

# MODEL AIRPLANE **NEWS**

**NEW!**  
**GIANT STEPS**  
**DON GODFREY**  
**ON BIG BIRDS**

*with R/C Boats & Cars*



**1980 NATS COVERAGE**

**Jim Gray's 2-Meter  
BOOMERANG**

**Nordic A/2 Circletowing**





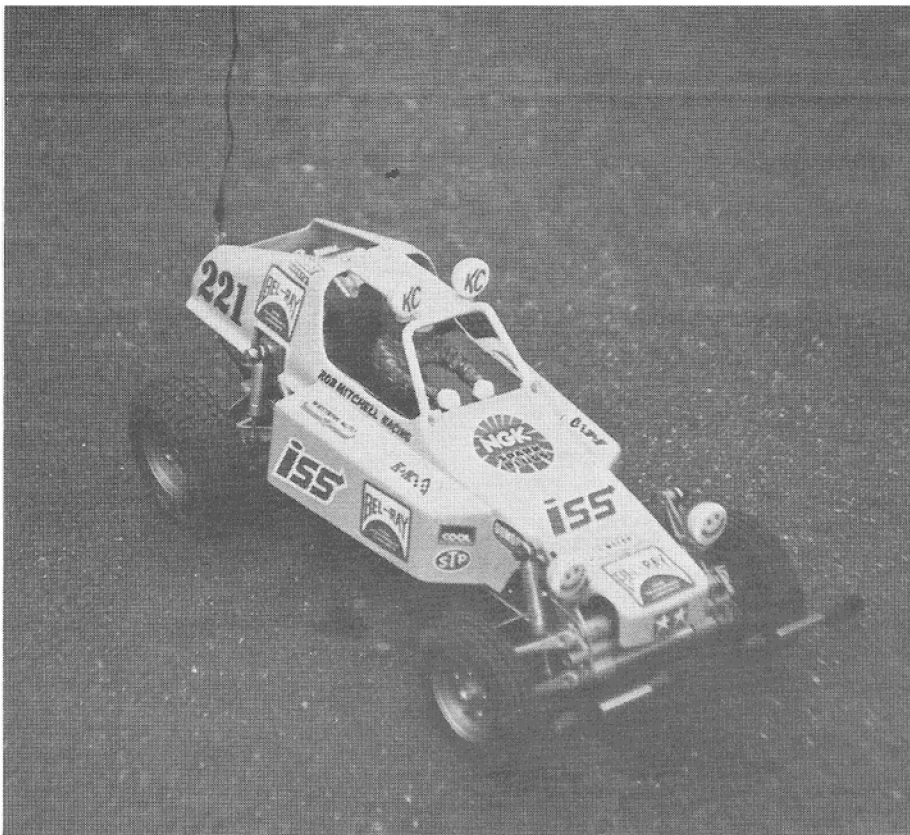
**MRC's**

# ROUGH RIDER



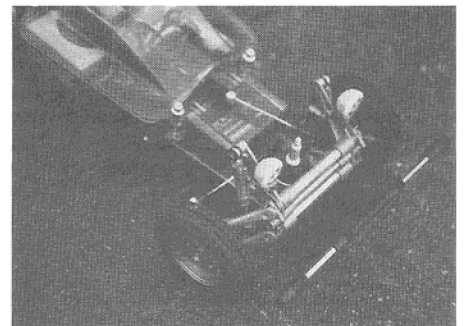
**A new concept in driving fun for the whole family.**

by AL NOVOTNIK

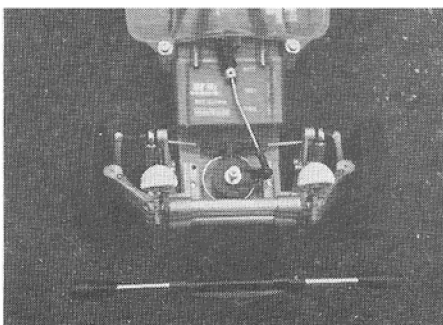


Rough Rider completed and ready for action. On 7.2 volts, the automobile gives very sprightly performance, enough to test the skill of any driver. Has two-speed control.

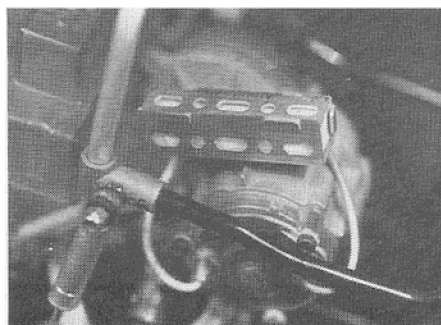
• Off-road races are run at very high speeds across pathless deserts, wilderness terrain very similar to those arid scenes from old western movies. Most of the races are run on the West Coast of the U.S., and among the most famous are the "Mint 400-Mile Race" and the "Baja International Race." The former was started in 1969 and is held in the desert near Las Vegas, Nevada. The latter is held in Ensenada, a Mexican town near the American border, in a desert stretching out into the California Peninsula. This is a very tough race in which participants are required to run around the clock. The race is actually named after the area of Baja, California, and "Baja" is now a synonym among racing fans for off-road racing.



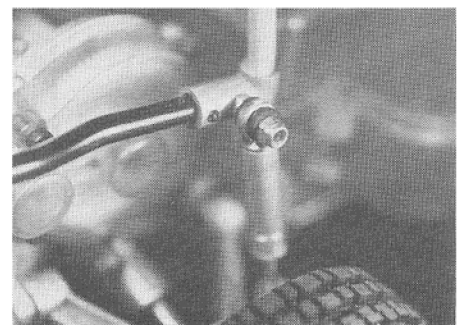
Front end on Rough Rider is independently sprung and has working shocks.



Steering system has a shock-absorbing feature to preclude servo damage.



Heavy-duty resistor is brought into play by a servo switch to give low speed.



Rear shocks are oil filled. All bolts are of the aircraft locking type.

The construction of these race cars is quite different from the everyday vehicle you see on the highway. The "Baja Bug," a modified Volkswagen, is similar to the model we have assembled. The engine is positioned in the rear of the vehicle or central portion of the frame. Wheels are exposed as on the famous Formula cars. Most of these cars are modified to a one-seat configuration, while others are two-seat versions. The "Baja Bug" is usually powered by a highly tuned Volkswagen engine. The car body itself is kept to a bare minimum, without doors or windows. Bright paint jobs and a multitude of decals decorate these creations. Many cars are home-builts, some are kit cars, but whatever the type they provide plenty of fun for all.

Now down to the model. The Rough Rider is a miniature version of the famous Baja vehicle and is powered by an electric motor. The kit is designed for a two-channel radio with two servos, one for motor control and one for steering. This kit, which is manufactured by Tamiya Plastic Model Company and distributed in the U.S. by Model Rectifier Corporation, is very complete and contains all the wrenches you'll need for assembly; oil and grease are also included. A few tools must be supplied by the builder: a cutting tool, small and large screwdrivers, long-nose pliers, a small oil can, quick-setting glue, and a pair of sidecutters.

If you read the instructions carefully before starting assembly and refer to them throughout the building process, you'll have no problems at all in assembling the car. Each step is very clearly shown with line drawings. One note of caution—follow the directions in the order shown in

the manual.

With the car fully assembled, the radio can be installed. Make certain that you have checked servo directions before securing the servos in position. The complete radio fits in the water-tight radio box—make sure that you install the flex boots over all pushrod exits.

Tamiya has a special battery pack for peak performance: a 7.2-volt battery, used in conjunction with the standard RS-540 motor. Maximum revolutions are increased by 30% over the 6-volt type. This is a special battery for the experienced driver and is recommended only to those who have proven driving ability.

The radio box is mounted to the chassis with four cam locks. When everything is sealed up, you're ready for the races. Well, almost ready, since the only thing left to do is finish the body and put on trim and details.

The racing buggy constructed for off-road racing should sport only colorful paint—conspicuous in the desert—so select bright colors for proper effect. Use regular plastic model paint. When masking for trim, make sure that the base coats of paint are completely dry, and apply masking tape or contact paper over the whole body. Draw out the design you want with a pencil, then cut on the lines you've drawn. Remove the excess paper and press the tape down, where cut. Now the trim pattern can be painted. When the body is completely finished, add the decals.

Snap the body on its chassis and you're ready to go. But before you do—make a short check of the car before running it; this list should be followed each time you operate the car.

1. Check all screws to insure tightness.

2. Check that the steering operates in both directions.

3. Try the operating switch to be sure that it works and that the model stops.

4. Inspect to be sure that no bare wires exist.

5. Batteries must be charged before each racing session, both transmitter and receiver.

6. Check the radio box for any openings that might admit dust or moisture.

7. Check to be sure that the operating shocks work.

8. Be sure that the rear wheels rotate freely; spray gears with oil.

Now you are ready to run your car on its first trip:

1. Make sure that the transmitter sticks are neutral, particularly the throttle control.

2. Turn on the transmitter.

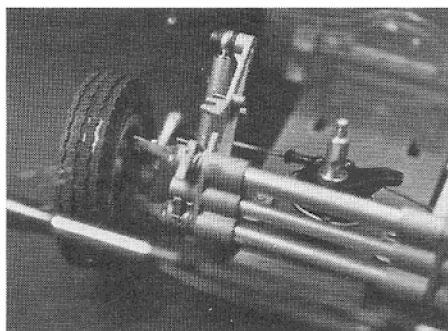
3. Turn on the receiver switch.

4. Check the movement of the sticks. Make adjustments by the trim levers; but hold the car's rear wheels off the road, since activating the throttle provides forward and reverse power.

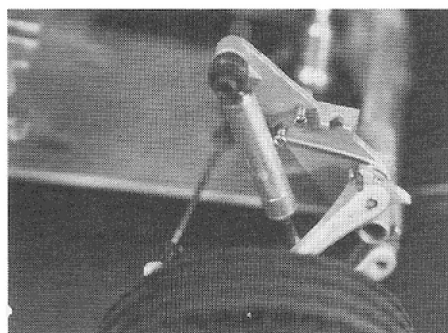
If the receiver switch is turned on before the transmitter switch, the model may go out of control because of potential interference that might actuate the power control.

This car will give you many hours of enjoyment—it's different and not difficult to learn to drive. It's really fun for the whole family. Treat yourself to a new kind of driving. It's great!

For more information on the Rough Rider, write to Model Rectifier Corporation, 2500 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08817, and tell them you read about it in Model Airplane News.



Front end assembly showing torsion bar supports and shock supports.



Torsion bars are adjustable to permit tuning the chassis to road conditions.

