

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A FOOD STUFF FOR THE PANTRY

**LIARS**  
"Not Just Another Model Car Club!"  
EST 1991  
LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICA SOCIETY

**MODEL CAR BRIEFS**

*LIARS February Theme:*  
**OUR FUTURE**

Newsletter Stuff:	Club Stuff:
Bill Murray (516) 293-6378 murfam7@yahoo.com	Rich Argus (516) 579-3379 r.argus@juno.com

Please read the box captions – you may then laugh!



*We've started our 31<sup>st</sup> year as a Club; let's hope that we all stay healthy during this COVID-19 & beyond crisis and that we can all attain some measure of prosperity. Then perhaps we can build a new Club display...*

*MCB Contributors: Steve Blake, Lenny Cromwell, Paul Drago, Ted Pappacena, Pat Vecchio +*

*Comments from other members ...*

*...Hopefully you all will add your monthly contributions (as part of your New Year's Resolutions!)*

LIARS Web Page <http://www.liarsmodelcarbuilders.com/>

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

***Happy Valentine's Day, hopefully you will receive a modeling goodie or ...***

Thanks for supporting the LIARS. Please continue to support the needy by donating canned good(s)

## **LIARS MEETING minutes from Thursday, January 20, 2022**

The meeting started at 7:30 PM. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Total attendees: 16. The yearly dues are required to be paid at this meeting. Current rate \$30.00 per person.

1) Rich Argus made a statement to the general membership that he will be stepping down as President. Pat Vecchio has volunteered to take the position, and also remain the club Treasurer. A vote was taken and Pat was elected President / Treasurer unanimously.

1a) One of Pat's ideas going forward is to expand the clubs diversity and attract new membership. This can be done by including related interests such as, slot cars, die cast cars, radio control cars, trains, and motorcycles: basically a new philosophy called **"The World of Wheels"** The club will still remain a majority plastic/ model car club.

There was much discussion and although no official vote was taken, the general consensus appeared to be positive and members expressed a willingness to explore this expanded agenda. (MCB editor requested a go-to-person to collect/organize monthly (e.g., Slot cars, diecast etc. articles.)

1b) Currently the LIARS paid rent (credit) from the Rec center includes February & March 2022. After that time our rent fee would now be ( \$500 / yr.); plus a \$50 Town Permit fee every 6 months!

Pat Vecchio proposed moving the monthly club meetings to The Town Of Oyster Bay (TOB) 214 N Albany Ave. Massapequa 11758 facility beginning No Later Than (NLT) April, 2022 mtg. The move will allow the club to have monthly meetings at no cost. To accomplish this, we will combine the meeting dates with the Long Island Motor Touring Club (which Bill Murray as president) has agreed. We will then meet on the **SECOND THURSDAY** of the month, from 8 to 10 pm. A full description of the facility including amenities, parking, and ease of access was given.

This move will also help to offset the lost revenue from our annual auction. Due to low attendance, it was decided to postpone our auction. The auction takes in typically \$700-\$1000 annually.

1c) The Massapequa center is closed during the months of July & August. Several members have offered their homes to have a gathering and perhaps an outdoor BBQ in place of the meetings.

A vote was taken to move the monthly meetings to Massapequa beginning April 2022. The vote passed 14 to 2.

2) The IPMS Fee was paid for the 2022 year. (Related cost to follow.)

3) Greg Hunt has resigned from the club – thus there is a void for a website manager. John Pantleone has volunteered his wife (Pauline's) support to maintain the website. A vote was taken and John & Pauline were elected unanimously.

4) Treasurer Pat Vecchio gave a financial statement: The club currently has \$6404.80 in the bank. Continuing next month, a full financial statement will be printed and available for any member to see at the monthly mtg.

5) The position for publications management / editor / newsletter/ is available. No one volunteered to take over this position. Therefore Bill Murray will remain until such time someone steps up. A vote was taken and Bill was re-elected unanimously.

6) Paul Drago offered his chair of Vice President by vote to any member. He was re- elected unanimously and vowed revenge. Also, in the absence of Andy Behrens, Paul will take the club minutes at each meeting.

7) Lenny Cromwell has collected all the components of the special club build to be auctioned off. He has requested we bring serious money to next month's meeting!

8) Paul Drago proposed the creation of by-laws and a mission statement of the club. The executive committee can draw up a draft and any member can make suggestions for additions: all of which will be voted on by the general membership. The move was voted down 15 to 1. Goal is to reach agreement @ 2/22 mtg.

- Please be advised that the First MCB issue (Oct 1991) **defined the club motto and main objective**

**“is quite simple...To Have FUN, that’s right...Talk a little trash...tell a few jokes...Reduce your mentality and oh yeah models, models, models. The models bring us to the clubs second objective. With the help of its members, the club helps to share ideas and various building techniques...That brings us to the third objective. A club with all its members involved...A club for modelers by modelers...So whether you build models, collect models, come down and join the fun. The door is open to all...” “NOT JUST ANOTHER MODEL CAR CLUB”**

- Dr.V included a copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> MCB issue in the Feb. 2021 MCB!

9) Paul Drago proposed all dues to be paid for the year on time (January with a grace period to February, but no later) otherwise those individuals are considered non-members. The proposal was defeated unanimously – problem is that the LIARS board has not addressed how to differentiate between previous paid members’ delinquency in renewing vs. a real new member candidate!

Additionally, it was announced that any new member who joins the club later in the year, will pay pro-rated dues: for example a person joining in June will only pay \$15.00 for the remainder of 2022. No actions were proposed for members who attend all meetings and then pay dues later in the year.

10) A review of the club 2021 Christmas party: Both Pat Vecchio and Rich Argus summarized the Christmas party held at Sergio's restaurant in Massapequa. The overall consensus was satisfactory. A typical party at the rec center costs the club around \$600 and requires many volunteers. The dinner at Sergio's cost the club \$300. The main negative was the unavailability of a separate room. There was a last minute mix up, and we had to dine with the general public. This curtailed any announcements, auctions and general mayhem we had planned. Of those who attended: all agree the highlight of the evening was Mike Brennan's Jack Daniels cheesecake! Thank you Mike!

11) Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted: Paul Drago; VP.



**LIARS Unofficial Official**

**HOT STUFF**

**Old & New**

**Hello everyone. As I mentioned at the Jan. mtg., I am stepping down as President due to medical reasons. It’s been a great run! I have enjoyed sharing this hobby with you all!**

**As you have heard NNL EAST was cancelled, as well as NNL Philly and Diversified Scale. We need to consider doing the same.**

**Getting vendors to show up may be a real issue. Hopefully this month we will complete dues collection. AND AUCTION OFF THE 64 Olds GROUP BUILD model!**

**Remember the food pantry. Hope to see you at the meeting.**

[r.argus@juno.com](mailto:r.argus@juno.com)

*From Ernie: Much as I hate to say it, cancelling our show probably would be the best course of action.*

*I've got slot car shows in the Huntington Hilton on 2/13, one in Baltimore the end of March, and one more in Stonington, CT late April. Guess that'll be it for me as for shows until the fall. Hope to attend some 1/1 scale auto events during the summer -- local show/swap meets and possibly some races.*

*Stay warm and safe! – Ernie*

**The RTS Show**

**Doug Estabrook**

**Hi, guys. Hope this email finds you and yours all good and healthy. I wanted to take this off Facebook and explain why we moved the show until May. Eddie Darosa, Stu Marcus, Glenn Powers and Luis Sanchez and I had a conference call last weekend to decide when to have the show. My Wife Carol's sister goes to the gym at the hotel and was told that the hotel was going to house not only Covid patients from the local hospital, but also some homeless people and prisoners from the local correction centers with Covid. Stu contacted the hotel to check in this and was told that that program would be going on for the months of**

January and February. Now the way the State of Mass works if this Covid stuff doesn't get any better they might continue it for another month or so. We had a decision to make-cancel it again or move it up, so May 22nd is the date. Also, if we kept the original date we were going to require masks to get in and weren't in a position to deal with that stuff.

That being said, let me know how the people you hang with, model wise, feel. If people are going to not attend for the obvious reasons please let me, Eddie, Stu Luis or Glenn know.

Thanks guys and hope to see you in May  
Doug Estabrook

**1/20/22 Mtg Highlights**

- The Rev accepted the Club's 64 Cutlass HT kit parts from the builders:
  - Chassis - Bob Seagraves
  - Interior - Mickey
  - Body (including paint)- Pat V.
  - Engine – Rich A.
  - Tires/Rims – Ernie
  - The Rev shall collect related parts for assembly into one model at/for the Jan. mtg.
- Pat collected dues from 13 members!  
**THIS IS YOUR CLUB! PLEASE CONTRIBUTE/SUPPORT!**  
**DR. V SHALL HENSEFORTH LIMIT LIARS EMAILS &/or MCB MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION TO PAID MEMBERS IN 2022.**  
**PHOTOS from Jan. mtg. (What a night!)**  
 From Lenny



Gary offered us



Superbird displayed (what else - only kidding)



Bob Seagraves



Richie Rich:



John the Artist



Now to the members



### First Impressions

**POWER. STYLE. BEAUTY. GRACE**  
 CELEBRATING THE DISTINCTIVE HERITAGE OF THE AUTOMOBILE.

*Simple reminder, that we are still having a very important (2/17/22) mtg. that requires your attendance at the Blue Point Mtg. Center...*

*PS keep the faith, stay safe and enjoy our great ESCAPE FROM REALITY HOBBY!*

*“For every minute you remain angry, you give up sixty seconds of peace of mind.”*

*Good day to you my fellow LIARS/family/friend of/ or perhaps someone who is simply surfing the Internet in search of model car goodies and happened upon the LIARS! If so, WELCOME & PLEASE STAY! Why not introduce yourself – choices:*

- *Simply occasionally revisit – but if so, you might just miss an item of interest to you else*
- *Let the LIARS add you to our monthly mailing list – there is no charge – but please be considerate - in the event that you change you’re your email address , let us know...else the LIARS MCB editor ends up with another undelivered email!*

*Now to some fluff...*



The Denver-based Irish-American singer **Billy Murray** recorded "In My Merry Oldsmobile" around 1909, eight years after Oldsmobile Curved-Dash became the

1906 Olds Music by Billy Murray

<https://youtu.be/BFruHQJeaRg>

*Dr V received this notice as an email...now really...*

**You've Been Nominated for 2022!**

Since our first publication in 1899, Who's Who in America continues to be recognized as the world's preeminent biographical publisher.



JOIN OVER 15 MILLION OF THE WORLD'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PROFESSIONALS!

Candidates are selected based upon one's current position and researched with information obtained from reputable executive and professional listings.

**Mailman dropped this off this morning**

By: Steve Milberry

My last rack of chrome back from Little Motor Kar Co. Excellent work, as usual.



**Approximate turnaround time with them ?**

It was a couple months and I'm a semi-regular customer ,, but I'm also in Canada so that adds some time. If you're a new customer your wait might be a

little longer. But, IIRC, Dale's the only one still doing this on a regular basis.

Next: Dr.V's latest LIARS bus recommendation -



The Midnight Rider can carry 27 passengers with room left to party, but it's often referred to as a 30-passenger vehicle. It costs \$300 an hour to rent and, according to those brave and wild enough to ride in it, it's worth every cent.

- REMEMBER BUY IT NOW – INFLATION & GREED WILL ONLY INCREASE FUTURE COST

### **Some Random Thoughts**

By Ted Pappacena

#### **“Beauty”**

Back in December, at the Christmas party (such as it was), at the very crowded table that wasn't in a promised room, Rich Argus asked me a question I could barely hear over all the noise in the main room of the pseudo Italian restaurant. I quote; “Did you get any new diecasts?” I replied, “No”. Up to that point, I hadn't but not for lack of trying.

In 2020, the company I deal with (Replicarz.com) had a great Black Friday sale that enabled me to get 3 desirable models at a 20% discount. I reviewed them last year. So, I eagerly awaited 2021's sale but was disappointed to see that it was only 15% and there wasn't really anything I wanted that bad (well, actually there was one but it was quite expensive) . I did have my eyes on a hill climb version of the Auto Union Grand Prix car that I got in 2020 but couldn't justify the price for 2 extra rear wheels. There was however the Talbot Lago Teardrop Coupe but 15% wouldn't cover the shipping. The sale however went into December and up until a few days before Christmas when for whatever reason, it was upped to 20%. Now you're talking! So I ordered the Coupe.

The car is the 1937-1939 Talbot Lago Coupe T150 C-SS. Anthony Lago had an exclusive agreement with the French coach building firm Figoni et Falashi to build this incredible car. The total run was just 16. They were powered by an inline 6 cyl producing between 140 and 160 hp. It also featured a sunroof which was invented and

patented by the coach builders. The sunroof was used so not to interrupt the flowing lines of the car with a convertible top and all that machinery. Since the bodies were handmade, it took on average 2100 hours to produce just one!



I've had the pleasure of seeing a few of these cars over the years, most recently the 2018 Hilton Head Island Concours de Elegance where one example was on display from the Peter Mullin collection in Oxnard California. It's the kind of car you can look at for hours on end, just mesmerizing the senses. No wonder the Teardrop Coupe has been labeled as one of the most beautiful cars ever made.



The model is from CMC (conceived therein) but made in China. It is 1:18 scale and simply stunning! It is comprised of over 1400 pieces. No doubt a lot of them in the hand laced wire wheels. There are 2 color schemes available; steel blue and white with red fenders and I opted for the steel blue version. As is usual with these models, practically everything works. The wheels steer through the steering wheel. They are also detachable although I doubt I will ever do it. The knockoff hubs do unscrew but from what I've been told about other similar wheels, they are a bear to get back on. In fact, the rear fender skirts can be removed via teeny tiny screws to remove the rear wheels. Tools are supplied for these features. The model comes with a screwdriver, tweezers, and a mini pry bar that lifts the door handled to open

them. The doors open suicide style. Anyone know why they are called that?

Once open, there is a full functional interior in red. The seats fold forward and the sun visors are movable. The dash has all the gauges. The roof has the aforementioned sunroof and there are instructions on how to open it, but I can't seem to do it so I'll take their word for it.



The inline 6 cyl engine is a masterpiece being fully wired and plumbed. The hood opens from the front and can be propped up with a rod but so far when opened it stays up without it. It comes with a spare tire that's strapped in the trunk with real leather straps. This too is removable via the tweezers supplied but I can't imagine doing it so again I'll take their word for it. I can't find a flaw with this model and it matches up with the real thing quite well and I'm very happy with it. It was very doable with the 20% discount. You can look them up on eBay and see what they go for or check out Replicarz.com for their pre discount price. CMC models rarely depreciate.

As you can see by the title, this installment of SRT is called "Beauty". That means that next month's installment will be titled.....

### ***The Devil's In the Details Part 14***

By Steve "Big Daddy" Blake

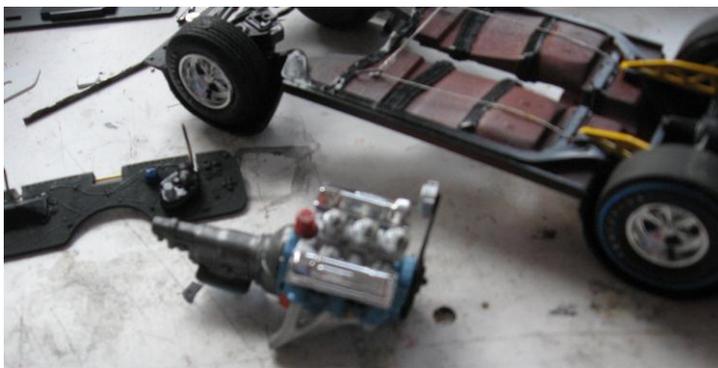


Engine detailing has always been a “Black Art” subject to a lot of scrutiny, criticism and debate. I like to go for the “feel” of the piece and not get wrapped up in tons of detail so as to bury the thing in stuff. Besides, after awhile, my model might be the second “car” lunched into space. (as per; Élon Musk)

The engine I will try to model is this one with one acceptance, I like the valve covers in the AMT kit. I have no idea on how authentic they are. Not being able to find anything that looks like them on the old inter web.

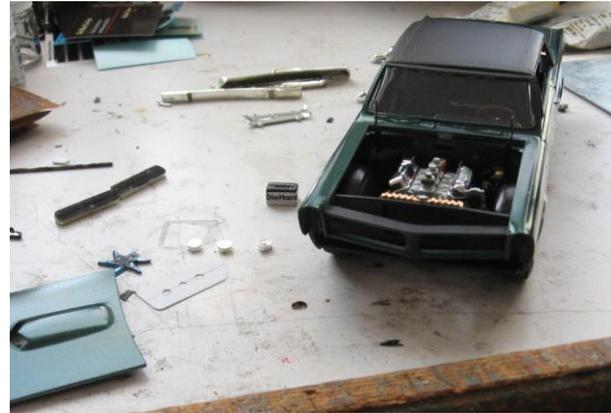


This is some of the “stuff” I used to do the engine. Pretty basic things we all use in our builds can be found on e-Bay and other internet hobby providers. Detail Master for photo etched exhaust flanges and “flex” fan. S&S photo etched wire looms. MSC Model products ignition wires. Guitar string and .20 gauge wire insulation for dipstick. I made the air cleaner tray from Plastruct sheet stock.



I liked the look of the 426 Super Duty aluminum exhaust header from an old AMT 64 Pontiac kit, but, I had to opt for the 65 kit headers, because the 64s, stuck out too far and interfered with the frame.

Once I got that corrected, setting the engine in had to be tested. With the chassis not being from the AMT GTO kit, clearances were an issue.



Farther modifications were needed to the chassis to slip in the body. Trimming of the front chassis wheel wells was needed whence the firewall was glued in place restricting the body side flexibility.

With all that out of the way, the engine slipped in like Cinderella’s foot to the glass slipper.

Fabricating the air cleaner tray is not too bad. You take some Plastruct sheet scribe a image of the air cleaner relief from the underside of the hood, measure the holes for the carb tops, glue some heavy carpet thread to the edge and paint semi gloss black.

Here are the tools used to do this.



While working on this I did another “Quickie”. I need to do this from time to time in order to feel like I got something done.

Here we have Revell's 2017 Ford GT with some paint detailing and glue assembly.



She went together well. Using photo reference off the inter web detailing wasn't bad. The only things I added were set of seat belts to the interior and a New York plate to the rear.

Well, that's all I got for now. Remember to hug your "Honey" (she's very tolerant of your obsession).  
Steve "Big Daddy"

## **MODEL STUFF**

By Lenny Cromwell

Wow, a lot of changes at our last meeting. First off, we have a new unofficial official. After many years as the conductor of this crazy train Rich Argus is stepping aside and Pat V. is taking over. Let's all thank Rich for his dedication to the club and give Pat our support and wish him good luck. Paul Drago will remain as his right-hand man. Next, the club voted to move our meetings to Massapequa where we will share space with Dr. V's antique car club. This is mostly a financial move as we will get the new space for free. With only fourteen members coming to the meetings, the annual dues won't even pay our current hall rental fees. The only downside to the club is that we won't have access to the new place for the summer meetings. My understanding is that our April meeting will be the first in the new location. Since we will be sharing space with an antique car club, I think our first meeting theme in the new place should be antique cars, something like 1932 and older.

The club also voted to extend the membership to all things with wheels, not just model cars. This includes Radio controlled and die-cast vehicles. I'm not sure if this is a good idea. If you go to a hobby store, you'll see that there are, way more R/C cars than model cars. I can see our club being overrun with R/C and die-cast stuff which may lead to our club losing its identity as a model car club. Also, if we continue to have our Show, we will have to include classes for R/C and die-cast which would mean even higher costs for trophy packages.

Anyway, on to the fun stuff. As you may know, several members took part in the project to build a 1964 Cutlass convertible. Five separate members built the sub-assemblies for the body, engine, chassis, wheels, and interior for the project. All did a fine job and some even went above and beyond the box-stock requirement and added aftermarket and scratch-built parts. My job was to do the foil trim and put it all together. Well, it's done and ready for the great unveiling. So, at this meeting we are going to auction it off to the highest bidder. This is a fund raiser for the club so please bring

money and be prepared to bid. Since I'm the only one who knows what it looks like, we may have a sight-unseen auction to increase the mystery and suspense. See you at the meeting. *The Rev*

## Back to Our Roots

By Pat Vecchio

Good afternoon fellow club members, I do hope you are doing well. As most of you heard, starting in April we will have our meeting on the second Tuesday of every month in Massapequa. This is being done primarily on a monetary basis. The total cost of the rental at our current location will be \$580.00 for 2022. You do not have to be a mathematical genius to realize that currently, our membership will not even cover our rental cost. I have no idea who is returning as paid members. I do hope everyone returns and we can continue as before. I have made friendships over the years, and I wish to continue these friendships. I will have a better idea of the membership at next month's meeting which will be held at the current location. If any member of the club does not make the next meeting and does not pay the dues, that person will be removed from the roster. If that happens I would like to wish you the very best and thank you for the support that you have given.

I am back to building some models. I am currently finishing the JoHan 1970 Maverick Pro Stocker version. This kit was manufactured by JoHan. I modified the body to resemble more of a street kit. I have to say that the paint job did turn out very acceptable to my standards. I would like to have a Tech session at future meetings to discuss matters of interest regarding the building of models. I will discuss the methods of which I painted the said subject. I have been building for many years and I am still learning tips and tricks. That is what makes the hobby so interesting. We have talented builders in our club so let us use these resources to our full advantage.

I am also working on a 1963 Ford Fairlane 500. This is an original kit that I purchased a few months ago. I am building it as a custom that was popular back in the day. I will be presenting it at our meeting once it is completed.

Well that is all that I have for now. I do have some matters which I will discuss at our next meeting.

Please stay safe and God Bless AMERICA.

Pat Vecchio God bless you all and the USA.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

Pat Vecchio

## Scale Model Show & Contest

### RepLIcon 30

Freeport Recreation Center  
130 E. Merrick Road  
Freeport, NY 11520

**Saturday March 26, 2022**  
**9 am to 4 pm**




**Event Activities**

- ⇒ Hundreds of Aircraft, Armor, Ships, Autos, Sci-Fi, Figures, and Diorama Displays
- ⇒ 49 Contest Categories
- ⇒ 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Awards
- ⇒ NEW! Gundam Categories
- ⇒ Lots of Vendors
- ⇒ Raffle




**Celebrating our 50th Club Anniversary Since 1972**

Visit our website for updated Contest Rules & Categories!








**ADMISSIONS:**

**Contest Entrants**—unlimited model entries

Adult — \$15.00

Junior — \$7.00 (Under 13 years of age)

**Visitors:**

Adult — \$10.00

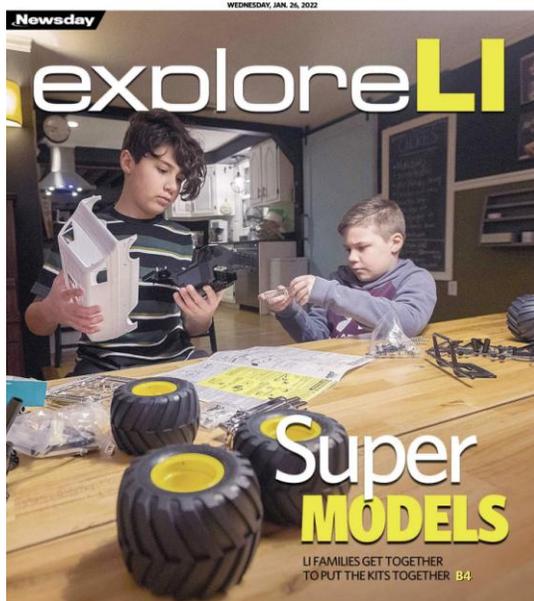
7 to 12 years of age — \$5.00

Seniors 65+ & Vets — \$5.00

Current Military — Free

Need Info? Internet site: [www.LISMS-IPMS.ORG](http://www.LISMS-IPMS.ORG)  
Email Jim at: [jnboul19@yahoo.com](mailto:jnboul19@yahoo.com)

The local Loong Island NEWSDAY paper published the following article that generated numerous comments.



*Cont'd on pg.12 & 13*

Hello boys,

I personally like Bay Shore Hobbies very much. It is still one of the last remaining full line hobby shops around and we should not be overly critical about what is a true 7 day a week job for Bob. I would be curious to see what some of the naysayer's hobby areas look like. Probably not perfectly organized, neatly arranged, or antiseptically clean.

I feel a kinship with Bob as he suffers from the same disease I am afflicted with: I buy a LOT more than I sell. (*Dr. V Don't we all?*)

Don't forget, just a few doors down from Bob's is Hobby Lobby which admittedly is cleaner and well organized but with a fraction of what BS Hobbies carries. I definitely know where I prefer to spend my hobby dollars and, hands down, it is with Mr. Bob Schmidt, who always knows what's new and/or about to arrive in the plastic model world. Try that in Hobby Lobby.

Basically, I like poking around and engaging in pleasant conversation with the longtime owner. It's

like going back in time for this still young kid trapped in an old man's body.

Happy Hobbling,

Gary Weickart (former President of Get It On Paper – more on this topic later)

From: Ernie Finamore slotbeat@gmail.com

I've purchased a few models there over the years. But the only things I picked up in recent years were an occasional HO slot car. Either way, I'd hate to see a catastrophe of any kind there.

Bob has always welcomed me to post show flyers in the front window and taken a stack of the smaller half page size for customers to take home.

Paul Drago wrote: WOW! I was just at Bay Shore Hobbies looking for a few specific kits, (reluctantly willing to pay a small fortune).... You couldn't even SEE any car models, they were buried 3 deep behind large RC boxes. What a ... It was so frustrating I walked out! I don't think I will ever go there again. The owners' are their worst enemy. And it doesn't even COMPARE to (former) Dave's Hobby Shop in Freeport: although cluttered, you COULD find what you're looking for. Paul

Next: Everyone always complains about his prices. They are MSRP, just like Hobby Lobby. Only difference is there are no coupons. Money isn't falling out of my butt, I'll pay his price if he has what I want. His selection is always current; Hobby Lobby hasn't gotten new stock in years! Example: the 1986 Monte Carlo SS has been out for over 2 years, they haven't gotten it yet! Dominick

Speaking of neatness, you won't believe this \$200,000 toy car collection!?! That Bernard Barth bbarty1906@gmail.com routed <https://youtu.be/ZXPalOoraAw>

# family



NOW ONLINE: More fun things to do with the kids



Bay Shore Hobbies co-owner Gabrielle Goldberg organizes the models at the store. "Digging and searching for a treasure in the store is something regular model builders love to do."

# Model behavior

Families are putting together the kits for some at-home fun

BY CATHI TUROW  
Special to Newsday

**W**e're all spending more time at home these days, and while you may have tried and dropped several new hobbies as of late, there still may be one left you haven't tapped into in quite some time. A soon-to-be-completed model of a sports car, military tank, or even a robot, awaits you at Long Island's hobby shops.

"Since the pandemic, the number of people who have gotten back into models is just unbelievable," says Steve Ford, whose family were the original

owners of Willis Hobby Shop, which first opened on Long Island in 1949. "Adults come in saying they haven't done this in 30 years but want to get back

into it. It's been a real boom."

Recent sales at Willis Hobby, located in Mineola, and Bay Shore Hobby Shop indicate that model building — involving kits with 20 to 500-plus pieces that when put together make a 3D creation — is making a comeback in the area.

Bay Shore Hobbies co-owner Gabrielle Goldberg says customers have been coming in requesting help finding an activity to get them off their tablets and phones. "Grandpas come in with their children and say to them, 'When I was a little kid, I used to come here.

Now, I'm bringing you.'"

Most model kits fall into the \$20 to \$45 range. More advanced models can cost as much as \$400 and include motors and animatronic parts. Some more advanced models can take several days or weeks to complete.

Some kids are building models to relieve stress. Johnny Zambrano, 11, of Brentwood, just put together a robot. "It was fun because I like how relaxing it is. I like to do it by myself," he says.

Shane Brocking, 11, of Sound Beach, creates models

because it's rewarding. He explains, "When you're building a model, you might mess up and be annoyed. But when you're done and look at what you've built, you can see it looks great. And you did it yourself."

Models have marched on. Favorites from the past have joined new, best-selling anime warriors and sci-fi creatures.

**ON THE COVER** Brothers Shane, left, and Bruce Brocking work on a model at their home in Sound Beach.

So, whether you're a model-building-newbie, advanced, or somewhere in-between, here's the latest mad mixture of DIY models out there, and where to find them.

**BAY SHORE HOBBIES**

Five thousand DIY build-a-model kits fill the shelves from floor to ceiling in this shop. Goldberg explains the method behind the madness: "Digging and searching for a treasure in the store is something regular model builders love to do."

If you're looking for helicopters, planes, tanks, anime creatures, high-tech battle warriors, spaceships, rockets that can be assembled with engines, monsters ranging from King Kong to Frankenstein, "Star Wars" and "Star Trek" models, this is your place.

It goes on. There are traditional, plastic and wooden build-a-model sports cars, slot cars and funny cars. There are trains to build. Once they're ready to roll, pick up paint and decals to decorate them. Goldberg says, "Some people like to personalize their trains and make dioramas that look like the town where they grew up." For that, the store has a plethora of bridges, mountains, tunnels, old-style stores and more, to create landscapes and villages.

For beginners, there are models that snap together. For those who are advanced,



Justin Brocking works on a model with his sons Shane, 11, left, and Bruce, 8, at their home in Sound Beach. Shane says he feels a sense of accomplishment when he finishes a model project.

there are models to glue together. A line of Legos range from trucks that sync up with apps and move, to Disney princesses. "We have something for everyone," Goldberg says. Even for those who don't love model building, there are paint by numbers kits and jigsaw puzzles with as many as 5,000 pieces. **INFO** 2054 Sunrise Highway South Service Rd., Bay Shore; 631-968-8547

**WILLIS HOBBIES**

There are build-your-own model planes, cars, motorcycles, military vehicles, sci-fi creatures, trains, Legos and much more in this store. Ford explains, "Some shelves are stocked with models for kids or beginners, others are filled with more advanced models for teens and adults. Someone on staff can always help find a model to match your skill level. For example, we have two Godzilla models. One that snaps together for 8- or

9-year-olds, and another you can glue together for those who are more advanced."

Need help finding a specific kit? Ford explains, "We have quite a staff here. Everyone is into hobbies and has experience with different models. One salesperson specializes in RC (remote control) cars, another knows a lot about military models, a third is a model train expert, and so on. Some guys come into the store and want to build the first car they ever drove, or a military plane they flew." **INFO** 300 Willis Ave., Mineola; 516-746-9344, [willishobbies.com](http://willishobbies.com)

**NASSAU HOBBY CENTER**

Owner Christopher Hirschberg says, "For the past few years, Gundam [Japanese anime characters] have been the best-selling models in the store. Most of the time when we get a shipment in, they'll sell out within an hour. Model cars are a close second."

The shop also has build-a-model ships, planes military models, sci-fi creatures and dinosaurs. Pick up a build-your-own skull or human lung kit (assemble the body parts and paint them), or build a metal butterfly with pliers. "We don't specialize in one area," says Hirschberg. "We spread it around to please everyone who comes

through the door."

**INFO** 13 W. Merrick Rd., Freeport; 516-378-9594, [massauhobby.com](http://massauhobby.com)

**FUNKY MONKEY TOYS & BOOKS**

This creative toy shop has unique build-a-model kits. For kids age 7 and up, build a tumbling hedgehog. Clap your hands and it rolls over. Kids can also build a robotic, motorized hand and arm that can pick things up. Put together a Q-Ba-Maze and run a marble through a tunnel of colored cups. One version lights up in the dark.

There are lots and lots of Legos, including Batman. Harry Potter Legos have also become very popular with the younger generation.

Store manager-buyer Debbie Imperator sees a definite connection between soaring model kit sales and the pandemic. She's noticed it "has brought more family time. So many parents are working from home, so they have a little more time to spend with their children. The world has changed." **INFO** 360 Wheatley Plaza, Greenvale; 516-484-0966, [funkymonkeytoys.com](http://funkymonkeytoys.com)

**MEN AT ARMS HOBBIES INC.**

Surrounded by nearly 400 build-your-own-model kits in his shop, longtime owner Jim Katonah marvels at the popularity of Games Workshop war and fantasy characters. Assemble and paint them. After that, Katonah says, "Kids are into gaming with the models and doing battles with their friends. Many models are plastic, so builders can create large, artistic pieces that just blow your mind."

Since Katonah opened his shop 43 years ago, the build-a-models have evolved with the decades. "There's a lot of regurgitation of old stuff that people are bringing back and enjoying," he says. "In the end, it doesn't matter what your model looks like. It's what feels good to you and what you're contented with. Looking for a model? I'll guide you through the store and see what touches your heart."

**INFO** 134 Middle Country Rd., Middle Island; 631-924-0583



A finished model of an aircraft carrier at Men at Arms Hobbies Inc. in Middle Island.

**MDA** **MARCH 5 2022**

**3 in 1** **MODEL CAR CONTEST SHOW & SWAP MEET**

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# Comprehending Contest Courtesies

By Dick Engar

## DURING MY ALMOST 30 YEARS

as a member of IPMS/USA, and for a few years before I learned about and joined our beloved organization, I have attended many contests, mostly as a contestant. Over the years, I have seen the good, the bad and the ugly on display at these events – not among the models on the display table but in the behavior of the contestants.

### THE GOOD

1. Contest participants or spectators who seek out the builder of a particular model to compliment them for great work and ask them how they did it.
2. Those who graciously accept praise for doing well without being pompous or arrogant.
3. Those who are willing to learn and ask a judge or other modeler to look over their model to see what was wrong with it and ask what steps they could take to make it better.
4. Those who may not be great modelers but participate to support the sponsoring organization or simply seek the opportunity to let others see their projects on the contest tables.

### THE BAD

5. Builders who have to hover over their models nearly the entire time the exhibit is open to fish for compliments from anyone unlucky enough to be caught in their snare.
6. Contestants who have to display ancient trophies or old awards with their model entries (I have not seen this happen very often but once is enough!).
7. Contestants who try to be part of a judging team for a category with their own model so they can lobby inappropriately for their model to win (Again, usually a modeler is willing to step aside, but I have

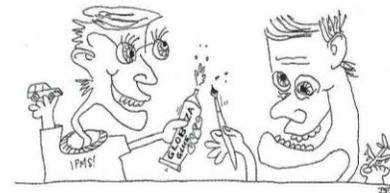
not always seen this happen. In one case, we had to go back and re-judge the category and you can guess how the lobbyist's model did once it was properly scrutinized).

8. Contestants who never are willing to help with judging but love to complain how unfair and biased the judging is when they find out their prized project did not win anything or simply got an "honorable mention."
9. Contestants who throw their model in a trash can at the end of the contest and explain, "There goes two years of work for nothing!" Believe it or not, I have witnessed this happen after one of the national conventions I attended!

### THE UGLY

Fortunately this only happened once where I witnessed a modeler, who happened to be not very good at it, by the way, almost come to blows to one of the judges who moved his model because it was in the wrong category and accidentally broke a part off. The clown had his fists drawn, ready to strike. Cooler heads prevailed such that no punches were thrown, but if you are that sensitive about something like that happening, stay home and find another hobby!

There are certainly members of your club that are burned out on competition and only build models for fun. They don't wish to enter their models in contests, even though they are actually fine modelers, but they should not be criticized but should be praised for their efforts. Indeed, especially in the auto modeling world, there are major exhibitions called NNLs, which are mainly held in the eastern United States. The NNLs are designed to be exhibitions for model cars to be on display with little to no judging other than having spectators vote for their favorites in a "People's Choice"



format. NNL was a name coined by model car legend Mark Gustavson, the founder of GSL and the International Model Car Builders Museum, to poke some friendly fun at a few "Nameless National Luminaries" who disagreed with some of his methods to promote the hobby.

In my home club, IPMS/Salt Lake City, we have had some fun club builds where we pick a simple theme, such as Russian subjects or Italian subjects, and challenge club members to build something new to fit the theme. Our most recent theme was "You're Fired!" which meant build a model that is a rocket, or shoots rockets, or gets shot at by rockets. At the meeting where the club build is culminated, entry forms with simply a number and name of the subject are placed by the models and everyone present writes down the number of their favorite subject and puts it in my hat, with the main rule being that you are not supposed to vote for your own model! We tabulate the results and have the "winners" describe their projects and then have the other modelers do the same thing.

Whether you compete or not, contests are a fun way for us to show others what we can do with plastic, wood, or other materials to create a model worth seeing. And it is better to have a venue for people to see what you can do rather than having the projects sequestered in your bedroom or garage or other place where only a small number of people can enjoy them. So whether you want to compete or not, at least help your club help us to show others why IPMS and model building are worth promoting! ■

**Bob Beers Presents.....**

# **HOCARS SUPERBOWL SHOW**

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**--- February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 ---**

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*Enter in FRONT OF THE HOTEL!!!!!!!*

Show Time 10AM – 2PM

Early Admission is a must for the **BEST DEALS**  
**IN THE SAVOY ROOM!!!**

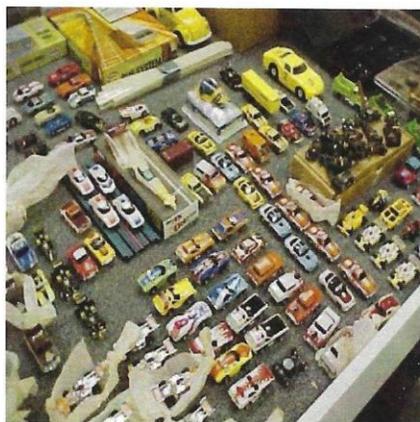
10AM Admission: \$5, under 10 free

7AM early admission \$20.00

Dealer Table Prices:

\$65.00 paid in advance, \$75.00 at the door

Helpers \$20.00



*One of the Biggest Slot Car Shows on Earth!!*

*Come to Buy – Sell - Trade!*

**DIRECTIONS:**

Take the Long Island Expressway (route 495) East, to exit 49 South (route 110). We are 1.5 miles South on the right. From the Southern State: Take exit 32 North (route 110) 2.5 miles to the hotel

These shows will NOT be cancelled due to bad weather. Make plans early and allow travel time.

Next Show is SuperBowl Sunday, 2023

*Once a year on **SUPERBOWL Sunday!!***

If you are intwerested in a local (Central Operating Lines there is a) Swap meet, on 2/13/22 @ 8 AM  
141 Carleton Ave., East Islip

That's it for this month - - - **Now go build a model**