

LEND A HAND AND BRING A CAN!



• LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICA SOCIETY •

Meeting themes:

"Ghoulish rides and cars/trucks painted orange"

Discuss further planning for our club, 2026 show, addressing "road bumps"...

MCB NEWSLETTER

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MCB Issue 428

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY October 15th @7:00 PM!

**Henrietta Acampora
Recreation Center, 39 Montauk
Highway Blue Point, NY 11715**

Scenes from the September MTG





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.

Were in our 34th 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 <https://www.longislandautoreplicasociety.com/> [LIARS- Car Model Building Club | New York](#)

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

MCB Contributors: Richard Manri, Dominick "Mickey" Gerace, Bill Murray/Doc V, Scale Car Modeler, Pete (for Veloce Today)

From our LIARS Unofficial Official

Hello everybody! Things have been kind of busy lately and I don't have too much to report this month. First off, I

would like to thank everyone who brought stuff for the auction table and to Richie and Paul for hosting the Auction meeting. From what I tallied up, the club took in a little over \$300 from the auction! We appreciate those who supported the club and bought some deals and a parts kit or two! Looked like everyone had fun, which was one of the main intents of having such an auction.

As of this newsletter article, we are 1 month away from the LIARS Challenge! Trophy packages are ordered, tables are pretty much sold out, the only thing I'm waiting for is the insurance certificate from IPMS. We greatly appreciate those who put in for trophy packages, anything helps! If anyone is still interested in purchasing a trophy package, please inquire within. I think there some class selection slots left.

I've been working a lot, trying to secure Thursday night off. Provided no last min emergencies or staff shortages occur, I should be there in a timely matter.

For the October mtg, we will be going over show prep and day of activities at the meeting. We'll likely do a tally list of things that are done, need to be done, and how many members will attend and roles they may be given.

I hope you are all working on your Monte Carlo for the club build! Mine is moving near the finish line! Our show will be here just like that!

If you have an idea or suggestion to make, please inform our committee during meetings or contact our board members via their phones and/or emails. If there are any issues at the

meetings or regarding other club matters, please inform us and we will handle them to the best of our extent.

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

That's it for now! Thank you again to everybody! I could not have done this without you all! See you Thursday!

Your unofficial official,

Dominick "McMonte" Gerace,



Remember those folks who made a difference in your life in 2025 (good or bad) and use the lessons learned to be a better you. Life is made up of people, events and decisions. 2026 is a time to start fresh. So surround yourself with good people, be active, happy and make remainder of 2026 great. Richie.

Some Words from the Editor At Large

Unlike last month, I won't have anything finished on the table once again, got swamped with heaps of BS and things around house breaking and needing to get repaired, the cycle goes on and on.

Yet as usual, I have 100s of builds lined up and still buying more deals

and parts projects. My 70' Monte for the build off has been mocked up and awaiting a proper paint day that that isn't full of rain or dealing with more house repairs. As for attending the show, I'd like to if I can get stuff done and not deal with anymore unexpected septic line leaks or house repairs. We'll see what happens when it gets colder and if anymore shit breaks! The year's sure going by quick!

Last month I put in a trophy package for our upcoming November show. As far as I know, we still have slots open for those who want to purchase trophy packages. Tables are sold out and committee is awaiting the IPMS insurance cert to have ready for our show.

As for last month's auction, not only did Paul and I make a great team and sold almost everything on the table, but the club generated \$300 in sales. I don't think we've had a number like that in a while! We greatly appreciate those who put stuff on the tables and purchased some bargains or two!

This issue is on the lighter side, and a bit late, due to lack of suppliers and waiting on a corrected submission or two. Hopefully next month will be different...

If anyone else has something to contribute or whatever, please do and send it over before to the second Saturday of the month!

This month's theme is Ghoulish Rides (Munsters Coach, Boot Hill Express, ect.) and Cars/Trucks in orange!

See you all Thursday!

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Merit 1:24 Scale Model Kits

March 5, 2019 By [pete](#)

THE MAGIC OF MERIT



The whole range of the Merit 1:24-scale plastic kit assembled and painted in period: mid-Fifties. Front line: British F1 and the Jaguar D-Type. Mid row: Italian F1 and Grand Prix racers and the Lotus 11. Rear row: French racers, Mercedes W196, Cooper 500 MkIX and Aston Martin DB3S.

Text, photos and models by Aldo Zana

It was hard times in the second half of the Fifties for European kids in love with Formula One and longing to become part of its world by collecting and playing with model racers.

We Italians faced especially limited choices: the hard-to-find die-cast Nigam, the elusive Zax, or the old Mercury racers of the Forties: oddly scaled, with questionable faithfulness and tires fit for an all-terrain army truck. The rise of globalization brought from the UK to the best Italian toy shops the die-cast Dinky

Toys and the first Corgi Toys. The former listed obsolete F1/F2 single seaters of the early Fifties in its catalog. Corgi featured more updated models of British production: however, merely two, already uncompetitive in real life against our all-conquering Ferraris and Maseratis after Mercedes' withdrawal in 1955. And they looked too small alongside the Dinkies and Mercuries.

And then, out of the blue, Merit, although quite difficult to locate among the contemporary fast-growing and highly visible offerings of plastic (polystyrene) kits dominated by the leading US brands of Monogram, Revell, and Aurora.



Italian racers of the Forties and Fifties. From the left: Maserati 250F, Maserati 4CLT/48, Lancia Ferrari, Alfa Romeo 158.

In 1957 Merit produced precise 1:24-scale models of current F1 protagonists: Lancia-Ferrari V8, Maserati 250F, Gordini T-16, as well as milestones of the pre-1952 F1 seasons: Alfa Romeo 158, Talbot-Lago T26, Maserati 4CLT/48 "San Remo". And thanks to a flurry of new offers in a few months' span, we could also buy and build the emerging British single-seaters striving for

the limelight after a decade of playing second fiddle to the Italians in the form of the Connaught B-Type "Syracuse" 1956, BRM P25 1956, and Vanwall VW4 1956.

It became easier for Italian kids to become loyal to Merit's growing offer of racing cars. The company enlarged its range with three sports car icons, all made in the UK: the well-known multiple winner Jaguar D-Type, the lesser known Aston Martin DB3S and the yet unknown Lotus Mk XI, a name on the verge of becoming a leader.



All British the three sports cars in the series. From the left: Aston Martin DB3S, Lotus 11, Jaguar D in Ecurie Ecosse livery.

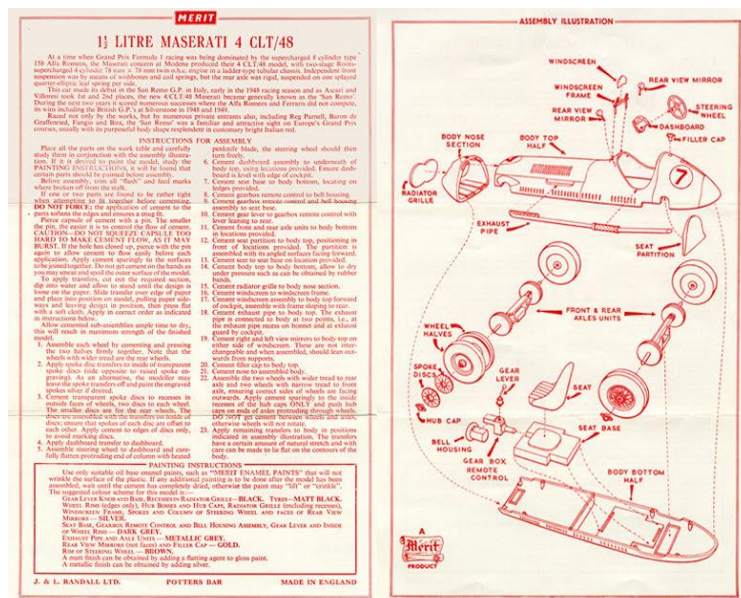
The Merit kits came from a company called J & L Randall Ltd., based in the town of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, north of London. They were all sold in a standard, non-descript box, the same for every model: small and unappealing at a time when competing US brands already showcased their products on box-lids with colorful and attractive art to win the prime spots in shop windows. The only way to select the right Merit kit was a small label glued on one of the narrower sides.



The Alfa Romeo 158 with the standard box in the background. The box was the same for every kit.

They were quite expensive for the period, too: 1,100 Liras, when the average monthly salary of a worker was about 45,000 Liras. By comparison, a Mercury die-cast model racer cost 180 Liras and a Dinky 230-250 Liras.

The kits were molded in flawless plastic; the surface was so clean and regular that it was possible to skip painting the body. It wasn't a simple task for a kid to smoothly brush the Humbrol enamels; airbrushes for modelers were still a long way into the future. The solvent used at that time by Humbrol allowed, nevertheless, a clean and uniform finish even when working with the brush.



The instruction sheet of the 4CLT/48 Maserati. The front side tells in short the history and the races of the real car, the back side presents a clear illustration of the easy assembly procedure.

Assembly was quite straightforward too: the body was split in two halves, top and bottom. Axles and driver seat had to be glued to the bottom half, other details (exhaust pipes, windscreen, dashboard, steering wheel) to the top section, before joining these two subassemblies. Each wheel/tire was molded in two halves and the tire had to be carefully painted matte black. The spokes were a decal (transfer, in British parlance) to be applied on a little transparent celluloid disc, subsequently set onto the outside of the wheel prior to gluing the hub cap. The quality of the decals was only fair and I preferred to avoid them.

The racing number decals were usually quite hard and dry, prone to cracking. Yet, it was possible to soften them using highly diluted vinyl glue, given the lack of softening liquids on the market. The instruction sheet had a

pedantic list of building steps on the front, ending with the painting indications, but a clear assembly drawing on the back. More interesting was, at the top of the first page, a short presentation of the real car, a resumé of its main successes as well as a basic description of its technical characteristics and performance.



Talbot-Lago T26, 1949, one of the two “super” kits featuring engine detail. The body was left unpainted. Note the smoothness of the plastic injection.

Two kits were super-detailed to include the engine and the removable engine bay cover: the 1950 Alfa Romeo 158 and the 1949 Talbot-Lago T-26 4.5 liter. Both were probably made so detailed because the molds were already available when the pressure to launch the new models forced the company to simplify and shorten the production cycle. The whole range of the 1956 F1 and Sports cars went on sale within 1957, in a remarkably short time to market: Lancia-Ferrari, Maserati 250F, BRM P25, Connaught B-Type “Syracuse”, Gordini T16, Vanwall VW4.

Very British was the addition of the Cooper 500 Mk IX, 1956. A tribute to the former German dominance was the kit of the Mercedes W196, the 1954 road-racing version mistakenly presented as the 1955 model. The Maserati 4CLT/48 was another obsolete racer in the series. The kit didn’t have the inner details of the Alfa Romeo and the Talbot-Lago. It was an unusual selection of a car that wasn’t a winner, yet it was driven by Thailand’s Prince Bira and Brit Reg Parnell.

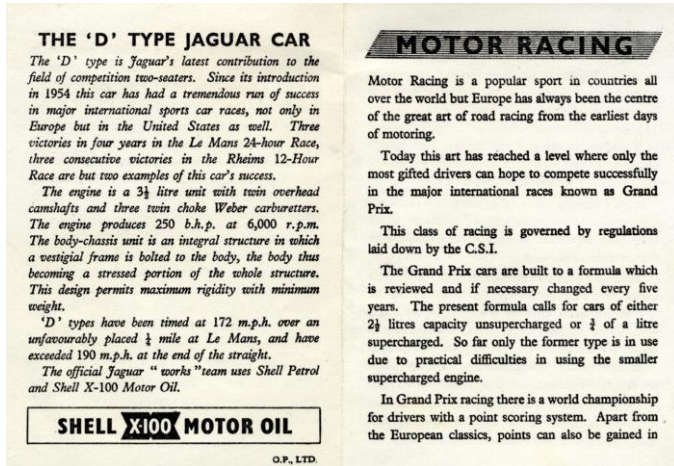


A real piece of history outside F1 and sports cars, the Cooper 500 Mk IX, 1956, recalls a glorious period of British racing. Body unpainted.

A final touch of class was the color of the ink used for the instruction sheets: dark red for the Italians, British Racing Green for the British, blue for the French. The Mercedes sheet fell outside the paradigm, printed in dark blue as the historically correct white or silver would have been impossible to read.

The boxes of the more recent kits contained a small multi-page educational leaflet on Motor Racing, a more detailed description of the

prototype, and a promotional bottom line advertising the brand of motor oil used in races by the car. The leaflet on the Vanwall doubled to eight the pages and ended with a tribute to Tony Vanderwell who “raised the prestige of British Automobile Engineering throughout the world”.



The four-page leaflet in the Jaguar D-Type box. A good recap of the car’s history.

Britain still ruled. And the following year it also became true in F1.

Below, all fourteen of the Merit models in individual photos. You won’t see this often!



Vanwall VW4, 1956, when the Brits knocked at the forefront of F1. Decals are original.



1956 Lancia Ferrari. The Merit kits was on sale early 1957, remarkably short time-to-market.



Gordini six-cylinder F2, 1952. Humbrol paint (“Enamel” on the original British tin) to cover the body.



Alfa Romeo 158 with engine cover removed to show the inner details. The other “super” kit together with the Talbot-Lago.



Alfa Romeo 158, 1950, hood in place.



The diminutive Cooper Mk IX, 1956. The silver exhaust was easier to paint.



Talbot-Lago T26, 1949. A good representation of the engine.



Maserati 4CLT/48 in Argentinian livery, as raced by Fangio in Europe.



Mercedes W 196, 1954, open wheel version. Decals are original including the chequered cover of the driver's seat.



Aston Martin DB3S, 1956. The yellow trim is an addition of the kit builder.



Connaught B-Type "Syracuse", 1956. Quite a rare bird in real and scale model worlds.



Lotus 11, 1956. Airbrush repainted after 60 years when the plastic suffered signs of shrinking.



Jaguar D-Type, 1954. The gap at the rear end of the front section of the body is due to having modified the part to make it tilting forward like the real thing.



Maserati 250F, 1956 version.



BRM P25, 1956. To use the brush for the semi-metallic finish was quite a brave endeavour over- sixty years ago.

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This article dates back to 2019.

Part 2 covers the history of Aurora Slot cars. Believe LIARS will enjoy reading .

questions or whatever please contact me.

Next month will submit a copy the early model car releases that appear in the Dec.2026 Collectible Automobiles issue. - Bill/Doc. V

https://youtu.be/Np3Qi6kuizA?si=q_oU_J20LfldI2iE
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This Week in Scale Car Modeling – Italeri and the Detroit Auto Modelers Show

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026



Italeri leads this week's scale-car news with three September releases now available directly from the manufacturer. The selection covers quite a range: a compact Italian coupe, a large-scale Safari rally car and a Dutch tractor unit that could carry several Fulvias if everyone signs the appropriate insurance forms.

These are availability developments rather than three completely new announcements, but each offers a useful project for a different kind of builder.



The Lancia Fulvia “Fanalone” Is Available in 1/24

Italeri's 1/24 Lancia Fulvia Coupé 1.6HF “Fanalone” is now available from the company's online store. Item 3619 is priced at \$57 in Italeri's home market.

This is not entirely new tooling. Italeri describes it as containing new parts, along with a photo-etched fret, chromed components, rubber tires and color instructions.

That combination makes the Fulvia particularly interesting for intermediate builders. It has enough separate detail to teach useful techniques, but its 6.5" finished length keeps the project from occupying the entire workbench.

The Fulvia would make a strong subject for a lightly weathered historic-road-car build. Subtle tire wear, a little road grime and restrained fading can add character without turning it into a rally car that has just completed three stages through a gravel quarry.

3619 Italeri Lancia Fulvia Coupé 1.6HF
“Fanalone”

Where to Buy: www.BrookhurstHobbies.com



Italeri's Big Safari Delta Is Ready for the Workbench

The most substantial release is Italeri's 1/12 Lancia Delta HF Safari, item 4720. Previously previewed by the company, it is now listed for direct purchase at \$251.

This is a serious project. The completed model measures approximately 13.1" long and includes opening doors, front and rear bonnets, a detailed engine compartment and a fully developed competition interior.

The Safari equipment gives the familiar Delta a noticeably different character. Italeri supplies off-road wheels and tires, flexible polyurethane mudguards and additional rally hardware. The kit

also includes photo-etched and chromed components, hoses, screws, springs and two decal sheets with composite-material patterns.

Working suspension adds further mechanical interest. Builders will want to study the instructions and plan their painting sequence before assembly, especially around the suspension, engine bay and opening panels.

Italeri describes the release as containing new parts but does not identify it as wholly new tooling.

4720 Italeri Lancia Delta HF Safari

Where to Buy: www.BrookhurstHobbies.com



The DAF XF95 Brings European Truck Modeling Back Into Focus

Truck builders receive the 1/24 DAF XF95 Super Space Cab, item 93834. The kit is available now for \$82 and produces a model approximately 9.6" long.

Italeri has not labeled this release as new tooling or as containing new parts. It should therefore be considered a returning or updated release rather than a newly developed kit.

The package includes a large decal sheet and color instructions. That makes the DAF a good platform for learning how to handle long stripes and commercial markings across large body panels.

The XF95 is rated Skill 4, so it is better suited to an intermediate builder than a first-time modeler. Careful chassis alignment is especially important. A truck with one wheel floating above the ground tends to look less like a hard-working long-haul

machine and more like it is cautiously avoiding a Lego brick.

93834 Italeri DAF XF 95 Super Space Cab

Where to Buy: www.BrookhurstHobbies.com



Upcoming: Detroit Area Auto Modelers Toy Show

The Detroit Area Auto Modelers Toy Show takes place November 8 at the Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center in Warren, Michigan.

The automotive focus makes it a worthwhile destination for builders searching for discontinued kits, aftermarket parts and project inspiration. The show runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with admission priced at \$5.

More info: [Detroit Area Auto Modelers Toy Show](http://DetroitAreaAutoModelersToyShow.com)

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This Week in Scale Car Modeling – New Heller, Tamiya Clic Loc Video and Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 2, 2026



Heller is bringing some storytelling to the workbench this week. Its October lineup adds a cheerful Renault boutique and a decidedly less cheerful urban barn find that offers builders somewhere more interesting to park a finished model.

Tamiya has also expanded its information about the new Clic Loc series, explaining how its glue-free Volkswagen buses are intended to go together.



Heller Opens a Tiny Renault Boutique

Announced for October: Heller's 1/24 Renault 4CV Boutique Edition combines the familiar French economy car with figures and a small display theme.

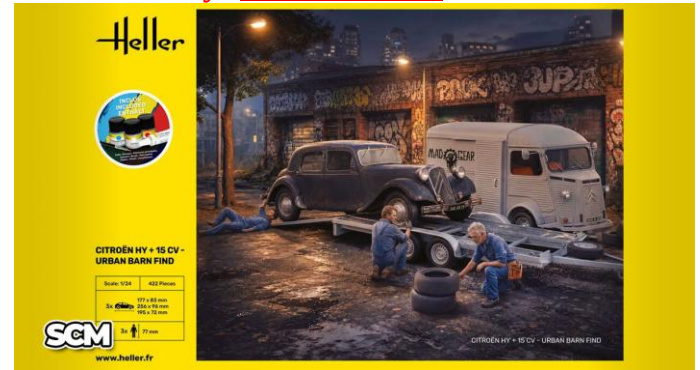
The standard kit is item 82762. Heller is also offering Starter Kit 58762, which packages the project as a more complete introduction to modeling. The standard edition is listed at \$31 in Heller's home market, while the Starter Kit is \$39.

Heller has not presented the Renault itself as new tooling. The important development is the way the subject is packaged. Rather than ending with another car floating in the middle of a shelf,

builders can create a simple scene with people and a reason for the vehicle to be there.

82762 Heller Renault 4CV – Boutique Edition

Where to Buy: www.Heller.fr



The Urban Barn Find Arrives Pre-Neglected

Announced for October: Heller's Citroën HY + 15CV Urban Barn Find takes the opposite approach.

Instead of a clean boutique scene, this 1/24 set provides the foundation for a weathered urban discovery built around two classic Citroëns. It will be offered as standard item 50335 and as Starter Kit 52335.

The package is a particularly good intermediate project because the two vehicles can receive different levels of aging. One could retain faded paint and surface corrosion, while the other receives heavier rust, grime and signs of long-term abandonment.

52335 Heller Citroen HY + 15CV Urban Barn Find

Where to Buy: www.Heller.fr



Tamiya Explains How Clic Loc Works

Tamiya's 1/24 Clic Loc Volkswagen Type 2 kits were announced earlier, but the company published a useful "What Is Clic Loc?" guide and promotional video.

The new page confirms the deliberately simple tool requirements. Tamiya recommends side cutters, tweezers and a modeling knife. Paint and cement are not required because the kits use pre-colored parts and press-fit construction. This clarification makes Clic Loc more interesting as a true first-kit option. Beginners can concentrate on removing parts cleanly, following the instructions and understanding how assemblies fit together before dealing with cement seams and painted bodywork.

Experienced builders still have room to experiment. Panel lining, detail painting, polished bodywork and subtle interior shading could improve the finished Volkswagen without defeating the purpose of the simplified kit.

The dangerous part will be telling an experienced modeler that it is supposed to be a quick build.

Watch the video here: [Tamiya Clic Loc Promotional Video](#)

Upcoming U.S. Model Shows



The ACME Southern Nationals takes place October 24 at the Clarence Brown Conference Center in Cartersville, Georgia. This automotive-specific show is expected to bring together hundreds of model cars and a large vendor area,

making it one of the season's best opportunities for contest photographs and product hunting.

More info: [ACME Southern Nationals 2026](#)

MODELZONA 2026

El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium
552 North 40th Street Phoenix, AZ 85008
Saturday, November 14th, 2026
9am 5pm
[Model Registration 9am to Noon](#)



On November 14, ModelZona 2026 comes to Phoenix, Arizona. It is a general scale-model show, but its large contest and vendor area should still make it worthwhile for automotive builders.

More info: [ModelZona 2026](#)

Model Mercantile Market

"Wanted or For Sale" section...

WANTED: Stock wheel and tire for AMT '64 Chevrolet Covair annual kit or promo.

Contact John Heyer at oldie383@gmail.com or his cell phone 631-575-6923.

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.

WANTED: Price lists for X-EL repro promo cars. Need lists from 1977-79, 1982, 1983, 1985-87, and 1990-1992.

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

WANTED: Large diameter wheels, tires, and disc brakes from

Revell/AMT/Tamiya/Aoshima/etc.
kits. 1/24th and 1/25th scale. ()

WANTED: Modular and modern motors
like LS1s, HEMIs, Hellcat, 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.

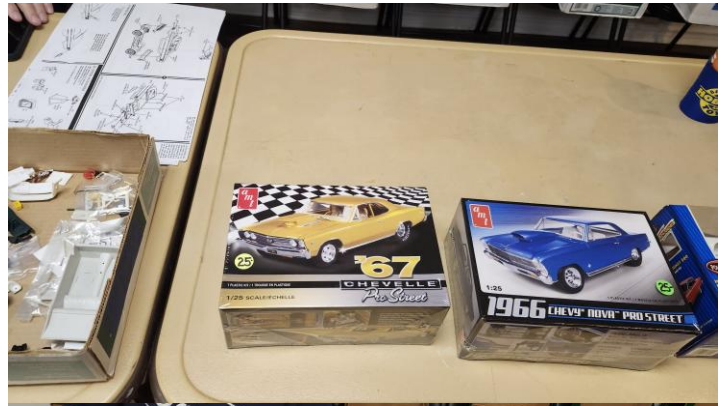
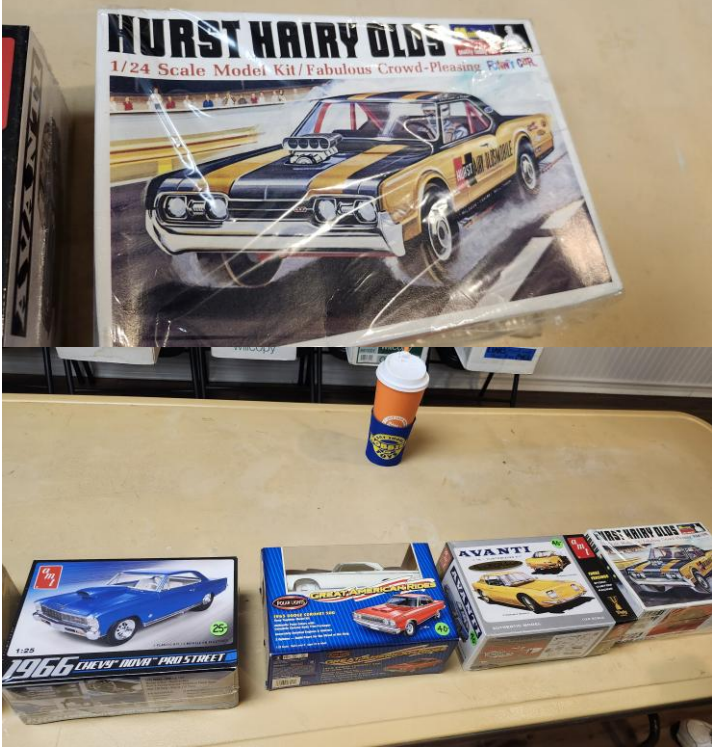
Contact Richard Manri @ 631-589-6876
or his email picorro93@gmail.com to
negotiate price or trade for the three
above.

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***Additional scenes from Septemberr
MTG***









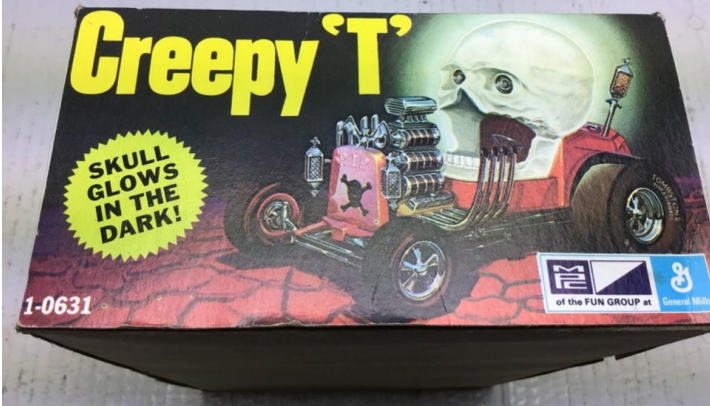








It's October and things are getting kinda dark and ghoulish:



But not as scary as:



Happy buildin!

LIARS Annual (2026) 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?**

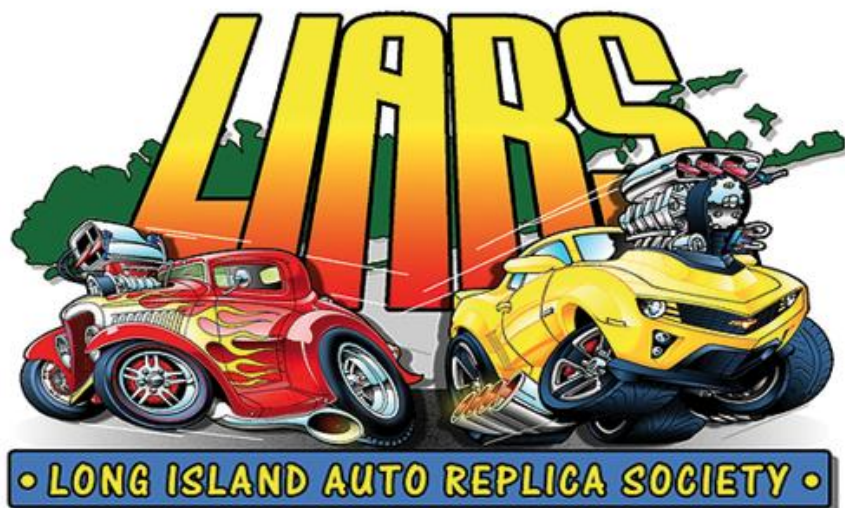
- **What was the dumbest, most boneheaded mistake you've made in the past? (Can be model or general related)**

- **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?** _____

Don't Forget...
Save the Date!



2026

MODEL CAR CHALLENGE

NOVEMBER 14, 2026

Freeport Rec. Center
130 Merrick RD., Freeport NY 11520

9am to 4pm (Award Ceremony 3pm)
24 Categories, 9 Master Awards
Special theme to be announced.

Scan the QR Code to the LIARS'
website for more information!



www.LongIslandAutoReplicaSociety.com