

LEND A HAND AND BRING A CAN!



• LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICAS SOCIETY •

MODEL CAR BRIEFS

Meeting Themes
 "L.I.A.R.S Christmas Party"
 "Discuss 2024 future plans"
 "Display theme - Pickups"

Newsletter Stuff:

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Scenes from the Miniature Figure Collectors of America show at the Freeport Rec center, Nov 17th and 18th



Please remember the needy and bring can goods to the monthly meetings

The LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICAS 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.

Were in our 32nd year as a Club; let's hope we all stay healthy during this post COVID-19 crisis and that we can all attain some measure of prosperity. Then perhaps we can build a new Club display in memory of Rich Argus...

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

LIARS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/people/LIARS-Long-Island-Auto-Replica-Society-Model-Car-Club/100057442748403/>

MCB Contributors: *Richard Manri, Dominick "McMonte" Gerace, Bill "Dr. V" Murray, Mike Brennan, Gary Weickart, Matt Hardigree (for Jalopnik), Dennis Lee (for The Takeout), Richard Lentinello (for Hemmings)*

From our LIARS Unofficial Official

Hello everybody with the holidays fast approaching, I would like to thank everyone for being a member of the club. Without you, well, there'd be no club!

Thank you again to everybody who pitched in at our show. I'm very happy with the way everything turned out. You should be proud of yourselves.

Going forward this year I would like to bring back some of the old standbys that made this club stand out in the beginning. Monthly clinics would be great, even every other month would be great. I'm sure there's a lot of people out there who have things to share on how they do what they do.

Another event could be the annual slam contest. Build a model specifically for dropping a sledgehammer onto. The person with the part that goes the furthest, wins!

And in either August or September we could have our annual one-to-one

car show night. You might be surprised at what you see!

If you can, bring a wrapped toy marked, either B for boy or G for girl to donate to the center for Toys for Tots.

At the December meeting, we plan on having pizza party. The club will bring in pizza, soda, plates, cups and utensils. If there's anything anybody wants to add, feel free.

I look forward to seeing everybody there, starting off the New Year with everyone in this great club!

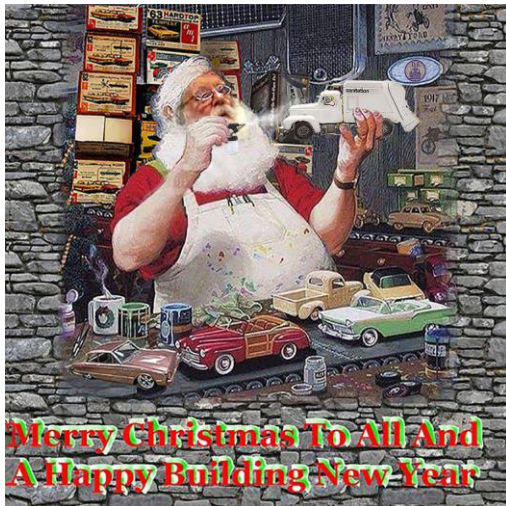
If you have an idea or suggestion to make, please inform our committee during meetings or contact our board members via their phones and/or emails. If there are any issues at meetings or regarding other club matters, please inform us and we will handle them to the best of our extent.

Also, please try to bring a canned good to donate for the center. We've all been guilty for being sporadic about

this, but think about those who are much less fortunate than us.

Your unofficial official,

Dominick "McMonte" Gerace,



Merry Christmas To All and a Happy New Year!

From Mike Brennan

Remember those folks who made a difference in your life in 2022 (good or bad) and use the lessons learned to be a better you. Life is made up of people, events and decisions. 2023 is a time to start fresh. So surround yourself with

good people, be active, happy and make remainder of 2023 great. Richie.

Some Words from the Editor At Large

Hello all, not a hole lot to say this month. Been very busy with life things and work, hardly any time to tackle any projects sitting on the back burner for years now. At the Nov MTG, Lenny and Pat V handled club announcements and planning in the absence of our unofficial official. L.I.A.R.S show theme for '24 is split between '40 ford and Tri-Five Chevy of any model manufacture and scale.

Christmas party among other 2024 plans were discussed last MTG. Due to low show profits among other issues, the club will not be having the dinner at Piccolos like prior year. This month is the Christmas party at our meeting place and in addition the display theme is being Pickups. Party plans have been discussed and I was told that Dominick is getting the drinks and Pat V. going to get the pizzas; 2 Pepperoni, 2 Regular, and 1 square salad.

John the artist may bring some pasta and Dave V. is bringing some smaller snacks like bags of chips and such. Utensils and such will be provided by the club committee. People may be bringing their own drinks, deserts and such to share.

That's all I have for now, see you all at the meeting and have a wonderful Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2024!

For those who haven't received the recent MCBs or wish to view past ones, they can download them here <https://www.liarsmodelcarbuilders.com/newsletters>

If you have a suggestion, an idea, or article submission you would like to bring up in the newsletter, please inform Richard "Richie Rich" Manri via his email or at mtgs. Keep in mind that article submissions close on the 2nd Friday of the month, so that MCB delivery can take place the Saturday before the 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.

BUILD SUGGESTION OF THE MONTH FROM YOUR AUTHOR

A love hate situation between epic dragsters and tiny econo boxes. How 'bout something like



BTW, this Revell did the older gen Smart Car should one search for such a kitbash:



Scenes from the model display at Selden Ollies location





Even though the prices were almost as good as the Michaels mega clearance blowouts of 2008/9, yours truly mostly resisted aside from grabbing two of the Yellow '79 Firebirds. Never built those before and while they seem garish and all, could make for great customizing fodder!

Mind you these pics were taken on Saturday Dec 9th, before Ollies had their 25% off sale on Toys the following Sunday. Your author wonders if there's any of these left after the 25% Sunday and if others jumped in and reported their findings?

Dr. V's Tids & Bits

Here I am staring at my dining room ceiling trying to figure out where yesterday's (1st floor) ceiling leak came from, while the associated upstairs bedroom ceiling is dry...and there are no roof vents directly above...

I should note that I can not prep the dining room ceiling to repaint until it dries!

...so I have to face Trouble (as in Dr.Vs significant other while she proceeds to inform me "This house needs work"...along with "can you get rid of at least one of your 1:1 antiques so I can park in the driveway?") ...

please note that I thought I had finished cleaning out the gutter drains yesterday morning, before the rain started (yes - somehow it did not completely work, so my screened in porch indoor/outdoor carpet became totally flooded...am I in Trouble...you be the judge...)

So, I elect to update my model collection today...and then realized after accounting for my 2023 Purchases which I did...glad I did not buy more ... I may not have the latest model car guides to access... CAN YOU HELP AS TO IDENTIFYING WHERE TO go to access (eg. Model car kits, promo, diecast, etc.) latest references!

Side Note: I now why I have been trying for years to develop, a LIARS go to committee to assist a former member's next of kin ...helping them sell off a member's collection...yes you have have heard Dr. V Spin numerous times but no one wants to help! While you consider Dr.Vs request, please address how does one account for reissues? ... as in - the soon(or has) to be released 60 Ford & 63 Ford variants...BOTTOMLINE what is the now value of an original 60 Ford Kit &/or kit vs. the new releases.

Also, I am trying to develop some future articles that you all would enjoy! Please let me know if you have any goodies to cover and such will be forwarded to the new editor.

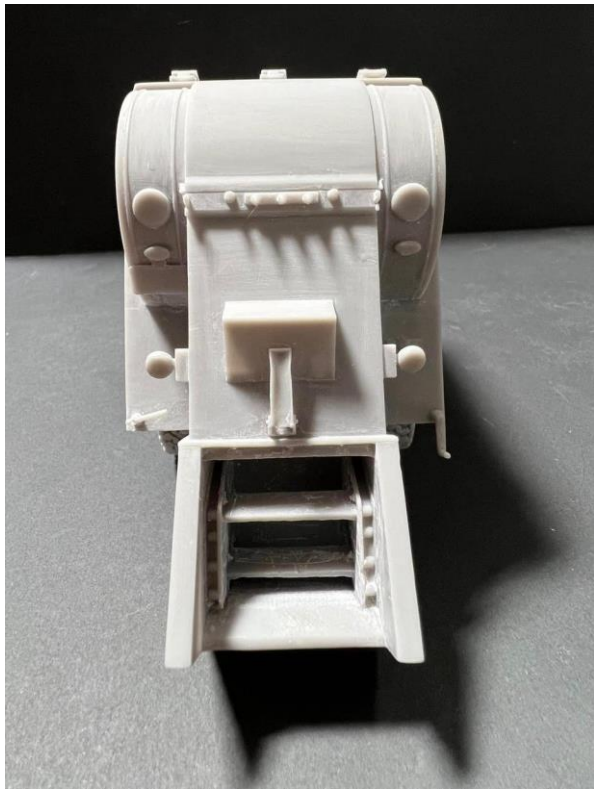
Bill Murray/Doc V,

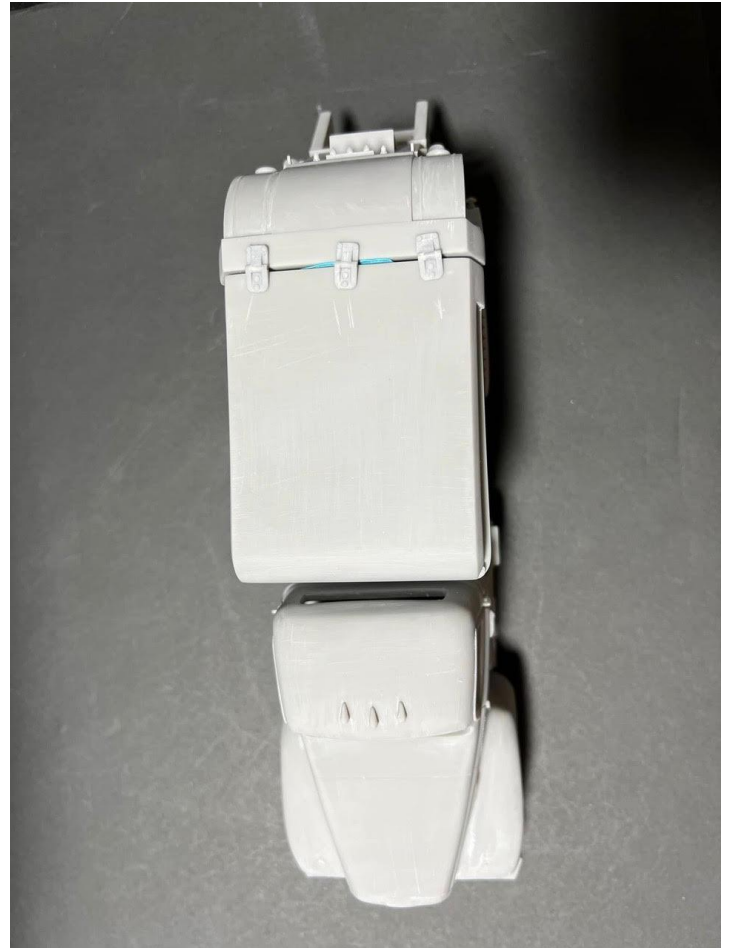
Mike Brennan Spotlight

Heeyyy fellas, below are some juicy pictures of the first print of my NYC

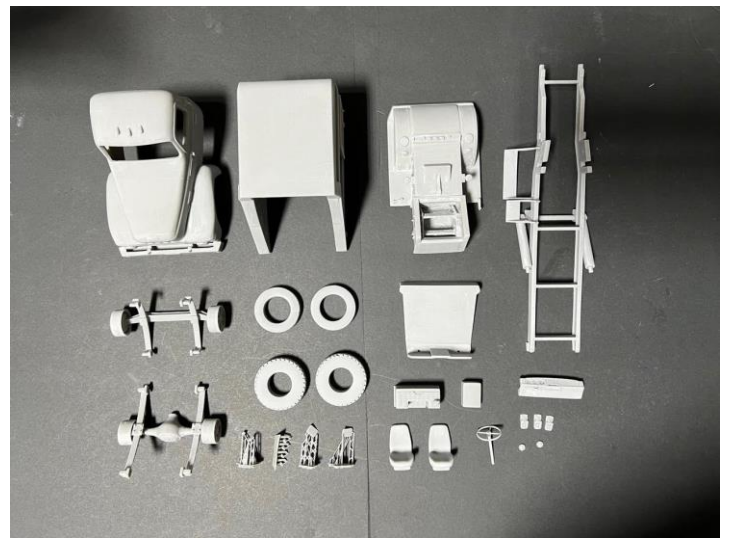
Dept. of Sanitation 1965 International Garbage Truck that I commissioned to have built in 1/25 scale.







It will come as a multi piece kit to me....



A fine piece I tell ya! If only the model manufactures took note of making more subjects like these, instead of reissuing the same old

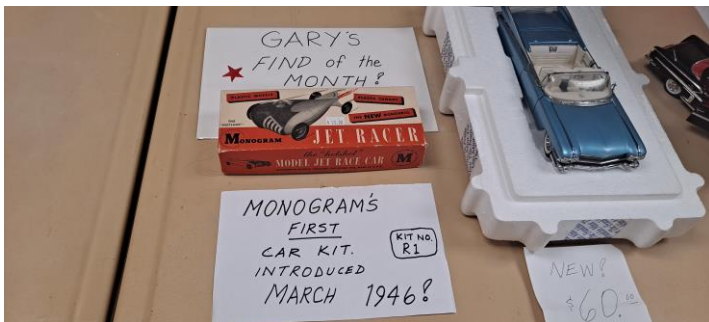
ill-fitting slop at more than the \$1.50 we all paid back in the day. We wouldn't mind reissues of Johans, wish someone would properly rescue those molds as they're getting rarer and very pricey nowadays.

Expect to see more of this in future MCBs. TBC

Until next time...

Mike,

Gary's Find of the Month



The first model kit ever made by Monogram! Original 1946 issue never been released since. One wonders if Atlantis Models has this tooling from the vintage Revell/Monogram assets they bought?

Ten Crazy Engine Swaps

That Must Be Done

By
Matt Hardigree

This is Answers of the Day - where we take the best ten responses from the previous day's "Question Of The Day". It's by you and for you, the Jalopnik readers.

10.) The Corvair STI

The Swap: Subaru STI turbo flat-for in a classic Chevy Corvair

Suggested by: Rawtoast

9.) The Whythefuck?

The Swap: Lamborghini LP 670-4 V12 into an AMC Gremlin

Suggested by: Spiegel

8.) The AMG Class-Class

The Swap: AMG 5.5 V8 Biturbo in a W111/2 Fintail

Suggested by: Fintail

7.) Swedish Death Wagon

The Swap: Mazda 26B Quad-Rotor into a Volvo 240

Suggested by: Dirt Pirate

6.) The Leaf-A-Busa

The Swap: Nissan Leaf + Hayabusa

Suggested by: Whack-A-Mole

5.) The Buick Roaddestroyer

The Swap: LS9 V8 into a Buick Roadmaster Estate

Suggested by: The Big Cone

4.) The Marty HickFly

The Swap: 376 ci two-cylinder John Deere Diesel in an '80s Toyota Pickup.

Suggested by: Elhigh

3.) The Sinner

The Swap: Volvo Turbo Inline-5 into Volvo P1800

Suggested by: D_Robb

2.) The Cimarron V

The Swap: CTS-V LSA V8 into a Cadillac Cimarron (mid-mounted)

Suggested by: SynthOno

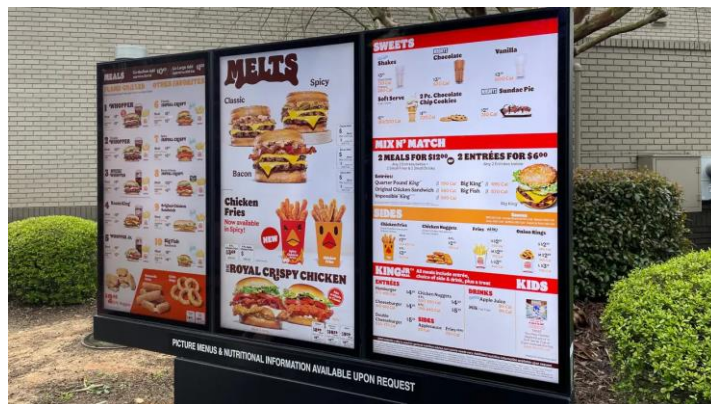
1.) Triumph SR20 Spitfire Hot Rod/Nismoxy

The Swap: SR20DET with gt30r turbo in a Triumph Spitfire. He's actually doing it!

The Drive-Thru Is About to Get Way Creepier

You might soon be ordering fast food from an AI that clones celebrities' voices.

By
Dennis Lee



It's no secret that artificial intelligence is shaping the world of fast food. Many of its

most significant contributions have taken place behind the scenes, like when Shake Shack used AI to help design its menu, or when Jet's piloted an AI-powered text-based ordering system. On the more customer-facing side of things, we've seen how fast food is using AI to minimize human interaction, with multiple chains testing AI drive-thru ordering. Now, that system is about to get creepier, thanks to the magic of AI voice cloning.

The drive-thru AI voice will soon sound very familiar

QSR Magazine reports that Hi Auto, a provider of conversational AI tools for drive-thru lanes, now has technology available to clone an actual human's voice, based off of just a few minutes' worth of that person's recorded speech.

Recreating a stilted voice that sounds mildly like its base source is one thing, but Hi Auto claims its AI has the ability to capture a person's dialect, accent, and vocal tone. Yikes. Imagine placing your White Castle order with Gilbert Gottfried's digital doppelganger.

One chain restaurant, Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken, is planning a test launch of this cloned voice feature in a few of its Ohio drive-thru locations. And no, we're not

getting a George Clooney dupe just yet (imagine the licensing fees). The first digitally cloned order-taker will be former NFL player and sports broadcaster Keith Byars.

Byars currently hosts *The Keith Byars Show* on ESPN 1410 WING-AM in Dayton, Ohio. That means there are plenty of hours' worth of vocal samples Hi Auto's AI can use to assemble its audio clone.

Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken appears confident in Hi Auto's AI technology, as the two companies have been partners for three years. "This collaboration not only enhanced our labor efficiency by saving approximately 5-6 hours daily, but also significantly improved order consistency and upselling conversions," CEO Ryan Weaver said in a press release announcing the new voice cloning feature.

As a fast food customer, I'm conflicted. It's already unusual verbalizing one's order to a non-human system, but knowing it's one designed to sound like a celebrity feels even more uncomfortable, since the technology is going to work hard on upselling me.

And there's also the ongoing question of whether technology like this is effectively replacing human workers with computers. The industry likes to point out that the tech

is a complement to the work that employees are already doing, and that when an AI powers the order box, the former order-taker simply moves their efforts to another restaurant task. But say that same restaurant combines an AI order-taking system with, for example, Flippy the robot's fry cook abilities, and you've theoretically come closer to nixing the job of at least one person.

Fast food operations are changing quickly, and AI's being tested in pretty much every facet of the industry. I guess digital voice clones were inevitable. I'm hoping we'll at least get Betty White on the horn to take my Burger King order someday, because at least I'd be mildly entertained while asking for my Whopper.

Plastic Model Kits

By

[Richard Lentinello](#)



They were the stuff dreams were made of: plastic model car kits. Once the three-o'clock school bell rang, a side trip with your friends to the local stationery store or toy outlet before walking home occurred at least once a week in order to keep up on the newest plastic model kits that hit the shelves. Later on in the evening, you would lie on your bed, while listening to Donovan or the Monkees, thinking of ways to scrounge up the \$2 to buy that next kit. I know I did.

Back in the '60s, building plastic model car kits was the thing to do among pre-teen boys. It's how guys spent their free time in the years leading up to acquiring their driver's license. So because they couldn't drive, or even think of buying their first car, they would satisfy--and cultivate--their car-crazy passions by constructing car models. They were fun

to build, even when the tube of glue oozed out all over the kitchen table, and were the perfect excuse to avoid doing math homework.

The primary scale was either 1/24th or 1/25th size, and they almost always came in white. Once you decided on which color to paint your dream car, you would then jump onto your Stingray and head back to the store to buy a couple of 25-cent jars of Testors enamel, or a small can of 75-cent metallic spray paint in order to finish it. Later on, plastic models would be molded in color, as was the bright-green T'rantula, Monogram's Wild Fuel Drag Coupe.

Each model's greatest allure was its fantastically illustrated box art, which drew you in in a hypnotic-like trance. These were the days right before color photography became so prevalent on packaging, but this original artwork had so much more influence in capturing our imagination than still photographs ever could.

The cars, of course, were the main attraction. But it wasn't the production-based cars that got every kid's blood racing, although many did; no, it was the wild and crazy cartoon-like machines created by some of the most fertile minds of the '60s-era custom car culture scene. Models of Ed "Big Daddy" Roth's Beatnik Bandit, Tweedy Pie, Road Agent and The Outlaw, among many others, were some of the hottest models that every kid had to have. So, too, were those created by

Tom Daniels, which, in addition to the T'rantula, included the Paddy Wagon, Tijuana Taxi, Red Baron and the Pie Wagon.

Today, original model kits are highly collectible. However, what collectors are mainly interested in are kits that are unbuilt and still in their original boxes. And if the cellophane wrapping has never been removed, then those model kits will be all the more collectible and valuable.

Fortunately for those of us whose models were thrown away or were subjected to being blown up with firecrackers, many of these celebrated model kits have been re-released. They are exactly the same as the originals; even the box art is the same, apart from a few minor details to set the newer boxes apart from the near 50-year-old originals.

The original versions can sell for as much as a couple hundred dollars if the model is untouched and its box is in excellent condition. The re-released models, many of which came out in the mid- to late-'90s only cost between \$18 and \$24. In fact, because their second production run was highly limited, and these models themselves are already nearly 20 years old, they, too, are fast becoming collectible.

If you would love to relive those quiet times of your childhood, when you used to sit at the kitchen table, radio on, while waiting for the decals to loosen in

the warm water so you could finish the model and place it on the shelf in your bedroom, consider building one of these model kits...again.

Why nothing beats a collection of your own childhood toys

By
Richard Lentinello



Few things in life are more welcoming and appreciated than the possessions we owned during our childhood. Whatever those objects may be - toys, models, dolls, or bicycles - each holds a special memory of not only the good times we had when we played with them, but also of the people who gave them to us. And if we bought some of those objects with our own money, perhaps during a family vacation or at a special event, then those items become

even more valuable to us. Sometimes it's good to be sentimental.

Being surrounded by objects from my past makes me happy, which is why my office is filled with noteworthy things from years gone by; some from my childhood, others from later on. Yet each holds special memories that I just don't want to let go of. Happy memories from our childhood make us feel good and, in a surprising way, allow us to feel forever young.

If you visit an antiques store or a flea market and you see an old toy that you once had, buy it. You'll be surprised as to the amount of joy it will bring into your life, even if just sits on your shelf collecting dust. Here's just a few of the car- and toy-related items that I surround myself with and will never let go of.

Cars, trains and planes, and some of my favorite albums take center stage in my office. Back in the '60s when I used to build all sorts of models (most of which were cars and military planes, boats, and tanks) one of my favorites was the T'rantula. Although the T'rantula, along with the Paddy Wagon, Red Baron, and all my other models, plus my entire collection of 1963 New York Mets baseball cards and Mets and Jets bobbleheads, ended up in the Fountain Avenue Landfill in Brooklyn, when the model kit was re-released some 20 years ago, I just had to have it. It now sits on my bookcase, unbuilt, but the daily memories the box art provides is simply priceless.

Growing up, we had a 4 x 8-foot table in our basement that featured our Strombecker 1:32nd-scale slot car set, along with a Lionel train layout that ran around the outer edge; yes, the tracks were littered with little green army men. Although that Strombecker Jaguar E-Type coupe

and Ferrari 250 GTO are long gone, they propelled us to into the “big” league, with 1:25th-scale slot cars that featured brass chassis and powerful motors. Back in the '80s, I tried to merge one of my old slot cars with a Porsche 936 plastic kit. Although I never got to run it, I still enjoy looking at it. If I'm roaming the aisles at Hershey, Carlisle, or Brimfield and spot a slot car body for sale, I buy it. I bought this Alfa shell for \$3, with the Ferrari P3 body for just a buck. And what Baby Boomer hasn't spent hours spinning the little steering wheel of the Model Motoring controller while racing their Aurora Thunderjets?

Practically all of us were inflicted with the car gene by hounding our parents to buy us a Matchbox car while shopping at the local five-and-dime store, and as a result, I always gravitated towards small diecasts. I found the green BP Racing Transporter some 25 years ago, priced at \$3 in an antique store. The purple Corgi Whizzwheels, a Toyota 2000GT, is one of those rare mint-in-box models that has never been played with: I scored that in 1981 for \$5, at a local stationary store in Oyster Bay, Long Island, that was going out of business. The Chaparral 2F by Solido was a birthday gift from my brother David and good friend Ducati Lou; they found it at Lime Rock in 1988. In 1976, the Bugatti T50 by Rio was the first “expensive” model I ever bought - I think I paid \$24. The gold, “Twinmill” Hot Wheels was issued in 1968, and although I can't recall how it came into my possession, it's too cool to part with. The green Ferrari 250LM model has never been removed from its plastic case, and all that remains of the packaging reads: “Cars imported from France and Italy”. The green and red/white Corgi Lotus-Climax Formula One cars I bought in 1985 at the annual winter Kruse auction in Atlantic City.; I paid \$5 each, which was a lot for the time. But my favorite is the silver Triumph Spitfire that I bought in 1976 from art dealer Jacques Vaucher, when his automobilia gallery was located inside the Luigi Chinetti Ferrari showroom on 2nd Avenue and 58th Street in Manhattan. It cost me a then-whopping \$15!

After I bought my 1968 [Triumph Spitfire](#) MKIII (which I still own) in 1974,

I bought these two Triumph patches but never did ever get around to sewing them on my jacket. In August 1984, my girlfriend and I attended the Monterey Historics and the Pebble Beach Concours, which cost us an outrageous \$25 entry fee! This was the first time Ferrari was the featured marque at Monterey, and this patch is one of many memorable items I bought that great weekend. My favorite patch is the blue one from Watkins Glen. My family vacationed in upstate New York during the summer of 1968 and we stayed at the Seneca Lodge, whose parking lot was filled with racing cars due to the SCCA event that was took place there that weekend – as a car-crazy 11-year old kid, I was in heaven. My parents bought me this patch at the souvenir shop on Main Street, along with a 1/25th-scale blue Lola T70 slot car. This patch may be little but the memories it provides are huge.

Besides car-related things, it's good to collect the toys you once had if you want to relive those carefree days of your youth. The Vac-U-Form was a Christmas gift from our parents, and although the little plastic sheets are no longer available, there's simply no reason to get rid of it as it's one of the few remaining tangible connections to my childhood. The red plastic boat is the not the same one I used to play in the surf with at Coney Island back in the early '60s, but when I spotted it in the swap meet at Das Awkscht Fescht in Macungie, Pennsylvania, back in 2010, I couldn't get the \$15 out of my wallet fast enough. The green and red light assembly is the same setup I had on my Schwinn bicycle in the '60s; I found it at Brimfield for \$5, and it never fails to bring back those wonderful memories of riding my bike through the streets of Brooklyn at night. But one of my most meaningful possessions is the Lionel Lines 1668E

2-6-2 locomotive that my grandparents bought for my father back in the late 1930s. It now sits on a shelf in our library, and every time I look at it, endless delightful memories of running it under our Christmas tree, along with our Texas-Special F3, come flooding back – and it still runs! As to the bottle of No. 27 Track Cleaning Fluid that my father bought us back in the late '50s, I'm holding on to it just in case I set up the Lionels again. That is, if I can find some little green army men to place alongside the track.

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: 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 Richard Manri @ 631-589-6876 or his email picorro93@gmail.com to

negotiate price or trade for the three above.

November Meeting pictures





Goodies for sale



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



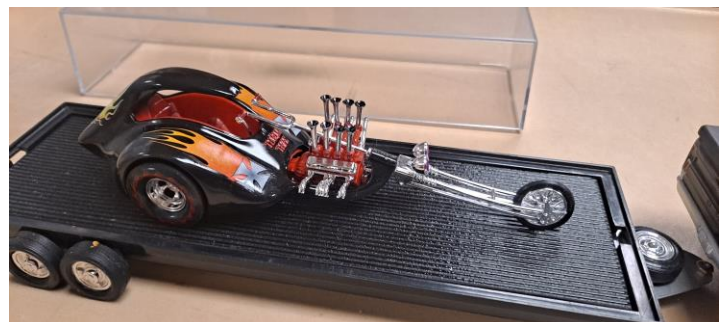
Works of art from yours truly



Lenny



Jeff



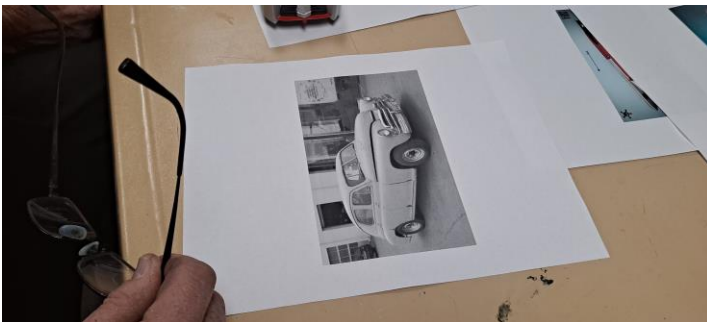


Among other Members works



The Seagraves Bros





***Happy motorin',
keep on building,
and...***



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

LIARS Annual (2023) INPUT AND PROFILE SHEET:

Here is your chance to have some input into this club without having 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, or you can email it to your editors email address on the first page header. ALL subjects and suggestions will be brought up in front of the club.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SIGN THIS SHEET.

LIARS Profile: (name) _____ (Can be your LIARS nickname or anonymous panhandle...)

- How long have you been building models? _____
- How long have you been a member of LIARS? _____
- What do you usually build? _____
- Where do you usually build? _____
- How many models do you have? _____
- Have you ever had any failed builds that were scrapped or recycled for other projects?

- Have you ever parted out old finished builds and recycled their contents for new projects?

- How many unbuilt models do you have? _____
- What are your favorite 3 models you have built? _____
- Have you ever won an award for building a model? _____
- What 3 models should win an all time kit of the (last) century award? _____
- What 3 models are so horrible that you would buy them 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)

- Was there any kit you regretted ever purchasing?

- What do you drive now? _____
- Are you bitter about anything? _____
- Are you saving your pennies for something fun to drive? _____
- With an unlimited budget, what 10 full size cars would you have in your garage?

- What (if any) person (living or dead) in the 1:1 automotive world would you like to meet? _____
- Do you go to model car shows? _____
- What are your favorite model car shows and why? _____
- Do you have kids & if so, do they share your passion? _____
- Did you build models with them? _____



L.I.A.R.S MODEL CAR CHALLENGE 2024 COMING SOON!

DETAILS AND SHOW THEME TBA