. Many collectors had mixed feelings about the 'oil can' packaging though few collectors could find fault with the cars chosen.

Other Hot Wheels offerings that were aimed at collectors seemed to hit the mark as castings appeared to be carefully chosen at these comparatively higher price points to insure collector interest. The late year Holiday Rods series was a prime example of Hot Wheels designing a series which offered them a reasonable profit while choosing castings that a collector would snap up.

Some of the new mainline castings were more controversial with the introduction of Fatbax, Blings, Tooned and Hardnozes segments drawing both praise and criticism from the collecting front. As should be the case however, Hot Wheels mainline cars are designed to a large extent to appeal to kids, and I think that for the most part the new and different designs tend to grow on the collectors as they learn to appreciate the creativity and artistic skills that went into these castings.

The year 2004 was a good collecting year for Hot Wheels fans and 2005 is shaping up to be the same. As you will see unfold during the year, the folks at Hot Wheels have had their thinking caps on and have come up with some new concepts and marketing plans which should make it another fun and challenging year for the collector. See you at the pegs.

Treasure Hunt News!

Have you heard? Well the day you have been waiting for has arrived... in the year 2005 you will finally see a VW Drag Bus Treasure Hunt! Well let me say first off that it won't be a Treasure Hunt that you find at the pegs...thank goodness...but you will have to hunt down your share of cars at the pegs in order to get one of these soon to be instant classics. According to HWC John at the hotwheelscollectors.com site, the deal will be something like this.

The folks at Hot Wheels will have 4 separate mail in promotions where you will need to purchase 20 basic cars and mail in the UPCs, the receipt, and \$3 and you will get a bonus car (remember the mystery cars from years past) AND a coupon. If you get all four coupons from each promotion you can mail in the coupons and \$3 to get your VW Drag Bus Treasure Hunt. They may also have a way for you to instantly win a Bus when you send in for one of the quarterly car/coupons but the details on that are not out yet.

Wow! Looks like I better start saving my lunch money for 2005 Hot Wheels!

Kaz

SECRETARIES REPORT - STEVE HANEY

Meeting started at 1:20 pm, Dec 4th.

Minutes read.

Robert Priebe reads treasurer report.

Membership votes on 2005 Officer positions.

Kurt announces new officers for 2005 T-Town Wheelers.

President- Kurt Kazmierski

Vice President- Co-chaired by David Smith & Jeanette Peterson

Treasurer- Robert Priebe

Secretary - Steve Haney

Newsletter Editor - Geary Fowler

Sergeant of Arms -Co-chaired by James Lindsey & Kenny Foster

Toys for Tots drive was a big success!!!

Club dues for 2005 will be due next month!!

Membership directories are still available for those that have not picked up theirs, and they are a tremendous help in locating members.

Sherry Dake wins TH.

Meeting adjourned at about 1:33.

Christmas dinner was held afterwards. Excellent food, and good company. Thanks, to everyone who was involved.

WHAT'S HOT REPORT - STEVE HANEY

The Auto Affinity Hobby Exclusives L case is out with 2 variations of 2 different Rebel Rods & 2 variations of 2 different Special Delivery. There should be one more case with the other half of the Hobby Exclusives.

The Holiday Rods appearing at Target now include the Camaro and an occasional white VW bug.

Snap-On Tools has another 2005 Garage set with 6 new cars. They include: '70 Plymouth Barracuda, '57 Chevy, '69 Dodge Charger, '65 Mustang. The two that come with the garage are: Nissan Skyline, & Toyota Celica. I will

attempt to contact a Snap On rep that I know here in Tulsa and obtain some 4 car sets.

Email me back & let me know if you or anyone else might be interested. Perhaps we could buy a large quantity and get a discount.

The next Liberty Promotion is on Christmas I believe!!

If anyone knows how to obtain a half-dozen or more Morris Wagon TH including the expensive \$49 real-rider version, please contact me.

This month we focus on a version of Hot Wheels that's been issued in different versions for almost 20 years now. I find that most collectors have an opinion of these one way or the other, they either like them or they don't.

Color changers have been offered in many styles and retail packaging. They were originally sold as "Color Racers" in multi-blisters around 1987. These were standard mainline vehicles that were painted with special coatings that, when submerged in warm or cold water, would change from one color and design scheme to another (and back again, as often as you liked.) The coating was actually a multi-layered application that worked what seemed like magic. If you ever see an early color changer that has seen any playtime you can see the color change technology by looking closely at the chips around the vehicle. Under the topcoat is a thick white chalky layer that was necessary for the change to occur. These early color changers were metal bodied with their regular issue base. Since they were issued starting in the mid-'80s they are Malaysia issues retailed here, in U.S. packaging, as well as Europe in foreign language blisters. Most had metal bases as well.

Time takes it's toll on these changers. Most have, years ago, changed colors for their last time. This factor leaves some collectors confused and they may have many duplicates in their collection because of the same type color changer having "frozen" in different stages for good. It makes a difference to some people and not to others. I like having the different colors of the same changer to display.

The original Color Racers were offered in the microracers as well and have become very collectible since they were not well received when offered initially and the remaining numbers are pretty low. These were the type you'd find hanging on the pegs in drugstores and grocery stores for years until they were finally offered at clearance in their ragged state since they'd been moved, dropped and grabbed by children over the years. These are interesting because they are like miniature versions of the 1/64 vehicle.

Later on Mattel offered the changer car in the 1990 "Convertables" series which had color changing paint as well as body parts that moved when alternating the cold/warm dunking process. This was a new thing for Hot Wheels, the movement was controlled by a mechanism that worked similar to the action of your household thermostat. Three different series were to be released, the Hot Rods, Wreckers and Roadsters, but the third to be marketed (Roadsters) were cancelled because of the dismal sales of the original issues. The bodies consisted of vehicles that were similar to the mainline cars with metal bodies but had plastic moveable body parts in place of the metal ones so they are mostly distinct castings. A "Convertables" body shop play set was sold that had a '57 Chevy included and is really hard to find.

Mattel tried again with the 1993 "Color FX" series that, for the first time, was issued primarily with plastic bodies. These were available in single blisters or 2-packs (both offered either a sponge "paint brush" or a rubber stamper

that could be used to decorate the color changer.) These were also poor sellers. I can remember many of the "Color FX" series hanging on the pegs at Albertson's for years after they stopped producing them. I don't know why they didn't sell well, it would seem kids would love that kind of thing but they retailed for no less than \$4.99 so that could have been a factor. They also sold at clearance eventually or could be found at discount closeout stores for much less.

Regardless, I think most were eventually ripped out and played with so they may see an increase in value as the remaining numbers are realized.

The early changers are definitely my favorite, I really enjoy the '80s castings and there is a limited following for these gems so they're still a fair value. The brand new stuff's too sought after and the cost to collect is so high you should consider looking at these older cars. *That's* the vintage advantage!



ABOVE— All are early metal bodied Color Racers except the Color FX plastic bodied GT Racer up front. Notice the similarity of the Ferrari Color Racer and the Ferrari Micro Color Racer as well as the 2 different shades on the larger Ferraris. The Corvette Stingray shows the white chalky chipping on the edges that is common with the early metal bodied Color Racers.

T-Town Wheelers

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our club.

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(Continued from page 5)

RIGHT Here are some different examples of
the way the color changers have been marketed
including single, multi-packs and play sets.

