

»»» INSIDE MARTIN TRUEX JR.'S MEGA MAN CAVE

APRIL 2009

# illustrated

NASCAR

CELEBRATING THE NASCAR LIFESTYLE



Ingrid Vandebosch  
Model Wife

# Kasey Kahne

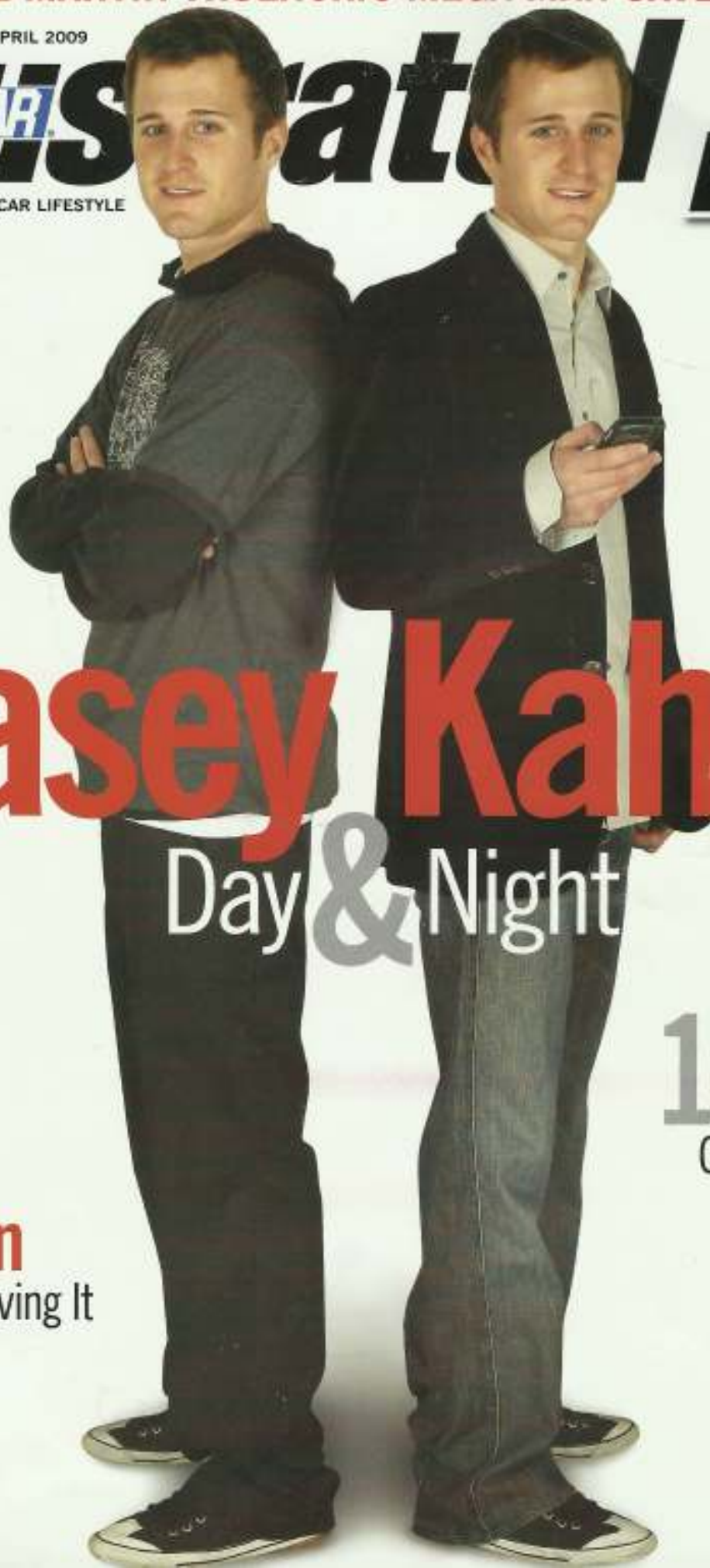
## Day & Night

»»» **Mark  
Martin**  
50 And Loving It

**16 Pages**  
Of Speedweeks  
Coverage



**Free**  
Matt Kenseth  
Poster







# One Racer's Retreat

*Martin Truex Jr.'s Very Own Garage-Mahal*

by Michael J. Fresina

**W**hen Martin Truex Jr. set out to build a garage and shop on the lakefront property he shares with longtime girlfriend Sherry Pollex and yellow lab Lexi, he wanted a functional outbuilding to store his toys.

"It was going to be just a four-bay garage with storage and a rec room on the second floor," he says. "That's it."

However, once Truex realized he was

free to create something from scratch, the original plans were scrapped.

"As a kid, I had the room my parents let me live in," he says. "And the only house I've ever bought was already built. This was the first time that I had the opportunity to build something perfect, from the ground up."

The project's transition from humble man cave to mini-mansion began

with the addition of a large bedroom suite and mushroomed to include a gourmet kitchen, custom millwork and an integrated entertainment system featuring no fewer than seven flat-panel TVs controlled by a single, universal keypad.

Truex worked closely with master builder Ben Carroll of Stonebridge Luxury Homes and had a hand in





*"It was going to be just a four-bay garage with storage and a rec room on the second floor."* —Truex

every facet of the building's design and construction.

When it came to decorating, Truex and Pollex hired NASCAR-driver-turned-interior-designer, Shawna Robinson. Robinson — who selected every fabric, paint color and piece of furniture as well as

art and fixtures — decorated Truex's main house a few years back. Except for a 9-foot fiberglass Captain Morgan statue that Truex added, the decoration is seamless.

Each wall is adorned with tributes to Truex's many passions: hunting, fishing, racing and the Philadelphia Eagles. **N**



**TOP:** Truex was worried that having pictures from his racing career on the walls of his shop would send the wrong message to visitors. "I don't want anyone to think I'm in love with myself," he says.

When finished, the first-floor garage space will house Truex's tools and a full workshop for metal- and woodworking in addition to his car (full-size and radio-controlled) projects.

**MIDDLE:** The hand-hammered bar sink is integrated into a corner of the large kitchen island. A full-service soda gun was a must for Truex. "You gotta have something to mix with the Captain Morgan," he says. "For me, it's Dr. Pepper."

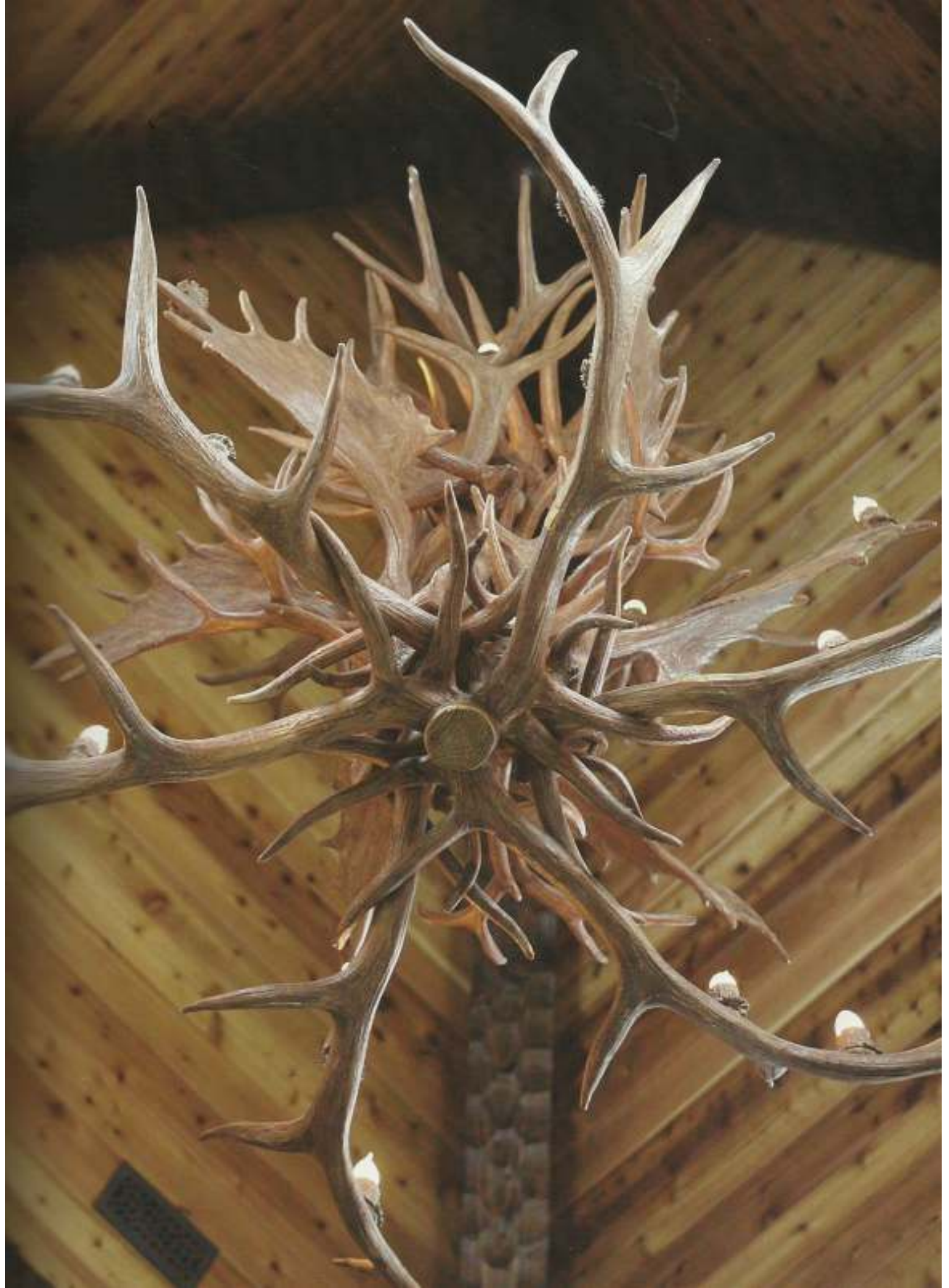
**RIGHT:** "The leather booth seats are modeled after the ones we saw in Whisky River, Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s bar in Charlotte," says Pollex. "And the table, well, we just wanted it to look like a tree trunk to go along with the lodge feel."

**OPPOSITE:** The antler chandelier is one of the many artistic elements that uniquely expresses Martin's love for hunting and the outdoors.

The ceiling beams are not ornamental. They are structural — each hewn from a different tree and hand-carved using a chainsaw for a more rustic effect.











**TOP RIGHT:** Hunting trophies, including one 12-point elk Truex bagged in Colorado, adorn the walls of the soaring central room. "There are more on the way," he says, "including a full-mount bobcat that will be pretty cool."

**BOTTOM LEFT:** With its full kitchen and ample living space, Truex and Pollex will live above the garage when they renovate the adjoining house. "We won't have to live in a construction zone," he says. "And we'll never be in the workers' way."

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** A Christmas gift from crew chief Kevin "Bono" Manion, the Captain Morgan statue was purchased on eBay and shipped across six states to become a conversation piece in the otherwise flawless décor.

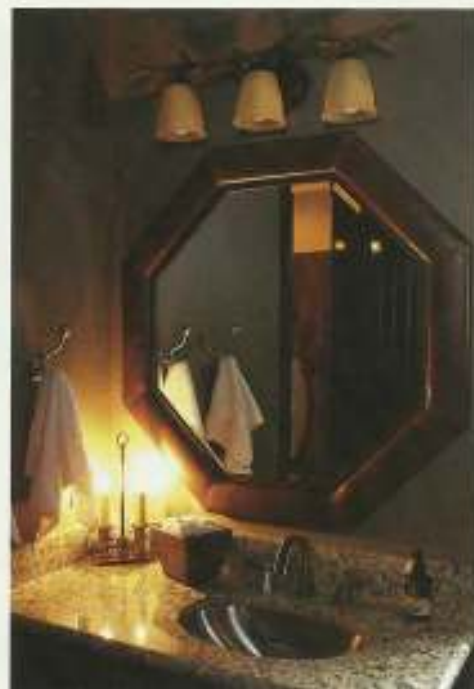






*"Everything in here is so us. It is exactly our style and a perfect reflection of who we are." —Pollex*

*"I chose the granite for the countertops without consulting anyone. I'm actually pretty proud of that. Everyone who comes in here comments on how cool it is."* —Truex



**ABOVE:** The project took a turn for the extravagant with the addition of the bedroom suite, a spot Truex and Pollex agree might be too nice for guests. "You'd have to be a pretty special friend to stay up here," he says.

**LEFT:** "We had no idea how expensive faucets are," says Pollex of their time shopping at a local lighting and plumbing supply center. "We kept looking at the prices thinking, 'Really? Isn't there anything cheaper?'"