

# T-TOWN WHEELERS NEWS

## TULSA OKLAHOMA

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### SIZZLERS and George Soulakis

It was 1969 and George Soulakis a designer at Mattel toys began working on a different breed of Hot Wheels called Sizzlers. They were unique and billed to be the Worlds Fastest Electric Cars. George went to General Electric to have a special battery made for these cars and they came up with the first rechargeable Nickel Cadmium battery. These 1.2 volt batteries took a 90-second charge that would run the cars for five to seven minutes. Mattel later developed a longer and narrower chassis requiring the development of a longer and narrower battery. By 1970, the Sizzlers line was ready to hit the shelves. Cars were originally packaged on a cardboard pedestal covered with a plastic box. Because these boxes were designed to store and display cars, many of them have survived in remarkable condition.

due to the Spectraflame process requiring cars to be chrome plated then painted. Only a few exceptions in the early line were available this way. The Angelino M-70 came in chrome and green chrome, the Firebird T/A came in a pearl white which was a see-thru white painted over chrome and the Ford Mark IV came in red chrome. There may be other chrome color variations as Mattel did many interesting things with paint and color variations during this time.

As with the Hot Wheels line, the Sizzlers line included accessories for their track sets. 1970 accessories included:

- Single Lane Speed Brake and Esses Kit
- Dual Lane Speed Brake and Esses Kit
- Power Pit
- Juice Machine

The Power Pit was the ultimate charger. It looked like a '60s service station, and plugged into the wall. You could then turn a timer, and it would automatically charge the cars for up to 90 seconds.

Orange strip track sets were sold with the 1970 Sizzlers. Single or double lane oval and figure eights made up the line. 1970 sets included:

- Atlantic 8 Set
- California 8 Race Set
- Daredevil Duel Set (extremely RARE)
- Laguna Oval Set
- National Champ Race Set
- Newport Pacer Set
- Pacific 8 Set
- U.S. 8 Set

1971 was a big year for Sizzlers. New body designs dictated the advent of a longer battery. This battery was mounted lengthwise in the car. These are now



70 Firebird Trans Am

Six 1970 models were introduced:

- Angelino M-70
- Firebird Trans-Am
- Ford Mark IV
- Hot Head
- Mustang Boss 302
- Revvin' Heaven

The 1970 models were an instant hit. These cars were painted in several different colors. Although the Hot Wheels line used the Spectraflame paint schemes most of the 1970 Sizzlers models were painted with straight enamel. Spectraflame was impractical and cost prohibitive for Sizzlers to do on a mass scale. This was

**Remember:**

- The next TTW Club meeting will be at the Hardesty Library just east of 93rd and Memorial. From 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., Saturday, **July 11th, 2009.**
- **2009 TTW SHOW DATES**  
August 15th  
October 17th
- We need your Hot Wheel related articles for the Newsletter or a story about how you started collecting. Send your articles to:  
T-TOWN WHEELERS  
PO BOX 54211  
Tulsa, OK. 74155-0211  
**Check us out on the web**  
**www.microcollector.com**



I have been collecting a few Larry's Garage "chase cars" with the initials. I have a few doubles, so if you are interested in some swaps, please email me at rfizer1@cox.net for the latest list.

**Rick Fizer**

**rfizer1@cox.net**

**T-TOWN WHEELERS CORNER**

**Club Car Committee**

If you would like to participate in the club car committee now is the time to hear from you. We have always had a good time recreating unique Club Cars for our members.

**Upcoming TTW Meetings**

Mark your calendars, (note the change for April) for our 2009 TTW Meetings at the Hardesty Library in Tulsa located just east of 93rd and Memorial. Please make note of remaining 2009 meeting dates. Due to renovations at the Hardesty we could not secure meeting rooms for the first Saturday of every month. All meeting times are the same and will be 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Jul 11      Aug 1      Sep 5      Oct 10  
Nov 14      Dec 12

**Upcoming TTW SHOWS**

August 15th      October 17th

*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.*



**2009 T-TOWN WHEELERS CLUB OFFICERS**

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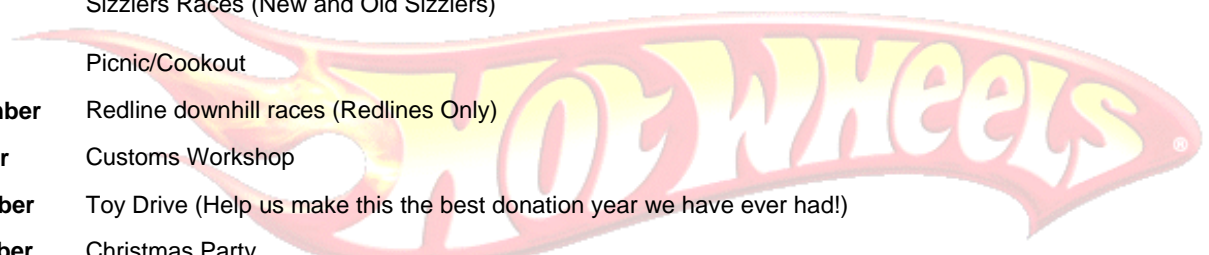
If you lasted through all of the Rain, and were able to get out, Mattel is getting back in the swing of things. I got a chance to see some of the newest offerings at the last show: Fast Gassin in Green, Custom '53 Cadillac FE in Purple, Bye-Focal 2 FE in blue and the Tri & Stop Me FE in Orange.

Our next meeting they will be Sizzlers Work shop. Bring those old (or new) Sizzlers to get them looked over and ready for the July Meeting Sizzlers races.

-Robert

**2009 T-Town Wheeler Meeting Themes**

<b>June</b>	Sizzlers work shop (New and old Sizzlers)
<b>July</b>	Sizzlers Races (New and Old Sizzlers)
<b>August</b>	Picnic/Cookout
<b>September</b>	Redline downhill races (Redlines Only)
<b>October</b>	Customs Workshop
<b>November</b>	Toy Drive (Help us make this the best donation year we have ever had!)
<b>December</b>	Christmas Party



**SIZZLERS (continued)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

known as "long-chassis" Sizzlers. There were 12 new models to choose from. This was the most new Sizzler models offered at any one time by Mattel.

The 1971 models included:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Anteater        | Backfire       |
| Camaro Trans-Am | Cuda Trans-Am  |
| Ferrari 512S    | Hot Wings      |
| Indy Eagle      | Livewire       |
| March Formula 1 | Sideburn       |
| Spoil Sport     | Straight Scoop |

Some of these models were made in molded plastic. The Ferrari 512S was offered in molded red only, the Indy Eagle was offered in molded blue only, the Sideburn came mainly in molded black, but molded gray versions are known to exist. The March Formula 1 and Hot Wings came in various molded colors.

Also introduced in 1971 was Fat Track. Fat Track was a three-lane wide strip that allowed for awesome passing action. Full Racing Sets, as well as individual Fat Track Strip Paks and Curve Paks allowed racers to make huge sets. 1971 Track Sets included:

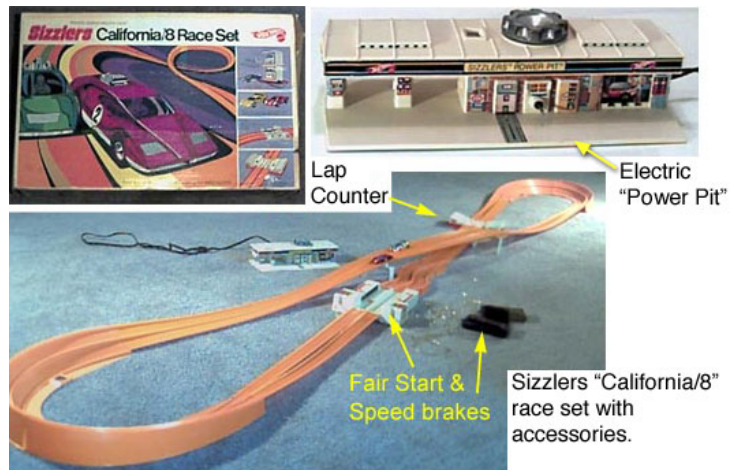
Orange Strip Track:  
High Winder Set



Hot Wing



71 Spoil Sport



Fat Track:  
Big O Race Set  
California 500 Race Set

## Page 4 More SIZZLERS

### Super Circuit Race Set

The accessories offered in 1971 varied greatly. It was also the greatest amount of new accessories offered at any one time for Sizzlers. 1971 accessories included:

#### Orange Strip Track:

High Winder Pak    Stunt Loop Pak  
U-Turn Pak

#### Fat Track:

Big O Layout                      California 500 Layout  
Fat Track Curve Pak          Fat Track Post Pak  
Fat Track Strip Pak          Lap Computer  
Scramble Start

#### Miscellaneous:

Good Timer Stopwatch          Sizzlers Lunchbox w/thermos  
Sizzlers Poster                  Sizzlers Race Case  
Sizzlers Race Car w/Juice Machine  
Sizzlers Wristwatch

Mattel started scaling back their Sizzlers line in 1972. Only four new models were offered. The 1972 models included:

Co-Motion    Double boiler    Flatout    Up Roar

These were all long-chassis Sizzlers in molded colors.

#### 1972 track Sets included:

Breakin' 8 Set          Control Set Mad Scatter Set  
Super Control Set

The Fat Track Control Set with it's plastic hay bales undoubtedly destroyed many a good Sizzler!

1973 ushered in what would be known as Fat Daddy Sizzlers. Fat Daddys are now one of the most highly desired and sought after Sizzlers. They are oversized



Fat Daddy Red Barron

bodies with huge tires. The chassis is the standard Sizzler long chassis. Like the 1973 Hot Wheels, these were made for only one year, with scaled back production runs. This

resulted in a limited number of these produced, pushing collector prices through the roof today.

#### 1973 models included:

Fireworks                      HiWay Hauler                      Lawmill  
Needle Nose                  Ram Rocket                      Red Baron  
Steering Trailer              Steering Trailer Set

Running these on the Fat Track is a blast! Track sets for 1973 included:

Breakin' 8 Set                  Road Chase Set                  Road Sprint Set  
Steering Trailer Set          Target Set                      Target Race Set  
Wild Oval Set                  Super Road Chase Set

The (Fat Track) Wild Oval Set was probably made to use up old stock. It did not include any cars or charger, and had cheesy printed graphics on the front of the box.

#### 1973 Accessories included:

#### Pit Box

After 1973, there was a hiatus in Sizzler production. Old stock was still available to fill the time frame until 1976, when the Sizzlers II models hit the stores.

Five old models and the new Vantom made up the Sizzlers II line for 1976. The cars came in chrome and gold chrome. There were slight internal changes to the battery compartment, and the front wheels were changed to the standard "axle through" fare of the current Hot Wheels. 1976 Models included:

Anteater II                      Camaro II                      Livewire II  
Mustang II                      Sideburn II                      Vantom



Anteater

The Vantom and Mustang are the most common 1976 models. Probably because they were the main cars included in the Sizzlers II Silver Circuit Set. When I bought the set at Target in 1976, EVERY set I saw included those two models. The Gold Chrome cars are EXTREMELY rare. They were almost impossible to find in 1976.

A Limited Edition, Gold-chromed Camaro T/A was released and was sold as part of a set including a gold colored Goose Pump in a sealed blister showpak. This item is very rare and highly collectable.

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1976 Track Sets:

Silver Circuit Set

1976 accessories included:

Silver Metal Stopwatch

Silver Goose Pump

The Sizzlers line was now seven years old. There was basically no difference in the design and performance since 1970. Mattel needed something different. The slot car scene was starting to be dominated by the A/FX Magnatractor, Flamethrower and TYCO Nite-Glow lighted cars. Mattel was losing sales to this trend.

As a last run in 1978, Mattel created an entire new, ground-up design for the Sizzlers line called Night Ridin' Sizzlers. Night Ridin' Sizzlers contained six new models for 1978 which had working headlights. These models were made in molded colors and included:

Corvette 4-Rotor (Bright Yellow)

Dark Shadow (Yellow)

Lamborghini (Red)

Long Count (Blue)

Moonghost (White)

Short Fuse (Green)

The chassis was redesigned externally (larger switch, 40th Anniversary 100% Hot Wheels Red Box List



Lamborghini

hexagonal battery compartment) and internally (light connections), but retained the basic shape and size.

Track Sets for 1978 included:

Day-Night Challenge Race Set

Nightmare Alley Race Set

After 1978, popularity dropped off and Mattel discontinued the Sizzlers line for good. These cars have regained popularity in the last few years. However, values are still well below Hot Wheels of the same time period, comparatively speaking. This makes it a good buy for collectors or racers wanting to get in the market for some of these cars.

100% Red Box

-Paul Bales



Singles

- 1 '32 Ford Roadster - black
- 2 '49 Merc - purple
- 3 '53 Cadillac - silverblue
- 4 '57 Ford Ranchero - red
- 5 '59 Cadillac Coupe - gold
- 6 '66 Pontiac GTO - blue
- 7 '67 Corvette - green
- 8 '69 Chevy Chevelle - bronze
- 9 '69 Plymouth GTX - yellow
- 10 '69 Pro Street Camaro - green
- 11 '70 Chevy Nova - gold
- 12 '70 Dodge Challenger - yellow
- 13 '70 Mustang - red
- 14 '70 Plymouth Superbird - purple
- 15 '71 Chevy Chevelle - red
- 16 Custom '52 Chevy - lt. blue
- 17 Mongoose Funny Car - red
- 18 VW Bug - pink
- 19 Volkswagen Truck - blue
- 20 Volkswagen Truck - black

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VISIT <http://microcollector.com> often and see what is new with our club.



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## 100% Red Box

—Paul Bales

Mopar Muscle - '69 GTX / '69 Coronet



40th Anniversary 100% Hot Wheels 2-Car Sets

- 1 Boulevard Burners - '70 Cuda / '69 Charger
- 2 Drive-In - '56 Chevy / '57 Nomad
- 3 Mopar Muscle - '69 GTX / '69 Coronet
- 4 Motown Metal - '70 Mustang / '69 Camaro
- 5 Retro Racing - '56 F-100 / '56 Crown Vic
- 6 Truck Show - '59 Apache / '56 F-100
- 7 Volkswagen Flashback - Beetle / Bus
8. Gilmore Special- White 3000 truck / Agajanian Special
9. Car Show- '66 Pontiac GTO / '69 Chevy Chevelle



Retro Racing 2 Car Set