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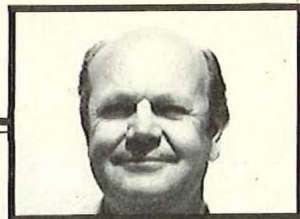


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# PIT STOP

Gene Husting



*Bob Thompson's beautiful Chevy Stepside is not only a concours winner, but it is also a competitive race car.*



*A very realistic looking racer and a top performer as well. It can be done, as Bob demonstrates on the new Ranch Pit Shop track which was still under construction at this time.*

## Off Road Racing

**Y**ou haven't heard much about Off Road racing activities until now, because until last year, there was no large scale organized activities. And there still is not a National Off Road organization. But it won't be long now, before you'll see organized Off Road competition events all around the country.

We can thank MRC and Tamiya for the growth of Off Road racing in this country. The Tamiya car certainly captures the flavor of this type of car racing, by closely resembling the actual 1/1 Scale Off Road racing vehicles.

At the moment, Southern California is leading the way in organized Off Road competition events, with three permanent Off Road tracks, holding scheduled racing events as well as racing series. The Ranch Pit Shop, 1655 E. Mission Blvd., Pomona, California 91766, (714) 623-1506 was formerly Thorp's Raceway. The new owner, Gil Losi, has not only improved the asphalt track, which is used for the 1/8 gas cars and the 1/12 electric road race cars, but Gil has added a new Off Road track for the 1/10 Scale Off Road cars. This track now has something to appeal to all forms of R/C car racing. Because of this, it is certainly the leading commercial track in the country. About 60 miles west of Pomona, Lou Peralta has been specializing in Off Road competition at his Mini Baja Raceway, 6742 Reseda Blvd., Reseda,



*Bob's car is naturally based on the popular Tamiya kit, but with many custom parts made by Bob. Here he has just finished charging batteries and is getting ready for a run.*

California 91335, (213) 345-7300. Lou is certainly qualified in Off Road racing, because he has also competed in many of the real 1/1 Scale Off Road events in California and Mexico. I don't know how Lou has time to do everything he does. He just started racing 1/8 Scale gas cars a few months ago, and his improvement has been quite fast. Lou also started a newspaper on R/C cars about a year ago, and if you'd like to subscribe to this newspaper, write to R/C Racing News, P.O. Box 411, Woodland Hills, California 91364 for more information.

About 60 miles south of Pomona, Ron Williams, the owner of Radio

Controlled Hobbies, 653 W. 19 St., Costa Mesa, California 92627, (714) 631-1555, specializes in Off Road cars and holds regularly scheduled Off Road events at an empty lot within a block of his hobby shop.

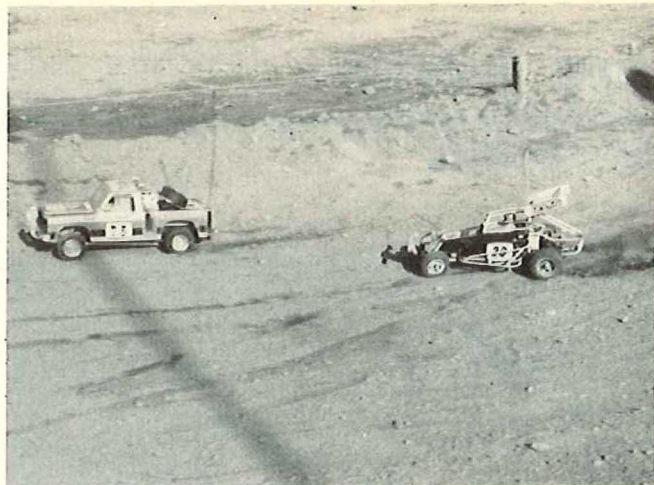
All three of these shops are successful at selling large quantities of Off Road cars, even though the facilities vary from the very best, to what any progressive hobby shop could accomplish. The key for hobby shops to succeed in selling large quantities of 1/10 Off Road, 1/12 Electric or 1/8 Gas cars, is that there must be some type of competition events available somewhere for their customers to fully enjoy their new hobby.

If it seems like I am continually promoting car racing, it's because I firmly believe it's the competition events that have made our hobby/sport grow. Try to imagine, if you can, how big baseball would be if someone had a ball and bat and nobody to play with! Put yourself in those shoes. If you had a baseball and bat and nobody to play baseball with, how many times would you hit that baseball and go chase it and hit it again, etc., etc., until you thought — this is dumb — and went and did something else. Yet, when you take that same baseball and bat and add a lot more people, look how big the baseball potential becomes. This is true with football, soccer and dozens of other activities that you can name. Competition is a very necessary ingredient for R/C car growth.

I stated earlier that there was no National Off Road organization or



*Edle Street, the top woman driver in Southern California shows how to do it in the dirt. It takes a great deal of skill to make a good jump and a good landing, as Edle is doing.*



*Gil Losi, Jr., shows his race winning driving ability by dirt tracking his buggy around this flat sweeper. Gil is one of the top drivers in Southern California.*

rules. This is essential for the hobby to continue to grow. ROAR (Radio Operated Auto Racing) will be formulating a set of National 1/10 Scale Off Road rules this year. If you have some ideas on proposed Off Road rules, please send them to ROAR. They would like as much info from as many areas around the country as possible. ROAR address is: 16661 East McFadden, Apt. #63, Tustin, California 92680.

There are a number of things to consider and please keep these in mind with your proposed rules and suggestions. Even though about 98% of the 1/10 Scale Off Road vehicles now being used are the Tamiya cars, the rules cannot be written expressly for Tamiya cars, because Bo-Link, AYK, Kyosho and other type cars are now appearing on the market and the rules must apply to all cars equally alike. So in your rule's proposals, if you do not use the word Tamiya or any other brand name, you'll have the right idea.

Let me give you some suggestions on what to send to ROAR. To begin with, I think we must all agree on 1/10 Scale. Should there be a minimum weight limit? If so, what should that minimum weight limit be? Should there be a maximum weight limit? If so, what should that maximum weight limit be? What should the maximum width be? The maximum length?

How many car classes should there be? As an example, in 1/12 Scale electrics, ROAR has a Production Class which must consist of a Production car or complete kit, which must be available through hobby distributors and hobby shops at a given maximum price. These cars use 4 cell battery packs indoors and 6 cell battery packs outdoors. Motors must be absolutely stock 05 size ROAR legal motors. No modifications are allowed. As you can see, this class is intended to maintain the cost of cars as low as possible, and to make sure that everyone is able to obtain the same identical equipment. At the local

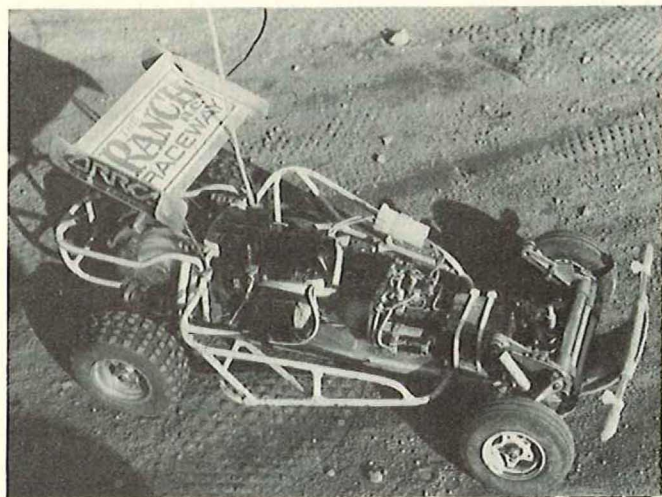
traces, this class is generally reserved for the beginner racer. I believe this is a very necessary class. What do you think?

Another 1/12 class is called Stock Class. This requires the use of a stock ROAR legal motor, but ball bearings may be used in wheels and axles. Chassis may be modified.

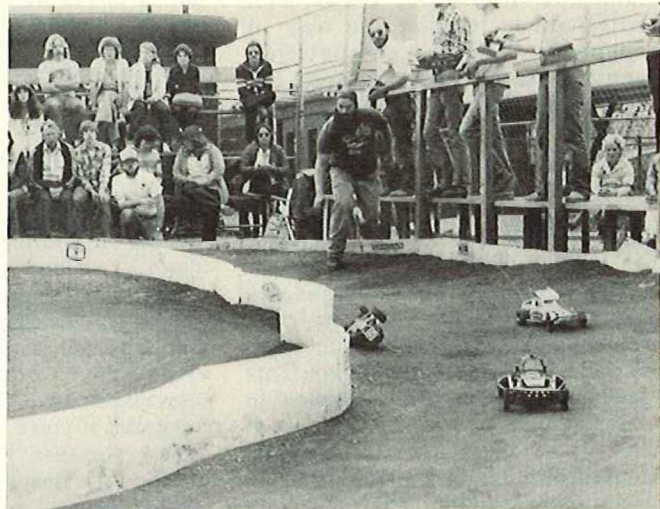
The final class is called Modified Class. This allows the use of ROAR legal motors which have been modified by rewinding, epoxying, balancing and adding ball bearings with a maximum cost of \$50.00. This is to ensure that everyone can obtain one of these motors and it also controls cost. Chassis in this class can also be modified and ball bearings used throughout. All races are eight minutes long.

Should some form of Stock and Modified classes be used in Off Road? What are your suggestions? Most of the Off Road races now are four to five minutes long. What would you like? A

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*Gil's Tamiya car has been considerably lightened, ball bearings added throughout, special shock hangers in rear, special speed control, custom nerf bars added, special wing all add up to a winning combination.*



*The racing is fast and exciting at the Mini Baja track, with regular scheduled racing events. Lou and his staff do everything they can to help the beginners.*

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pleasant appearing model and represents very good value for the price. The same company has a large "Quickie 2000" available for Quadra and is planning a Quadra biplane for early 1982 release. □

## PIT STOP

from page 52/51

definite universal National time limit on race lengths is a must, but how long should it be? How many battery cells should be allowed? Most guys are now using 6 cells, but because of lack of uniform rules, some are using 7 cells and some 8 cells. Your thoughts? How about body styles? Should there be separate buggy, pickup and modified body classes or should they all race together? Should 2 wheel drive and 4 wheel drive cars be in separate classes? How about tire and wheel sizes front and rear? How many tires and wheels should be allowed?

I'm sure you've got the idea now of what's needed. Plus, you should have some other ideas on rules I haven't mentioned. Get a couple of your racing buddies over and get some more ideas from them and then send them to ROAR. We need your help. This next year, Off Road racing will join 1/8 Gas and 1/12 Electric cars to make R/C cars, more than ever, the fastest growing hobby/sport. □

## POWER BOATING

from page 48/47

when turning.

I received the following letter from Jim Gale, the J.G. in J.G. Products propeller works:

Dear Howard,

Your February boating write-up about the MRP Electric Deep "V" somewhat surprised me because I have had the feeling you liked fast I.C. engine boats only. Anyway, I thought I would send you a sample of a new J.G. prop that may work on that MRP boat and give you a little more speed.

I am planning to market a range of prop sizes for electric boats that have a 1/8" diameter shaft hole. If you have any suggestions as to what the electric model boater could use as to diameter, pitch, and shaft size, I would appreciate them.

The enclosed prop is 1" diameter, 1" pitch with a 1/8" diameter shaft hole.

I enjoy reading your articles. Keep up the good work.

As ever,  
 Jim Gale  
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