





Note the LIARS Web Page and newsletters http://www.liarsmodelcarbuilders.com/ needs to be updated to identify President, Secretary & MCB Point of Contacts, and replacement of Bill's picture...along with above header. Any ideas or suggestions, bring them on up!

The LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICA SOCIETY (L.I.A.R.S.) Model Car Briefs is dedicated to bringing you the best and most up to date information about our great hobby of model building.

MCB Contributors: Richard Manri, Lenny Cromwell, Dominick "Mickey" Gerace, Mike Brennan, Cameron Neveu (for Hagerty Media)

From our LIARS Unofficial Official

First, I would like to thank everybody that attended the July meeting, for voting me in as your new "unofficial official."

Also, I would like to thank everyone who offered to lend a hand. I appreciate the help! I've never done anything like this before.

I will be meeting with Pat this week to go over finances and get on the club account. We will also make sure we have the IPMS insurance for the show and the definite contract for the show.

I've been a member of this club since it's inception. I've enjoyed every minute of it! I hope to bring back a lot of the basics that Phil Melphi started in the beginning. Things like: monthly theme, clinics, raffles and slam contest.

If you have an idea or suggestion to make, please inform our committee during meetings or contact our board members via their phones and/or emails. If there are any issues at the meetings or regarding other club matters, please inform us and we will handle them to the best of our extent.

Also, please try to bring a canned good to donate for the center. We've all been guilty for being sporadic about this, but let's think about those who are much less fortunate than us.

That's all I have for now. Updates come as they present themselves.

Thank you all again for your support!

Your unofficial official,

Dominick Gerace

Some Words from the Editor At Large

Greetings fellow members, I would like to thank everybody that attended the July meeting, for voting me in as your new MCB editor. As you all probably know from the last meeting, I have proposed to take over following Bill's departure in June. I had contributed in the past, and I applauded Bill Murray/Dr. V's efforts in keeping it

running. However, momentum was low as no one really contributed aside a few of us. Since no one else had come up, I decided to toss my hat in the ring prior to the July meeting.

Last month's meeting went well, among the best ones we've had so far. Dominick Gerace has taken over as unofficial official and has the support of John P. and other board members; I wish him the best of luck. I think going forward things will get much better and if we work together while being informative and present things in peaceful matters, things can get done and we still can enjoy our meetings. Of course as longs as we all try not to sniff the glue and going f\$\$kin' crazy on our drives back, haha!

I have been talking to some former members and a few may be coming back. Hopefully those with their mighty wisdom and insight will return to our clan someday...

At the last MTG, your newly appointed editor had done some tips 'n tricks tutorials, the first on using old paint cans to hold bodies and the like to paint parts, the second using paint thinner/acetone to remove glue stains from clear parts. Some members watched and were amused and interested in such neat tactics not commonly seen.

Gary W. was very satisfied when this method took the fingerprint smears off the window of a vintage gluebomb MPC '74 Impala he was selling. I plan doing more of these seminars when the time and subject matter line up.

I plan to keep the MCBs fun and as action packed as possible, all while getting the important aspects set and hang of the formatting stuff. I am seeking out editorial and content support and guidance from Bill and others.

On yet another side note, computer programs can be very complicated and bring one up smashing levels of frustrating. Even for us millennials it can be a PTA. Yours truly prefers using an old 2012 version of Microsoft Word, a hard copy on PC and not connected to some BS cloud, because cloud based paid programs suck with a burning passion!

If you have a suggestion, an idea, or article submission you would like to bring up in the newsletter, please, PLEASE inform Richard "Richie Rich" Manri via his email or at mtgs.

If you forward any articles written by other sources, the original writer will be credited. Any submissions and/or input are a valued treasure and needed to support the newsletters.









AMT reissued the Chevy C-1500 and 3500 Dooley with newly tooled parts. The C-1500 is curbside snap only, yet the hood opens and has an engine bay like the Glue kit, which was forever butchered in to the USA-1 Monster Truck sometime in the 2000s.





Psst, if you have the USA monster truck versions (which are based on the original C-1500 glue tool), those have the same glass and chassis and interchange with the new snap reissue, basically a way without opening your wallet up wide for an original. The USA-1 monster truck was most recently issued a couple years back and again in Coca Cola livery.

Yours truly was made aware of the reissued AMT '79 Firebird Custom Snap-Fit below.



If only it had a decent engine bay and opening hood. Otherwise, track down the Revell John Travolta Firebird (the most recent version issued in Street Burners livery circa. 2007), a much better kit and has great customizing potential.



Some snap kits are actually glue kits, or later evolved in to such. The Grave Digger Monster Truck, and most of the Revell like the '93 Firebirds and Camaros and Dodge Vipers started out that way and then got reboxed (or modified in the case of the Mustangs, Firebirds, and Camaros) as glue kits later on.





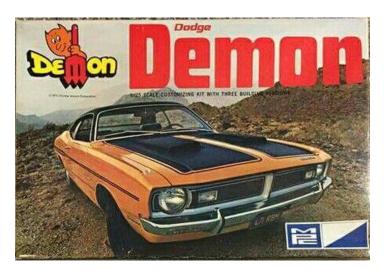


Your editor's personal favorite in the Snap-Tite line is the Acura NSX, which hasn't been reissued since and was a long sought Holy Grail. All the way back in 2020, I had stumbled upon not one, BUT SEVERAL of them (far cheaper than on Evilbay) at Spotlight Hobbies' website. Guess how many your author bought at the time...



(Moment of pride and joy upon receiving the Spotlight Hobbies order in 2020)

Yours truly is looking forward to the upcoming MPC '71 Dodge Demon reissue. Holy Grail for many Mopar madmen and was talked about on and off for the past 10 years.



While it's great to finally see this one back, why don't Round 2 use the chassis and engine tooling from modern tool '71 Duster kit instead of the MPC guts! They also reheated the annual chassis guts with the reissued MPC '68 Coronet Convertible, yet AMT/Ertl did the same thing with their vintage '70 Super Bee tool back when your author was born.

Sounds like capitalism and corporate raiders taking the easy way out here...



The AMT '62/3 Ford F100 reissues look interesting too. If one gets a Mobius '68-76 F series and finds the body and stuff warped like a Banana, it's guts (provided they're not all fooked up like Looney Tunes drawings, given Mobius's QC issues of late) would be great swapping for out the AMT reheated promo mush. With all these highly desired reissues, the loony bin eBay scalpers will finally get just deserts!

Also, Revell AG announced new tool Corvette C8 (Pat V. oughta like that one!) and Austin Martin DB5, along with a variant of the new tool '71 Mustang in Diamonds are Forever livery.







Not sure if the latter two are coming to the US, since Round 2 has the Jimmy Bond license and Revell seems to only have said license for Euro markets. Yours truly would like to get ona dese DB5s, to go with the Aurora DB4 currently being worked on. Of course it would be nice to get one without having to pay two arms and a leg, given import and current kit pricing.

Also discovered the guts of the old Revell '59/60 Corvettes (the dreaded multi piece body) can transplant into the SMP/AMT Corvettes of the same year. So many reheated annual reissues, but so many customizing potential from other kits... Get the picture.

BUILD SUSGESTION OF THE MONTH FROM YOUR AUTHOR

How about a mid-engine wagon or woody rod? Maybe a dual engine monstrosity? Bold, but yours truly did that some years back with the Revell '57 Ford Del Rio Wagons. If the above conversion in those Fords were possible, what about the same thing in something like a Caddy Hearse? Such a thing actually existed back in the golden days of modeling...



On the flipside, good luck finding one of these now!

BARGIANS ALERT

It's that time again... Hobby Lobby are doing their annual clearance in the models department. Several auto and Gundam kits marked down to just under \$10; Vinny R. nabbed a Revell VW Bug at the Commack store. Grab 'em while you can, unless the scalper mobs already got them all. Still not as good as the days yours truly got clearance kits not only marked dirt cheap, but WITH additional coupons on top of that at places like Michaels, ect. back nearly 15 years ago. Time flies, and so does cost of everything...

That's all for now folks. Keep ona building,

Rich

Model Stuff

By Lenny Cromwell

First off, congrats to Mickey Gerace on becoming our Unofficial Official. I believe he is the sixth one after Phil Melfi, Tony DelVecchio, George Vita, Rich Argus, and Pat Vecchio. Also, good luck to Richie on becoming the new Newsletter editor.

I've been building models for a long time. My earliest memories of building models go back to when I was less than five years old. I've built models non-stop ever since. I never had a period when I stopped. Not for High School, not for girlfriends, not even for real cars. Let's zoom ahead to 1968. I'm eleven years old and in the sixth grade. 1968 was a great year for real cars and a great year for model cars. It was a particularly great year for me because I had the best sixth grade teacher a model car builder could ask for. Why? Because he let me build model cars in class.

That's right, building model cars right there at my desk. Some of the models I remember building are the AMT 1968 Mustang, the AMT Astro 1, the AMT 1968 Thunderbird, the MPC Bed Buggy, the MPC Paddy Wagon, the MPC 1968 Bonneville, and the AMT 1965 Lincoln.

In a recent fit of nostalgia, I decided to go back to 1968 and try to recreate some of the models I built back then. The first step was to try to find unbuilt examples of these kits. So Ebay to the rescue! I was able to find the Bed Buggy, the Paddy Wagon (MPC, not Monogram), and the Astro 1. For those who don't know, the Astro 1 was a futuristic Corvair. Some of the others were already in my collection. As I finish them; I'll bring them in to the meetings.

On an unrelated note, I recently picked up the all-new Round 2 AMT '68 and '65 GTOs. These kits fall somewhere between an unassembled promo and a full glue kit. Chassis on both kits are mostly one piece with separate engine plates. The '68 comes with separate trailing arms for the rear axle. kits come with first generation Pontiac Rallye wheels and the '68 comes with a second set of Rallye IIs while the '65 comes with steelies and poverty caps. Both kits come with red line tires with the '68's being wider than the '65's. Both interiors are basic tub types with separate bucket seats, dash, and steering wheels. The door panels have very little to non-existent engraved detail, but if you look closely, you'll notice that both kits have the bolsters on either side of the rear seat that would house the mechanism for a convertible top.

Hopefully there will be convertibles in the future. The bodies for both kits are absolutely perfect. There are locator pins for the glass, but no rear-view mirrors. The only problem I've encountered with both of these kits is that they don't seem to like paint. It may just be me, but I've had trouble with both Tamiya sprays and Scale Finishes paints. I painted a '68 with Tamiya primer followed by Tamiya spray paint and all the mold flow lines ghosted through the paint. I painted a

'65 with Tamiya primer followed by Scale Finishes Turquoise and it still hasn't dried. It's been two months! I'm wondering if it's the plastic these kits are molded in, because I painted other kits at the same time with the same paint and they turned out great.

'Til next time,

Lenny

Editor's note: I believe Tamiya had silently changed their formula in the last couple years, no doubt due to costs and complying with regulations. Heck, some are even saying Scale Finishes changed their formula too and no longer recommend mixing it with Tamiva due to wrinkling compatibility issues. Best to test, adiust, and find the winning combination to see what works. You're not alone as I had mentioned some time back with my bad experience with the Tamiya Fine Grey primer rattle can. They must be putting "harder" Lacquer in as it dries very fast, but applied directly on bare plastic it crazed a '82 Trans Am hood like mad. Of course the hood was from a Round 2 era 2014 issue and I imagine the styrene quality was whatever they had at the factory that time, but still it's a growing problem between rising costs and using cheaper recycled styrene.

3D printed '48 Plymouth Full (almost) Kit

By Mike Brennan

Hello all, I had purchased a 3D printed 1949 Plymouth Business Coupe. off eBay. This is almost a full kit as one needs to come up with glass and a

motor of your choice. Delicious pics below











Also the eBay seller link if any of you fellas in the club are interested in getting one.

https://www.ebay.com/itm/2255503 98264

Build on!

Mike Brennan

Nostalgic toy-car lovers well served by Indiana's Round 2 reboot

By Cameron Neveu,

In an anonymous industrial complex just west of South Bend, Indiana, there's a building that would rival Santa's workshop, though you may not be able to tell from the outside.

The only way to distinguish the building from every other warehouse on the block is a sign over the front entrance featuring a reclining kangaroo in boxing gloves. This is the logo for Round 2, a company founded, sold, restarted, and renamed by longtime toy man Tom Lowe.

The firm produces an array of collectible toys for all ages. Between its lines of model kits, die-cast vehicles, slot cars, and model railroading the 40-person team at Round 2 produces over 1000 individual products. They occupy the shelves and pegs of nearly every hobby shop as well as national department store chains like Walmart, Target, Hobby Lobby, and Meijer. More importantly, they're keeping vintage brands like Johnny Lightning, Lindberg, and AMT on store shelves long after the original companies shut their doors.



To understand how an empire of plastic and steel miniatures was built in the shadow of Chicago, you must go back to the early 1990s. Lowe, who had already self-funded and started his first company, Safe Care Products (known for its Velcro football called WhataCatch), noticed that toys from his childhood were fetching big bucks in used toy catalogs. Citing the demand, he researched the trademark behind one of his beloved childhood brands, Johnny Lightning. In 1969, Topper Toys started producing miniature diecast under the brand Johnny Lightning a year after Mattel debuted its first line of Hot Wheels. The underdog brand became a household name amongst car crazy youngsters, no doubt amplified by its sponsorship of Al Unser Sr. and his Indy-500-winning exploits in 1970 and again in '71. Despite the success, Topper halted production later that year and filed for bankruptcy in 1973.

Twenty years later, Lowe purchased the Johnny Lightning brand name for the rights to the die-cast line. He then ditched Safe Care and selected a more jovial moniker for his burgeoning toy company: Playing Mantis.

Throughout the 1990s, Playing Mantis sold exact replicas of the toy cars Topper cast nearly three decades earlier alongside a line of new Johnny Lightnings—which included drag racers, mid-century customs, and movie cars. He also purchased the rights to more shuttered brands. For example, Aurora, a plastics company known for making model cars in the 1960s, was purchased and rebranded by Playing Mantis as Polar Lights. Lowe was bringing the classics back to adults, now in their 30s, who remembered playing with these toys on their living room floor in the 1960s and 70s. The company flourished. By 2004, he decided to get out of the game and sold the Johnny Lightning rights to RC2, another toy company. RC2 was purchased by Japanese toy manufacturer TOMY in 2011, and by 2013, Lowe's beloved Johnny Lightnings had ceased production. No matter. In the background, he had been working to develop a larger scale die-cast and other toys under his new company Round 2 (cue the reclining kangaroo). Lowe swooped in to save Johnny Lightning again and re-acquired the rights in 2015.

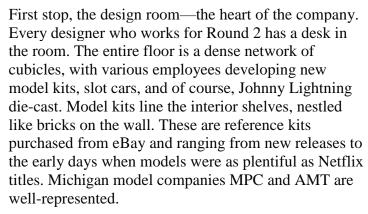
One of the constants throughout the selling, buying, and reorganizing has been Tony Karamitsos. Fresh out of college, the South Bend-native interviewed for Lowe and Playing Mantis in its early days. "One of my buddies told me about Playing Mantis," says Karamitsos. "I was blown away that Johnny Lightning was in Indiana." Since then, he graduated from design to brand manager, and when Lowe re-acquired Johnny Lightning, Karamitsos was already on the Round 2 team. Now, in 2023, the company has three die-cast brands, five model kit brands, and their own brand of slot cars. "To see all this grow and expand...it's crazy," he says.





The sprawling set of office rooms joined to a large warehouse are indeed expansive. Chad Reid, Round 2's marketing manager, greets us in the entrance. Unlike Lowe and Karamitsos, Reid wasn't alive during the 1960s and '70s. The history isn't lost on the fresh-faced youngster, though, and he guides us through the campus with an encyclopedic knowledge of the diecast, models, automobilia, and posters that line Round 2's walls and conference rooms.





"We might even do a silent box because it turned out so well"—a voice is overheard from a nearby desk. Chuck Zitta examines the proposed box art for a Datsun 280ZX. The art was freshly painted by Brad Leisure and the work turned out so well that Zitta is considering leaving all text off the box to let the art speak for itself. Many of the style and techniques like hand-painted box art that were used by the brands back in the day are faithfully upheld by the Round 2 crew present day. Thanks to this attention to detail, many of their offerings looks like they could have occupied the shelves of Kresge's.



Next to Zitta's desk, designer Jamie Hood is hard at work on a 1/25-scale model of Black Beauty, the menacing Chrysler Imperial from *The Green Hornet*. Hood, the sci-fi expert according to his co-workers, graduated from art school with a major in illustration and began designing exterior graphics for RVs. (In fact, he may be the first designer to adorn a camper with a mountain vista.) Eventually, he found Round 2, where he designs kits and illustrates box art, and deals with licensing.

Much of the job requires a certain tap dance around licensing, naming rights, and usage conditions. "Every situation is different. When it comes to *Star Wars*, for example," he motions toward the box depicting a giant spaceship, "I had to fight to put figures in. And even then, you're limited to the scale that you can produce." Not to mention the frenetic fandom surrounding much of Hood's largest projects. "It becomes complicated when you create something and your references are a filming miniature that they used for special effects and a full-size set with actors. Sometime the dimensions are physically impossible," says Hood. "Or, in the case of *Star Wars*, creators built several Millennium Falcons through the various movies. Which one do you follow?"



We circle the cubes and find brand manager Karamitsos reviewing a batch of "test shots." These are early examples of what the produced vehicle—whether model kit, die-cast, or slot car—will look like. He picks up a 1:64-scale Pontiac GTO: "See how this roof is flat? That's not right." He picks up a more recent test shot of the same GTO. It looks nearly identical to the first except the roof more closely matches to the original roof line of the Poncho. (Karamitsos has been wrenching on cars for years and even drag races his blue 1969 Camaro, so he knows a thing or two about accuracy.)

Including the initial digital 3-D models, the review process could go several rounds until team members are confident in the final piece. Then, the finalized test shot is approved for tooling overseas. This process is one of the most expensive steps, so it requires the staff at Round 2 to critically think about how they can get the most bang for their buck.

Reid shares a project that he's been developing: a first-generation Chrysler minivan. "You go, 'Okay, it kept the same body from '84 to '90. We can make a Dodge Caravan *and* Plymouth Voyager if we do four different front die-cast grilles," says Reid. "It's all about getting the most out of the tool."

Adjacent to the maze of cubicles, boxes of reference materials are stacked in the corner of the design room. Vintage toys, paint swatches, magazines—anything to spark an idea is at the ready for the designers. Reid picks up an old set of AMC paint swatches and sets it back down on the pile. Beyond the ideation materials, there's well-lit desk covered in white seamless paper used to create studio shots of the finalized products.



We take a quick tour of the other rooms, which prominently feature stacks of new and old merchandise. We blitz past a small studio setup where Reid records monthly newsletter videos unveiling new products and teasing future releases. Many of the toys may be retro in nature, but that doesn't stop Round 2 from leveraging its social reach to build awareness around its brands.



The other half of the company's South Bend campus is a warehouse that serves as their digital hobby shop. "We wanted a place where people can get anything Round 2" says Reid, "So we have the Auto World store. We have inventory of all of our products here. We also provide customer service as well as parts replacement for flashing or tooling issues."



Customer service for a toy company? As if on cue, an employee to the left of us is fitting together a plastic Chevelle model. He brings in a colleague to analyze the fit of two parts using the instructions and then hops back on the phone with the customer to share their solution. Now, that's service.

The warehouse is filled floor-to-ceiling with inventory. Back behind the boxes are old tooling blocks. Most of these steel cubes, which contain channels for injecting raw material into, are overseas where much of the company's casting and tooling are done. A few are still over here. "They're much heavier than you think," says Reid.





We are about to leave when he motions for us to follow him to the back of the warehouse. There, parked cheek-to-cheek is a portion of Lowe's car collection, which includes a widebody Dodge Hellcat, a 1976 Chevrolet Camaro, and a Plymouth Superbird. It makes sense that the man responsible for filling shelves with die-cast, model kits, and slot cars for three decades would have a few full-size toys of his own.

Model Mercantile Market

"Wanted or For Sale" section...

WANTED: Rear bumper for 1963 AMT Falcon.

WANTED: CAR MODEL Magazine May 1974 issue. Will pay \$20 for it in excellent condition.

WANTED: AMT 1969 LINCOLN unbuilt kit. Will buy or have many vintage kits available for trade.

Contact Gary Weickart at 631-581-5834 or gweickart@aol.com.

WANTED: Body shell for Revell 1994 Impala Super Sport. Can be painted from any issue as longs as it's not badly battered or twisted like a banana.

WANTED: Large diameter wheels, tires, and disc brakes from Revell/AMT/Tamiya/Aoshima/ect. kits. 1/24th and 1/25th scale.

WANTED: Modular and modern motors like LS1s, HEMIs, DOHC 5.4 Cobra motors, import motors like Toyota 2JZ and Nissan Skyline RB. 1/24th and 1/25th scale.

WANTED: Vortech style superchargers, blower superchargers from 2007/2010 Shelby GT500 and Revell Ford Mustang Mach III concept car, and turbochargers. 1/24th and 1/25th scale.

Contact Rich Manri @ 631-589-6876 or his email <u>picorro93@gmail.com</u> to negotiate price or trade for his listed above.









Goodies for sale





John The Artist selling L.I.A.R.S shirts to interested clients



L.I.A.R.S committee discussing important tasks and future planning...





Monthly works of art from yours truly



A 2JZ swapped '90 Mustang LX drag car WIP by Virgil... NOW WE'RE TALKIN'!



More fabulous builds from...

The Seagrave Brothers





Lovely Metallic Purple Willys WIP by Tom



Dominick "Mickey"s Monte Carlo assemble (Who makes the color on that Green one...)





Summer and the sweatin' heat is almost over... Fall is coming and so is our show. Maybe we'll have some wicked and crazy 'Vettes ready by then...



Mike Brennan displaying 3D printed Fleet and Wagon bodies from his collection.









Happy motorin' and keep on building!

Next page contains the LIARS Annual (2023) INPUT SHEET. You can either email or bring it to the next meeting...

LIARS Annual (2023) INPUT **SHEET:**

Here is your chance to have some input into this club without having y p aı m S

suggestions will be brought up in front of the club.

everyone know where it came from. If you have a suggestion, an idea, or a problem you would like to discuss please put it in writing on this sheet and it will be discussed at the next meeting. Please bring your filled out sheet with you. ALL subjects and		YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SIGN THIS SHEET.
LIAR	S Profile: (name)	(Can be your LIARS nickname or
	nous panhandle)	(Can be your Living memianic or
o Hov	w long have you been a member of LIARS?	
o Wh	at do you usually build?	
WhHov	ere ao you usuany duna : y many models do you have?	
Have	ve you ever had any failed builds that were scrappe	ed or recycled for other projects?
o Hav	Have you ever parted out old finished builds and recycled their contents for new projects?	
o Hov	w many unbuilt models do vou have?	
\circ Wh	How many unbuilt models do you have?	
o Hav	Have you ever won an award for building a model?	
\circ Wh	What 3 models should win an all time kit of the (last) century award?	
o Wh	at 3 models are so horrible that you would buy the	em just to protect others from having to build them?
	What was the dumbest, most boneheaded mistake you've made in the past? (Can be model or general related)	
	at do you drive now?	
o Are		
o Are	Are you saving your pennies for something fun to drive?	
o Wit	With an unlimited budget, what 10 full size cars would you have in your garage?	
\circ Wh	at (if any) person (living or dead) in the 1:1 autom	otive world would you like to meet?
o Do	you go to model car shows?	
o Wh	at are your favorite model car shows and why?	
o Did	you build models with them?	

Long Island Auto Replica Society

MODEL CAR CHALLENGE

NODEL CAR SHOW & CONTEST*SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023



FREEPORT RECREATION CENTER

130 EAST MERRICK ROAD, FREEPORT, NY 11520 FOR MORE INFO-(516)377-2314





SPECIAL THEME CLASS
CHEVROLET CORVETTE
70th AMNEVERSARY



AGENDA:

7:00 AM - VENDOR SETUP

9:00 AM - CONTEST REGISTRATION AND

VENDOR TABLES OPEN

12:30 PM - REGISTRATION CLOSES

3:00 PM - AWARD CEREMONY

MODEL REGISTRATION and ADMISSION FEES:

ADULTS - \$10.00 FOR FIRST MODEL

- \$1.00 EACH ADITIONAL MODEL

JUNIOR - (12 AND UNDER) FREE

GENERAL ADMISSION FEES:

ADULT SPECTATOR \$5.00 ADMISSION

JUNIOR SPECTATOR - (12 AND UNDER)

FREE



For Show and Vendor Information Contact Pat Vecchio at (516) - 375 - 6047 EMAIL patvssb@aol.com, or the LIARS website www.liarsmodelcarbuilders.com



Please refer to our web page for show rules, vendor applications, and to download our show registration forms.