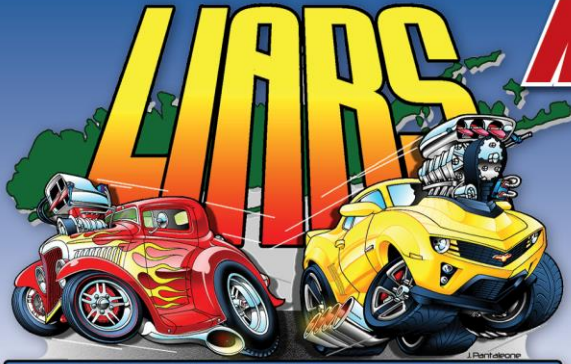


**LEND A HAND AND BRING A CAN!**



**• LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICAS SOCIETY •**

# **MODEL CAR BRIEFS**

**Meeting Themes**  
 "L.I.A.R.S Christmas Party"  
 "Discuss 2025 future plans"  
 "Display theme – Run what you've brung!"

**Newsletter Stuff:**

**Richard Manri**  
 (631)-589-6876  
 picorro93@gmail.com

**Club Stuff:**

**Dominick Gerace**  
 (631)-834-4223  
 Superbird440@juno.com



### **Scenes from the Nov MTG**



**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 33rd 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, Ernie Finamore, Richard Lentinello (for Hemmings)**

### ***From our LIARS Unofficial Official***

***Hello everybody! So December is upon us which means it's time for our annual Christmas party! The December meeting will have pizza and heroes, plus assorted chips and sodas. The club will bring in pizza/subs, soda, plates, cups and utensils. If there's anything anybody wants to add, feel free. If you'd like to bring a dessert, please feel free to do so.***

***We will first just chow down and have time to celebrate with friends and whatnot! Afterwards (depending on how late I can stay), I would like to briefly go over a few things in prep for the beginning of '25. For the New Year, my plan is to bring back more of the fun and positivity of the club. Hopefully we'll have more former members return and share their compassion of the hobby with us once again. I greatly appreciate those who have stood with and supported us to the best of their extent.***

***Display theme is bringing whatever you're working on or just got off the workbench. If possible, please bring a wrapped toy marked either B for boy or G for girl to donate to the center for Toys for Tots.***

***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.***

***I look forward to seeing everybody there, starting off a fresh New Year with everyone in this great club! Merry Christmas everyone and see you then!***

**Your unofficial official,  
Dominick "McMonte" Gerace,**



**Merry Christmas to  
All and a Happy  
New Year!**



Remember those folks who made a difference in your life in 2024 (good or bad) and use the lessons learned to be a better you. Life is made up of people, events and decisions. 2025 is a

time to start fresh. So surround yourself with good people, be active, happy and make remainder of 2024 great. Richie.

***A car guy's Christmas poem:***

**'Twas the night before Christmas,  
and in the garage**

**There sat in the corner, a classic  
old Dodge**

**My sixty nine Charger, near ready  
to go**

**To all of next season's burnouts  
and shows**

**Its perfect black body, with a  
white R/T stripe**

**Red leather interior, the seats  
are just right**

**A pistol grip shifter coming up  
through the floor**

**Now hooked to a six speed, not  
five, and not four.**

**It sits with the hood up, not quite  
running yet**

**The problem elusive, but simple I  
bet**

**The four-two-six HEMI of legend  
and lore**

**"Why won't you run? I can't take  
it no more."**

**Now freshly rebuilt, this elephant  
mill**

**Just thinking about it gives me a  
chill**

**All of that horsepower, all of that  
torque**

**I can't make it run. I feel like a  
dork.**

**I'm about to turn in, and go off to  
bed**

**Thinking a good sleep should  
help clear my head**

**When ever so slightly, I hear  
someone's laughter**

**And jingle bells ringing, and  
hooves pitter-patter**

**"Is this for real?" I thought to  
myself**

**Could it be? The jolly old elf?**

**I opened the side door and had a  
look out**

**The sleigh that I saw removed  
any doubt**

**Across the street, he was making  
the rounds**

**Rooftop to rooftop, in leaps and  
bounds**

**Then he was gone, but the sleigh  
still remained**

**For what happened next, I'll have  
to explain**

**As I turned around, what do you  
know**

**Santa Claus himself, the star of  
the show**

**Was standing there, grinning,  
right there by the car**

**His pearly whites glistening,  
reflecting like stars**

**I stammered "S-Santa?!" And he  
started to snicker**

**I took a deep breath to calm  
down my ticker**

**He was checking it over, no angle  
undone**

**And then he said nicely, "Can I  
hear it run?"**

**I hated to say it, had no other  
choice**

**This problem I had with my  
Charger's voice**

**"I wish that we could, but I'm  
afraid not tonight.**

**It'll turn over, but it simply won't  
light. I know it's ignition, of this  
I'm sure.**

**But I'm out of ideas. Do you have  
a cure?"**

**He pondered a moment, then  
scratched his chin.**

**"I have an idea. Why don't you  
jump in?"**

**I climbed in the car as he fiddled  
around**

**And he said "Aha! You have a bad  
ground.**

**This wire on the coil should be  
attached here."**

**And over he moved it, without  
any fear.**

**"Hit it!" he said, his grin growing  
wide**

**I pushed in the clutch and let out  
a sigh**

**I wiggled the shifter and hit the  
ol' key...**

**And it fired at once. I howled  
with glee!**

**The exhaust is so loud it rattles  
the walls**

**Santa yelled over it, "I bet this  
thing hauls!"**

**I killed it and jumped out, unable  
to speak**

**Santa had fixed it with one little  
tweak!**

**"You know about cars?" I finally  
asked.**

**"Oh, yes!" he replied. "My veins  
run with gas.**

**I work but one night, so with my  
spare time**

**I tinker and wrench, it sharpens  
the mind.**

**I have a collection that rivals the  
best**

**It's my preferred hobby when I  
am at rest."**

**I shook his hand thank you, we  
noded goodbye**

**And with that he vanished in the  
blink of an eye.**

**As I went in to head off to bed,**

**I thought about everything Santa  
had said**

**Turns out he's a car guy! And  
now that you know,**

**Perhaps you'll see him – at your next show!**



### **Some Words from the Editor At Large**

**Once again, kind of late on the MCB due to very last minute additions from folks and the Microsoft Word file corrupting FOR THE SECOND TIME in a row! Guess it's not used to dozens of texts and images on it, oh well..**

**On the other hand, we're at 400 issues of the MCB and approaching year two of my editing tenure. I've been busy with wrapping up several builds and getting ready for family stuff during holidays. I knew about the Pizzas and all, but finding out about Heroes gives a throwback and provides to both whom like pies and those who want subs.**

**From Nov mtg., the discussed plans for 2025 starting with Jan mtg. are:**

**That yearly memberships go up to \$50 USD (discussed per last mtg, to cover rising expenses?)**

**New Treasury has been appointed and will fully transition by Jan once Pat .V transfers over funds account.**

**Monthly MTGs will remain at Bayport Rep Center.**

**We're planning have our 2025 Model car Challenge at Freeport again, and then see if a new smaller/cheaper venue would absolutely be required for 2026.**

**More MTG events will take place, "Slammer" contest, build offs, more auctions?**

**2025 MCC Show main theme and sub-theme (?) should be finalized by Jan and no later than Feb. Fliers should be ready by spring to send out and get more crowds/#s for next year's MCC.**

**That's all I have for now, see you all at the meeting and have a wonderful Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025!**

**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 Saturday of the month, so that MCB delivery can take place the Sunday 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.**

**Dr. V's Colum**

***This month Dr. V wishes you a ...***



***Whether you enjoy building model cars, aircraft, tanks, or other types of models, check out products that might help and/or inspire you. There is a vast assortment of books, magazines, tools, digital downloads and more to build your skills and enjoyment of scale modeling. And don't forget to ask your fellow LIARS modelers for guidance.***

***As you know SAE has ceased publishing monthly issues, leaving only Model Cars Mag...until AutoModeler started in 2024 (3<sup>rd</sup> issue was recently released ...***

***Recently, Hemmings has ended a 20 year run of Classic Car & Muscle Cars with the Feb. 2025 issues. Hearst Magazines, which publishes Car and Driver, Road & Track, and Popular Mechanics (among other legacy publications), just announced its acquisition of MotorTrend Group. That includes, of course, MotorTrend, plus Hot Rod, Roadkill, and Automobile among others. This is a huge development in the automotive media world and an unprecedented consolidation of automotive publications.***

***(Dr.V's wife will enjoy less goodies in the mailbox!)***

***Next up ...  
Winner of This Contest Will Become Hot Wheels Car  
Polestar teams up with Mattel on its fourth annual competition, and the winning entry will be something you'll be able to buy soon.***

***By [Jay Ramey](#) Published: Dec 10, 2024***



***In its relatively short tenure [the Polestar Design Contest](#) has already attracted thousands of contestants from all over the world, and it has already produced plenty of publicity for the still-rising EV brand.***

***But this year the incentive was perhaps the highest in the contest's short history, as the winning entry is set to become an official Hot Wheels diecast model in 1:64 that anyone will be able to buy.***

***"We were looking for innovative ideas with this theme, and the submissions definitely exceeded our expectations. We saw some of the most daring designs to date," said Juan-Pablo Bernal, head of interior design at Polestar and design contest curator.***

***Related Story***

***That winning entry is the Polestar TRX designed by Shashank Shekhar, a pro designer hailing from India.***

***Imagined as an electric off-roader, the TRX is a streamlined, cab-forward truck with a high ride height and a slim body profile, reminding us of some of the wilder jet age concepts of the 1960s.***

***But despite the sleek surfaces and a windshield that transitions into the hood, it keeps plenty of distance from the aesthetic of the angular and slabby Cybertruck. The LED headlights, meanwhile, represent a nod to Polestar's current front fascia designs, making the off-roader more recognizable.***

***"This will be the first design in my career to be produced, so it's a big deal for me," said Polestar Design Contest winner Shekhar. "I never thought that someday, something I have created would end up as a Hot Wheels car."***



***The TRX concept appears particularly well suited to becoming Hot Wheels diecast car in 1:64 scale.***

***The annual entries to the contest aren't always cars, though the themes predictably revolve around transportation. And each year the concept's official instructions are a little different, with the requirements of Hot Wheels steering the entries in a particular direction, especially when it***

***come to the proportions of wheels relative to the vehicle body.***

***The runner-up this year was Powei Chen of Italy, with his "Cyber Shaker" race car inspired by cyberpunk design themes.***

***"This year's winner accepted the challenge and was inspired by both Hot Wheels and Polestar, bridging the two brands together," said Ted Wu, senior vice President and Global Head of Design of Vehicles and Building Sets at Mattel. "We are looking forward to seeing the 'Polestar TRX' in a 1:64 scale and welcoming this die-cast to be included in our Hot Wheels history." Whether Polestar itself will ever offer a truck remains to be seen, but it's worth noting that parent company Geely already offers [an electric pickup in its home market under the Radar brand](#). So perhaps it's only a matter of badge engineering—at least in markets that don't have to deal with [the Chicken Tax](#).***



***Powei Chen's Cyber Shaker concept captured the runner-up prize. As for Polestar itself, 2025 promises to be a big year for the brand due to [the recent launches of the Polestar 3 and the Polestar 4](#) at a rather precarious time in the EV industry.***

***"Something like this gives you a lot of confidence as a young designer," Shekhar added.***



**Are diecast models in 1:64 still in vogue among a younger audience, or has their popularity waned in recent decades?**

**Next up ...**

**December 2024 Round 2 Product Spotlight**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9FFnNYgwGg>**

**Next up ...**

**Model Building Terminology Update  
By: [Brian R](#)**

**I'm trying to compile a list of euphemisms used in our model building.**

**There have got to be a lot more than these, so just reply with your favorites.**

### **Model Building Terminology Euphemisms**

**When a not-done project gets put aside:**

- **The muse has left the building.**
  - **Wall of Shame.**
  - **It's hibernating.**
- **It's not dead, it's just sleeping.**
- **It's a UFO (UnFinished Object).**
  - **Shelf of Regret.**
    - **Disenchantment District.**
    - **Shelf of Disenchantment.**
      - **Apathy Area.**
      - **Shelf of Apathy.**
        - **The usual.**
        - **Stalled project.**
- **"In progress." (Even if I haven't touched it in 15 years).**
- **Turnaround = perpetually unfinished, but has potential.**
  - **Shelf of doom: refers to projects stalled for a long time but not put away.**
- **It hit a wall - both figuratively and literally**
  - **Unstalled - Back on the bench!**

**When that needed part goes flying:**

- **Launched into low earth orbit (I really liked that one recently).**
  - **Into a new dimension.**
- **Blinked into another dimension.**
  - **Carpet monster.**
  - **Carpet trolls.**
    - **A zinger.**
- **It's been carefully stored away for a future project.**
- **Every model work area has a black hole where important parts go.**
  - **Gravity is a wonderful thing.**
- **Construction Issues:**
  - **After a part breaks – that's much better now.**
  - **That part's from a different kit !!!**
    - **The kit instructions were just a vague suggestion.**
      - **I'm being creative.**
      - **Jeez, it's just a hobby.**
- **Po' Boy Lathe = Using a 3/8th drill or drill press for turning or tuning a fit.**
  - **Exterior / paint / finish:**
    - **Painted with a fire hose.**
    - **Painted with a 4" brush.**
    - **Paint prep with a metal rasp.**
  - **That thing has so much orangepeel it's a Sunkist special.**
  - **It looks like it was painted by Earl Scheib.**
- **Butter dish = A model with lines and features not well defined sort of like an upside down Butter dish.**
- **Brick, Doorstop = Coarse, thick and or heavy resin from the early days**
- **Bass Boat, Barstool = Clearcoat so heavy it is unrealistic.**
  - **"Bass boat" can also refer to excessively large, way out of scale reflective particles in metallic paint**
    - **Painted with a dirty pinecone.**
- **Dipped in syrup: excessively thick 2K clear that fills seams and obliterates surface detail.**
  - **Painted with a roller.**
- **Finished:**
  - **3 wheeler.**

- **A 10 footer (5 footer etc.).**
- **Well, that looks interesting.**
  - **Bless his heart for trying.**
    - **Glue Bomb.**
- **In General:**
  - **In a modeling funk.**
- **Obsolete or rare/expensive = unobtainium.**
- **Sellers remorse = wanting to build a kit you sold X number of years ago and can't get another one cheap enough or at all.**
  - **Sellers remorse = For me that usually kicks in the next day.**
- **What do you call it when a project you know you have just totally disappears?**
- **Dog Food = Common kits purchased in multiples to part them out or bash with others.**
- **Rivet Counter = Modeler obsessed with scale accuracy to the point of being annoying / unwelcome.**
- **A Holy Grail -- a model you've been searching for years, usually one you had as a kid or wish you hadn't sold.**
- **A Holy Grail -- a model you've been searching for years, usually one you had as a kid that you gluebombed.**
  - **A Holy Grail -- and just after you finally find one and pay \$\$\$\$ for it, it gets reissued.**

**Kit type / Category:**

.....**Term.....Euphemism**

- **Annual**
- **Reissue.....The dreaded 'Repop'**
  - **Modified reissue**
    - **Curbside**
    - **New tool**

**"A prototype is an early sample, model, or release of a product built to test a concept or process." So maybe yes, maybe no? What you would call it probably depends upon the circumstances.**

**Next up ...**

**The World of 3D modeling  
There is a large 3D database awaiting a LIARS inquiry. Spotlight Hobbies includes a Link to RESIN products.**

**Suggest that a LIARS volunteers to be POC**

**Throughout 2024, LIARS had to address selected members' complaints/request for... that perhaps went unanswered! How does the LIARS plan on addressing similar issues for 2025?**

**That is all, and enjoy the holidays!**

**Dr.V**



**\*\*\***

**The Matchbox Motorway Is Late  
1960s Slot-Car Greatness**



**By  
Matt Litwin**

Updated  
June 24, 2024



When someone mentions “slot car track,” what comes to mind? The once widely popular 1:24 and 1:32 scale tri-lane-and-up super tracks that were erected in warehouse-sized buildings? Perhaps the two-lane HO-scale Tyco and AFX layouts countless kids yearned for during the holiday season? Thinking small, there were other HO-scale companies too, but the basic track system designs were essentially all the same, though not often interchangeable: Snap-together sections of track that featured a center groove and twin metal power strips, along with two controllers and two cars fitted with electric motors.

Exciting as the racing action could be, the common at-home HO-scale sets did suffer from some limitations. Just two lanes notwithstanding, observant racers likely noticed whoever was fastest on the trigger often had the quickest out-of-the-box slot car. That was due to a subtle voltage drop that occurred as soon as the second controller was activated. Exasperating the amperage

anomaly was the amount of service draw elsewhere in the house (dad using then-corded power tools in the workshop, for instance) or by extending the overall track length beyond what the box set provided. Such limitations were of no concern to those lucky enough to receive Matchbox Motorway No. 12.

Never heard of it?



Matchbox Motorway hit stores in the late Sixties. Produced by K Arnold & Company in West Germany, and then distributed by Fred Bronner in the States, its design combined then-conventional and unconventional slot car set elements. In the former category were a pair of thumb-activated track controllers, along with a requisite power pack. The rest of the set was about as unique as one could get in the slot car industry.

It began with 14 feet of simulated concrete over-and-under track, which indeed featured a molded slot in the center. Absent were twin power strips.

Instead, a channel under the track slot was wide enough to capture and retain 28 feet of continuous loop spring, or 14 feet for each slot car lane. Activating the power rotated the spring at a desired speed via the thumb controller, which in turn would motivate a car via its pin.

Then there were the set's cars. Two were provided, which seems to have varied from one set to the next. That's because the cars were conventional Matchbox vehicles. Several plastic pins, which were larger in design than those on other traditional slot cars, were included with Matchbox Motorway. The pin's temporary mounting design made it possible for track users to switch from one Lesney scale car to the next. If one tired of, say, a Jaguar that had been included with the set, it was easy to substitute an AMC Javelin. It also allowed users to parade multiple cars on both tracks at the same time.

Matchbox Motorway would prove to be a short-lived venture. As of this writing, it seems the set was off the shelves by the early- to mid-Seventies. Today, complete sets can be found online in various conditions. We found our featured set at the 2023 AACA Eastern Fall Meet in Hershey, Pennsylvania, sporting some shelf wear, though the contents were in excellent condition. It was one of three Matchbox Motorway sets spotted during the Hershey Meet.

MATCHBOX MOTORWAY NO. 18

Asking Price: \$100; Found at: 2023 AACA Eastern Fall Meet (Hershey, Pennsylvania)

\*\*\*

## Ten Great Holiday-Themed Rides To Celebrate The Festive Season



By  
[Graham Heeps](#)

—  
December 13, 2024



The holidays are the perfect time to sink into a comfy chair and idly browse what you might be driving when the weather warms up. We've taken a sleigh ride through the Hemmings Marketplace listings to gather these 10 holiday-themed vehicles for your winter entertainment, from candy-cane-colored

collector cars to reindeer-inspired retro rides.

Warning: this article may contain puns.

## 1970 CHEVROLET CHEVELLE SS



There's no better place to start than this Chevelle SS (Santa Sport?) in a festive shade of Cranberry Red. This frame-on-restored beauty features the numbers-matching, 396-cu.in. L34 engine with which it first left the factory in Arlington, Texas in 1970. The motor now has around 500 horsepower rather than the original 350, thanks to upgrades including a holly... sorry, Holley-sourced Demon carburetor. A dealer in Marietta, Georgia, is asking \$82,900 for this fabulous Chevelle.

## 1960 MERCURY COMET



If Santa were to assemble a garage of collector cars to pull his sleigh, then there's no doubt that a Comet would be on the team. With 38,074 miles on the clock and plenty of space for gifts in the back, this restomod wagon would be a great choice. The updated mechanical package includes a 302-cu.in. Ford V-8, C4 automatic transmission, 8-inch rear end, and Mustang front suspension, while the custom interior has been trimmed in silver, blue, and black. The classified ad from GR Auto Gallery of Indy is asking \$19,900 for this understated Mercury.

## 1971 TVR VIXEN



We think Comet and Vixen make a great team. Similarly 302-powered, this

TVR has been owned by the seller since 2001 and was restored in 2006, since when it has completed only 6,000 miles. A binder with years of receipts and supporting documentation accompanies the sale. The diminutive coupe features a fiberglass body on a tubular steel chassis in typical TVR style, contributing to a curb weight of only 1,600 lb. There's a five-speed manual, leather-and-wood interior, and all the old-school ambience you'll ever need.

## 1988 LINCOLN TOWN CAR SIGNATURE SERIES



No holiday season is complete without a great movie and for many people, *Die Hard* is the greatest holiday movie of all. When Argyle picks up John McClane from the airport, he invites him to relax in the back of a Town Car, knowing nothing of the carnage that awaits at Nakatomi Plaza. For \$14,900, you can pick up this clean-looking Lincoln from 1988, the year *Die Hard* was released. The selling dealer says it has always been stored in a

climate-controlled garage and recently had a new alternator and water pump fitted. Pop *Christmas in Hollis* into the cassette player and steer clear of well-dressed Germans.

## 1986 DODGE B250 RAM VAN



The kids are too young for *Die Hard*? Perhaps *Home Alone* is a better option. A mere \$9,995 secures this "immaculate", one-owner, 77,711-mile Ram 250, which was professionally converted to a leisure van from new and looks altogether more comfortable than the Oh-Kay Plumbing & Heating van in which Harry and Marv stake out the McCallister home. The 250's 318-cu.in. motor has been professionally rebuilt and the seller reports zero rust. Complete service records should provide peace of mind.

## 1957 CADILLAC ELDORADO BIARRITZ CONVERTIBLE



Looking for something with connections to both famous movies *and* Santa's sleigh? How about this incredible Eldorado, formerly owned by film director and producer, Richard **Donner**? Priced by a dealer in St. Ann, Mississippi at \$169,900, the black convertible with a power folding top has been fully restored. The Cadillac retains its numbers-matching V-8, has a Santa-appropriate, red-and-white leather interior, and comes complete with receipts, manuals, a model and even a signed photograph of its illustrious former owner – who directed the 1988 Christmas comedy, *Scrooged*.

## [1968 WOLSELEY HORNET MK. III](#)



Ideally the stocking-stuffer slot would have been taken by a green Riley Elf, but that rare British classic does not appear in the Hemmings listings at the time of writing. Instead, we present a fantastic example of its sister car, the Wolseley Hornet Mk III, which is for sale in a classified ad for \$18,900. The Hornet was an upmarket Mini with a sedan body built by [Fisher & Ludlow](#) (Fisholow). Luxury touches – compared with regular Minis, at least – include roll-up windows, face-level air vents, wooden dashboard, internal door hinges, and leather seats. The original interior features have been supplemented here by a modern Bluetooth stereo.

## [1956 CHEVROLET 150 TWO-DOOR SEDAN](#)



According to Buddy the Elf, candy canes are one of the four main food groups, so let's bring them into our holiday list. "Matador Red and India Ivory make the car pop like a peppermint candy", according to the seller of this Tri-Five Chevy, although some checking, bubbling and blemishes in the paint suggest it's not quite mint. The two-door sedan has a 383-cu.in. stroker V-8 under the hood, 17-inch Boyd Coddington wheels and power brakes (discs up front), while the red-and-white color scheme is continued inside. We've checked the to-do list twice and it includes fixing the non-functioning horn, wipers, heater blower, and reversing lights.

## [1962 FORD GALAXIE SUNLINER](#)



Sweet treats are not for everyone. Perhaps you'd prefer a chestnut Sunliner, coasting on an open road? Puns aside, who wouldn't want to find this wonderful Galaxie under the tree on Christmas morning? It has a beautiful, tri-color interior, complete with seatbelts, while a power convertible top, automatic transmission, power steering, and power brakes make the car easy to use. The detailed engine bay is home to a 292-cu.in. motor with a two-barrel carburetor. Priced at \$45,900 from a dealer in North Canton, Ohio, this beautiful Ford has us dreaming of warmer days to come.

## [1923 FORD MODEL T ROADSTER](#)





And finally, even Santa gets to treat himself at holiday time. When the deliveries are done for another year, we think he might swap the reindeer for a 239-ci flathead V-8 and go blasting around the North Pole in this motorized black 'sleigh'. The toy in question is a 1923 Ford Model T roadster built as a 1940s-style dirt-track car. Low and wide, with Safemark tractor tires on the rear, it could be a lot of fun in a snow drift.

\*\*\*

## How my model car almost wrecked Dad's New Riviera



By  
Hemmings Contributor

October 5, 2020



*[Editor's note: Our latest installment of Reminiscing comes from Rick Hanmore.]*

My father was a car guy, just not in a mechanical sense. I never saw him turn a wrench, but he always loved cars. Every year, when the new models were introduced, we would visit showrooms to check out the latest that Detroit had to offer. His business did well enough to afford to feed his passion for new automobiles, so there was never anything more than two years old in our garage. Mom and Dad each had their own car, and in the early Sixties, the list included some that I would love to have today. There was a 1959 Oldsmobile 88, traded for a baby-blue '61 Buick Electra, and then came a '62 Oldsmobile Starfire: all were convertibles. The string of convertibles ended with a beautiful 1964 Buick Riviera, deep blue with a silver interior. Not gray, mind you, but silver vinyl seats and door panels with black and woodgrain trim. Even then, as a 14-year-old kid, I remember thinking what a stunning car that was!

As for me, I was, and still am, a model-car builder. I have been involved with scale automobiles of many types all my life, and if there is indeed a “car gene,” my dad passed that on to me. I learned early on how to paint my models with the small rattle cans of hobby spray paint. I fashioned a hook of sorts that suspended the model body, which I hung from the handle of the open overhead garage door. That provided me with a place to paint that was sheltered, but open enough so that the paint fumes would blow outside and not into the house. If you are thinking that this is a story about getting paint on my dad’s car, you are wrong—it gets worse than that. I was aware of overspray getting onto the family cars, so I wouldn’t paint if the car was in the garage.

Very often, my father would park in the driveway, nosed up to the garage door. Not wanting to get overspray on the hood of the car, I had figured out on the Starfire that I could get in the car, slide the automatic console-mounted shifter into neutral, and the car would slowly roll backward down our gently inclined driveway, just enough to be safely clear of my painting area. I had done this a number of times when I wanted to paint (without parental guidance, of course). I would roll the car back about a car length, and then slide the shifter back into park.

The Olds was barely rolling, so when I clicked the lever back into park, the car would stop. Back then, you didn’t need

a key to move the shifter on an automatic transmission. That feature came along later, probably to guard against idiots like me. It got so routine that I could lean into the car, over the closed door, and slide the shifter back and forth. I didn’t even have to get into the car. I know that was a dumb thing to do, but it worked every time! I had been allowed to drive the family cars in the yard from time to time, but I did not have free access to the keys.

One day, I was getting ready to paint another one of those three-in-one customizing kits. I opened the garage door and there sat the new Riviera, with its gleaming Diplomat Blue paint, about a foot from the door opening. The Riviera was too close to my painting area, so I decided to move it back, as I had done numerous times with the Oldsmobile. I leaned in the open driver’s window, slipped the car out of park, and it slowly began to roll back. After about a car length, I pushed the shifter back to the park position, as I had done with the Starfire, but it wouldn’t go. All it did was make a grinding sound as the car continued to roll and pick up a little speed. No pushing of buttons or movement of the shift lever made any difference. I began to panic.

The incline of the driveway increased as it neared the street. I pushed myself off the door and tried to stop the progress of the car by grabbing the vent window post. The Buick just dragged me along as if I weighed nothing (and

looking back, that was the second stupidest thing I did that day). By the time I tried to open the driver's door so I could jump in and hit the brakes, it was too late. I ran alongside the Riviera, barely keeping up as it quietly rolled down the last 20 feet of the driveway and into the street.

Fortunately, our home was located on a dead-end street with only five other houses, so there was no traffic. Still, my heart was pounding as the car easily crossed the pavement, heading for the curb on the other side. I thought it would stop when the rear tires hit this, but it takes more than that to halt a 4,000-pound Buick. I watched as the rear wheels jumped the curb, followed shortly by the fronts. The car finally stopped about a foot from Dr. Weiner's rose bush, sitting fully on his lawn facing the street and our house. Naturally, now it would go into park!

What to do? The whole thing had happened so quickly and silently that no one was running out of the house screaming. Not from our house, or our neighbor's house. There I was, standing on my neighbor's lawn next to my father's car, and nobody was aware. Nobody saw it happen. I am now reminded of the scene in the movie *A Christmas Story*, where Ralphie almost shoots his eye out, but then realizes that no one saw it happen. I thought for a moment that if I could somehow get the keys, I could pull the Riviera back into the driveway before anyone figured out what I had done. It was worth a

shot. Of course, I bumped into my father as soon as I entered the house. With as much calmness as I could muster, I asked if I could have the keys to the car because I wanted to move it.

He asked me why. There was no way out now. I had to tell him that I had tried to move it, but it rolled down the driveway. He looked out of the window and saw his brand-new Riviera neatly parked on our neighbor's lawn. If there was a "for sale" sign in the windshield, the image would have made more sense. I offered to move it (perhaps to save him the embarrassment of going over there), but he declined. He was obviously irritated, but surprisingly, I didn't get chewed out. I was given that disappointed dad look and told never to try that again.

He walked across the street, got into his new car, and drove it up the driveway and into the garage, closing the overhead door behind it.

I found a new place to paint.

\*\*\*

## Plastic Model Kits



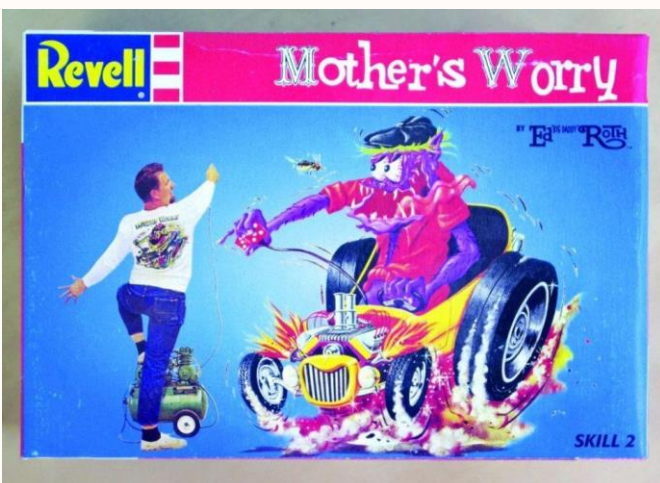
By  
[Richard Lentinello](#)

—

Updated  
March 27, 2024



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.

## ***Model Mercantile Market***

### ***"Wanted or For Sale" section...***

**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](mailto:gweickart@aol.com).

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

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

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

**WANTED:** Revell/Monogram '82-91 Firebird/Trans Am front hood, front glass, 2x rear glass, and rear taillight. Need these to restore recently

acquired parts kits missing these pieces. If you have a full kit or 2 I'll take that too.

**WANTED: Revell/Monogram 1932 Ford 3/5 Window or Roadster frame. Can be unmolested or partially started just need a good frame for project.**

Contact Richard Manri @ 631-589-6876 or his email [picorro93@gmail.com](mailto: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...***

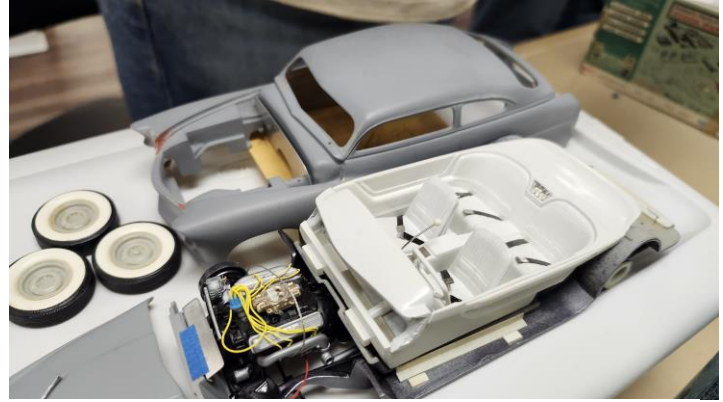


***Works of art from yours truly***



**The Seagraves Bros**





**Among other Members works**





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



***Next page contains the LIARS  
Annual (2024) INPUT SHEET. You  
can either email or bring it to the  
next meeting...***

**LIARS Annual (2024) 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 2025 COMING SOON!

## DETAILS AND SHOW THEME TBA