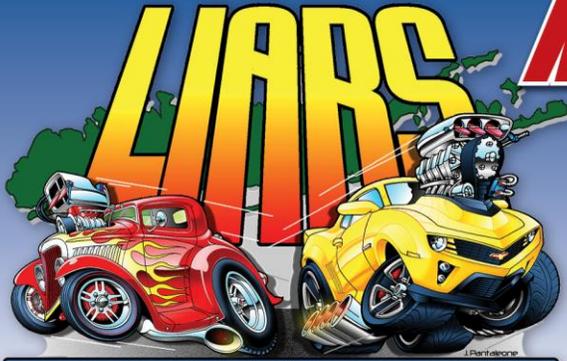


**LEND A HAND AND BRING A CAN!**



**• LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICAS SOCIETY •**

# **MODEL CAR BRIEFS**

**Meeting Themes**  
*"Munciple vehicles and rides with snow plows"*  
*"Discuss 2025 future plans"*

<b>Newsletter Stuff:</b>	<b>Club Stuff:</b>
<b>Richard Manri</b> (631)-589-6876 picorro93@gmail.com	<b>Dominick Gerace</b> (631)-834-4223 Superbird440@juno.com





### Scenes from the Christmas Party



**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.**

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

**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, Paul Drago, Will Seagraves, Dave Wallace (for Hemmings).

***From our LIARS Unofficial Official***

***Happy new year everybody! Looking forward to a great new year for our club!  
At the meeting, I want to take a moment to go over some important things for the new year:***

***Starting this month we will be collecting membership dues***

***Finances and status of new treasurer will be discussed***

***Discuss the 2025 show plans and themes/advertisement/flyers***

***Appointing officers for IPMS insurance***

***I would also like to get a few events and clinics scheduled for several club meetings this year:***

***A club kit build was discussed recently, and I would like to go forward with that for at least the Feb or March MTGs***

***Also, I'd like to bring back the "slam" contest. I think it would be entertaining for all as it's been years since we did stuff like that***

***Annual auction will be discussed and planned for September***

***Appoint members for clinics they wish to hold at MTGs.***

***I may be a little late to this Thursday's meeting. With the cold weather, I've been working 16 hour shifts seven days a week. But I'm getting out a little bit early to get to the meeting.***

***I would like to thank everybody who brought snacks and desserts for the Christmas party! Thank you Joe for bringing utensils, cups, napkins, and such! And thank you to the two club members who generously picked up the bill for the pizzas and hero! It was a great time for all!***

***If you have any ideas for the upcoming year, please bring your ideas to the meeting on Thursday.***

***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! See you all then!***

***Your unofficial official,***

***Dominick "McMonte" Gerace,***



**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 2025 great. Richie.**

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

***Once again, kind of late on the MCB due to some very last minute additions. On the other hand, we're at the new year and it's ass cheeks freezing, yet still no real snow. Next month is predicted to be an early spring with warmer temps, yet we'd still get***

**artic blasts of -10 degrees and still no snow! What to do with the plows and builds then...**

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

**That yearly memberships go up to \$50 USD (discussed at Nov 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?**

**Dominck mentioned group build up, let's hope to initialize that for the Feb or March mtg.**

**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 MTG!**

**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.**

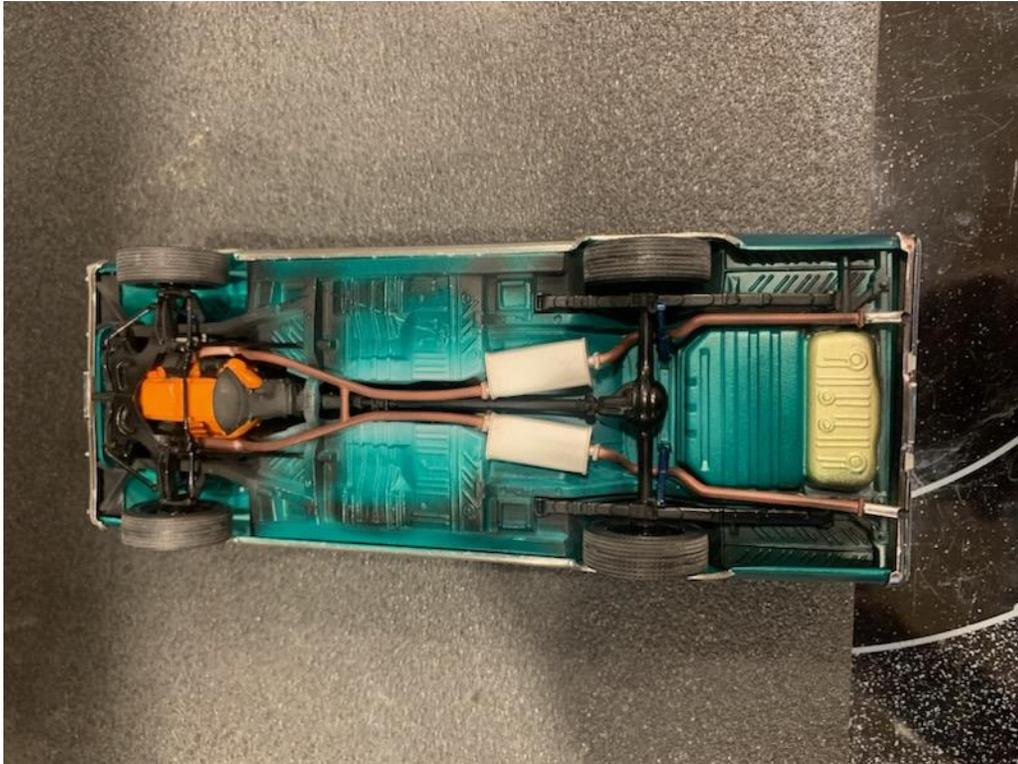
**If you forward any articles written by other sources, the original writer will be credited. Any submissions and/or input are a valued treasure.**

**Will Seagraves recent completion**

**Revell '67 Dodge Coronet R/T**

**Built OOB for the Box Stock Category. No additional details, just foil and paint.  
Good exercise to get back in the groove. Nice kit! Will,**





***Dr. V's Colum***

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwaSTB8Y570>**

# The model of nostalgia

Recalling the days of miniature kits and West Hempstead's Aurora factory

BY FRANK LOVUCE  
Special to Newsday

You bought them at Korvette's or Modell's — boxed model kits of glau-fyousell planes, trains and automobiles, monsters, spaceships and superheroes. And while many companies made model kits, the standouts came from Long Island — from the fabled Aurora Plastics of West Hempstead.

In its 27 years of existence, Aurora made kits of everything from the Wolfman to World War I planes, from Superman to the Seaview submarine from 1964's "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea." Enticed by box art that was as detailed as a movie poster, kids would take these kits home and put together the pieces — generally anywhere from 15 to 150 — using tubes of what was called airplane glue from companies like Revell or Testors, and modeling paint and brushes.

The factory, located at 44 Cherry Valley Ave. until it shuttered in 1977, was a toy wonderland of sorts to kids in the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

"I remember riding in the family car and passing the Aurora factory," says Leonard J. Provenzano, 69, of Mineola. "They had giant representations of the boxes out on the front lawn, rotating the box art. I'm kicking myself [because] I never inquired about a tour."

Syosset's Gary Levi did get a look inside the facility in the 1970s and calls it the "epicenter of all those childhood hobby efforts," a colossal warehouse of artifacts.

## THE BUILDING OF A MODEL

Aurora Plastics began in Brooklyn in 1950, founded by engineer Joseph E. Giammarino and Russian immigrant Abe Shikes to do injection molding for industrial uses. John Cuomo came on in 1952 as sales chief and a 10% partner. Expanding into the consumer market, Aurora first produced toys before pivoting to model kits, starting with two 1/48th-scale fighter jets: the Grumman F9F Panther and the Lockheed F-90. Initially targeting a younger audience than the 12- to 14-year-olds that such established model makers as Monogram and Revell aimed at, Aurora made smaller and much less detailed models in order to sell for less, according to "Aurora Model Kits" (Schiffer, 2004) by Thomas Graham, a now-retired history professor. They retailed for 79 cents to



One of collector Thomas Vaccina's completed model kits from Aurora.



Some of Thomas Vaccina's collection.

West Hempstead. The company eventually expanded to 132,000 square feet. In 1965 alone, Aurora produced 25 million model kits, according to a Newsday article published in 1964.

The main things many people remember are the pop culture kits — Marvel and DC superheroes, classic radio/TV characters like the Lone Ranger and Tonto, spaceships from science fiction TV shows like "The Invaders" and "Land of the Giants" and, among other things, such Universal Pictures movie monsters as the Creature from the Black Lagoon, Dracula and the Mummy. "I remember doing the Frankenstein's monster. I remember doing the Mummy" reminisces Gus Schaefer, 74, a retired Underwriters Laboratory executive who grew up in Uniondale and now lives in Illinois. He had gotten into model building thanks to airplane kits brought to him by his neighbor, Goldie Samu, who worked at Aurora. Later, Schaefer would buy

Aurora models at his local Modell's and at a hobby shop.

The monster figures "were actually simpler, a little more straightforward" than the airplane models, he recalls. "I don't think there were as many pieces with the figure models. You could do them in one day if you had a couple hours to dedicate to it."

## EXPANDING A BRAND

Aurora became a pop culture cornucopia, not only for its savviness in subject matter but for box art that engaged most every kid who looked at it. "Being close to New York City, Aurora got some of the best commercial artists," says collector Thomas Vaccina, 65, formerly of Hicksville and now of Georgia. "They had very colorful, very eye-catching box art, and that drew a lot of kids at the time."

Levi remembers the array of models displayed on shelves. "You would salute," he exaggerates fondly. "You had a



Peter Vetri, left, Thomas Vaccina and Rick Delfavero at Deer Park's Atlantis Toy and Hobby — which acquired most of the surviving Aurora molds — in 2023.

very limited budget based on your allowance and you had to choose. It was always about which artwork spoke to you."

Artists included James Bama, one of the deans of paperback book covers, who painted many of the horror-model boxes. DC Comics great Carmine Infantino drew Aurora's 1964 Batman box. Acclaimed aviation artist Roy Grinnell depicted fighter jets for the company. And in the 1970s, Marvel's "X-Men" artist Dave Cockrum, who lived on Long Island, drew the Superboy box. That same decade, Cockrum and comics legends Neal Adams, Dick Giordano, Gil Kane, Curt Swan, Herb Trimpe and Bellerose's John Romita Sr. variously illustrated five-page-comics Aurora included with 10 heroic figures.

Like other businesses, Aurora was involved in the community. It sponsored a team in the Rockville Centre Boys Basketball League, and contributed items to local organizations. But the old guard inevitably passed: Former Revlon executive Charles Diker acquired control in 1969 through stock purchases. Shortly afterward, Giammarino and Shikes each left the company; the former died in 1992 and the latter founded an unsuccessful model company, Addar, and died in 1986. Cuomo had retired in 1967 and died in 1971 — the year food giant Nabisco, diversifying, bought the model maker.

**THE END AND NEW BEGINNINGS**  
Yet Aurora would lose money throughout the 1970s, and the company shuttered in 1977; the general location is now a Stop & Shop. Nabisco sold Aurora's roughly 740

massive steel molds, some weighing a ton apiece, to Monogram. Five airplane-model molds were destroyed in a train accident in upstate New York. And by late 1979, for reasons including storage costs and deterioration, as many as 500 molds had been scrapped, estimates Peter Vetri, co-founder with Rick Delfavero of Deer Park's Atlantis Toy and Hobby, which in 2018 acquired most of the surviving molds and archive material.

Among the casualties, says Vetri, 53, who grew up in Garden City South and now lives in Kings Park, were the molds for Spider-Man, the Hulk and Tonto. The Batman and Vampirella molds survive, but Atlantis does not have them. The company did rescue the Captain America mold, but has no production license from Marvel Comics.

Fortunately, either through such acquired original molds or through coproductions with other companies with original or reproduction molds, Atlantis offers many classic kits — from historic planes, ships and cars to Ed "Big Daddy" Roth comical drag racers to the glow-in-the-dark Phantom of the Opera and The Forgotten Prisoner of Castle-Maré.

"We lived close to a drugstore that sold comic books, candy and Aurora models. My brother would assemble the model kits and I distinctly remember a Dracula kit in all its glow-in-the-dark splendor. I can still close my eyes and see that kit," says Dave Braun, 59, a health care worker from Rocky Point.

For those fortunate enough to have built Aurora models or have held one in your hands, that can still be all it takes.

## EnterTRAINment Junction

Dave Van a Spotlight Hobbies contributor contacted the buyer, who he is building a large transportation museum in Chattanooga TN and plans on moving EnterTRAINment Junction display there AND adding to it!

This is 1/25 scale too!



The display goes night / day and back.....



<https://www.trains.com/mrr/news-reviews/news/firecrown-acquires-entertainment-junction-plans-new-family-interactive-transportation-museum-in-chattanooga-tn/>

**Firecrown acquires EnterTRAINment Junction, plans new family interactive transportation museum in Chattanooga, TN**

**Acquisition includes the 25,000-square-foot layout, Thomas Museum, and Thomas Outdoor Train, among other assets**

**[EnterTRAINment Junction](#), the popular family attraction in West Chester, Ohio, known for housing the world's largest indoor train display closed January 5, 2025. This closure marks the end of an era for the Cincinnati landmark but opens a new chapter for its exhibits under Firecrown's stewardship.**

**EnterTRAINment Junction has long been a cherished landmark, renowned for its extraordinary scale and intricate design. Spanning an impressive 80,000 square feet, this entertainment center housed the world's largest indoor train display, with one G-scale layout taking up over 25,000 square feet. It was a marvel not only for its size but for its elaborate landscapes and highly detailed train models, each meticulously crafted to captivate both children and adults alike.**

**Annually, EnterTRAINment Junction attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors from across the country, entrenching itself as a must-see attraction in Cincinnati. Its family-friendly allure and engaging events, such as Everything Thomas and Christmas at**

the Junction, fostered a loyal fan base that returned year after year to partake in its unique offerings. Despite its closure, EnterTRAINment Junction's legacy is set to continue through Firecrown's ambitious plans in Chattanooga, preserving the magic that entertained so many for nearly two decades.



CEO and founder of Firecrown Craig Fuller

[Craig Fuller](#), CEO and founder of Firecrown, sees this acquisition as a perfect fit for the company's vision. "The Chattanooga Choo Choo is a world-famous train town, and so we think this fits perfectly in the Chattanooga story but also preserves the legacy built here in Cincinnati," Fuller stated. The move aligns with Firecrown's status as a category leader in affluent enthusiast media and commerce, particularly in the transportation sector.

The new museum, tentatively named "The Motion Museum," aims to be more than just a relocation of EnterTRAINment Junction's exhibits. Firecrown's plans include expanding the scope to encompass all forms of transportation, including aviation, trucking, and maritime vessels. This broadened focus reflects the company's diverse portfolio, which includes publications such as FLYING Magazine and various train-focused titles acquired from Kalmbach Media.

Firecrown owns Trains, Trains.com, Model Railroader, Garden Trains, Classic Trains, Classic Toy Trains, and Toy Trains. It also publishes books, operates a streaming TV network, and manages a large e-commerce operation, all dedicated to model railroading. The company also oversees the media operations of aviation, marine, space, and FreightWaves.

Firecrown's acquisition includes the 25,000-square-foot layout, the Thomas Museum, and the Thomas Outdoor Train, among other assets. The company is committed to preserving these models to the best of their ability while integrating them into a larger, more diverse exhibition.

Fuller and his team aim to have the new transportation museum and indoor theme park operational by the end of 2025 or early 2026. This timeline allows for careful planning and execution of what promises to be a significant addition to Chattanooga's tourist attractions.

As the transportation industry continues to evolve, this new museum and theme park could serve as a hub for both nostalgic reflection and forward-thinking inspiration. It represents not just the preservation of EnterTRAINment Junction's legacy but also the potential for new educational opportunities and economic impact in the Chattanooga area.

Chattanooga is already a major regional tourism city, hosting attractions like the Tennessee Aquarium, Rock City, Ruby Falls, the Creative Discovery Museum, the Chickamauga Battlefield, and the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum. Chattanooga is also home to a railroad-themed hotel, The Chattanooga Choo Choo.

The transition from EnterTRAINment Junction to the new Chattanooga-based museum and indoor theme park underscores a broader trend of reimagining traditional attractions for modern audiences. By expanding beyond trains to include various modes of transportation, Firecrown is betting on the enduring fascination with mobility and technological progress.

“Firecrown, Chattanooga, and Transportation are all natural fits. We are the largest transportation media platform, located in a large transportation city, and now we will have a large museum dedicated to transportation. This will be a place to celebrate and engage people of all ages in the magical world of transportation,” Fuller stated.

*Next item*

**NNL West 2025 Model Car Show videos include:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gA220UfysEY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpFdAdDgR1M>

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

By: [mlweller](#) another Spotlight Hobbies contributor developed/posted some of his photos from the NNL Western Nationals. I’m a better guitar player than photographer and the first two tracks are mine.

<https://youtu.be/lwaSTB8Y570?si=aS-PbeZbwzMJPIh7>

[NNL Western Nationals 2025](#)

[NNL WEST 2024 Model Car Builds - The SEMA Show of Model Cars](#)

For Reference Dr.V included [Biggest Model Show in the Nation! Behind the scenes at NNL East 2024.](#)

**Tonka 1 8 25**

[http://wwwboard2.spotlighthobbies.com/cgi-bin/bbs62x/webbbs\\_config.pl?md=index;page=1](http://wwwboard2.spotlighthobbies.com/cgi-bin/bbs62x/webbbs_config.pl?md=index;page=1)

**55 Most Valuable Tonka Toys of All Time**

*Kids have been playing with cars and trucks for a long time. In 1946, Mound Metalcraft began making colorful metal, and they were a hit. The company became Tonka Toys Incorporated in 1955, and the rest is history. Today, many vintage Tonka toys are worth some serious dough. If you find any of these trucks laying in an old toy box, they might just fund a future shopping spree (or, in some cases, college). Check out some pricey Tonka toys recently found on !*

**55. Vintage Tonka Green Gremlin**

**Price:** \$320.55

**Bottom line:** While Tonka was known for its trucks, it also made toy cars like this Green Gremlin. This particular model with an exposed, silver engine is one of the rarest, which explains how a 2.5-inch toy car sold for over \$300.

*It even had a split in the plastic on one side, which was a common defect that cropped up when Tonka started producing more toys with plastic in the 1970s instead of solid steel.*

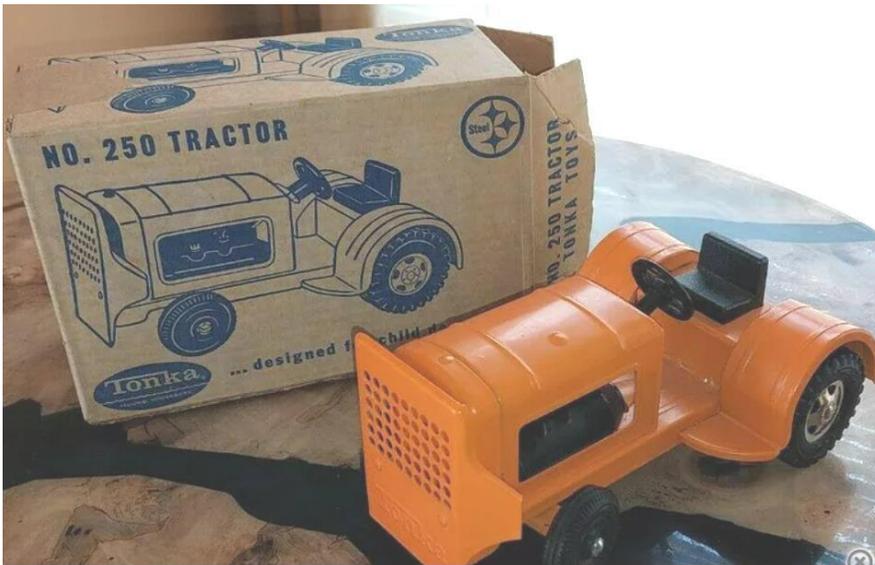
*54. Vintage 1970s Tonka Winnebago*



**Price:** \$324.99

**Bottom line:** *If gas prices weren't so high, we'd take this vintage Tonka Winnebago on a road trip in a heartbeat. It looks brand new and included the figurines with it. The large camper van measures nearly 2 feet in length, and the inside is highly detailed, featuring a miniature refrigerator and original Tonka decals.*

*As tempting as it would be to play with it, a collectible this old is better left on display than taken to the park.*  
**53. Tonka No. 250 Utility Tractor**



**Price:** \$325

**Bottom line:** *You'd be hard-pressed to find another Tonka tractor this old in such superb condition. The bright-orange paint is practically perfect, with just one small scratch that you'd have to hunt for to find.*

*It also included the original box, and its design is so nostalgic that it would probably be valuable all on its own.*  
**52. 1960s Tonka Farms Stake Truck**



**Price:** \$344

**Bottom line:** *This rare Tonka Farms truck was made around 1960. As you can see, it was kept in pristine condition, still shiny and with few scratches on the light-brown paint.*

*The white trailer has a few more scratches, but for the right collector, the scuffs just elevate its old-world charm.*

**50. Vintage 1950s Tonka State Highway Set (Tie)**



**Price:** \$350

**Bottom line:** *Over the years, Tonka adapted its designs to fit with modern trends.*

*In the 1950s, the company released a series of neon-colored trucks, including this state highway truck in a shade of bright- lime green.*

**50. Vintage Tonka Toys Metal Pressed Steel Carnation Milk Truck Van (Tie)**



**Price:** \$350

**Bottom line:** *A vintage Carnation milk truck like this is rare enough that it doesn't need to be perfect to be worth something. It sold on as is — rust spots, scrapes dents and all.*

*It's also one of the smaller Tonka trucks listed, measuring only 12-inches long, yet it still sold for a few hundred bucks.*

#### 49. Vintage 1954 Tonka Green Giant Semi



**Price:** \$369

**Bottom line:** *Did you know the Jolly Green giant is nearly a century old? The mascot was designed by the Minnesota Valley Canning Company for General Mills in 1925. In 1954, Tonka made a toy version of the company's delivery truck.*

*This one was played with back in the day, but because it's made of steel, it has held up much better than a modern plastic toy would after almost 70 years.*

#### 48. 1956 Tonka Farms Truck



**Price:** \$375

*Bottom line: Tonka produced several lines of realistic-looking miniatures, and this one hails from the Tonka's farm line. The vintage steel Tonka truck was labeled No. 56 and was designed after a Ford pickup truck.*

*The gently-played-with vehicle was stored in a glass showcase for years before it sold on for \$375.*  
 47. Vintage Tonka 1964 Army Loboy Dozer



**Price:** \$379

*Bottom line: This vintage Tonka set is a nice example of a quality restoration job. Each piece of the set, which included items made from 1964 to 1970, has been carefully repainted in a deep, forest-green shade.*

*While the set would be worth even more if it had its original paint, a good restoration job is the next best thing.*  
 46. Vintage Tonka 'Minute Maid' Box Truck



**Price:** \$380

**Bottom line:** *Just looking at this vintage Tonka truck feels like taking a step back in time to grandma's house in the 1950s, selling lemonade out on the sidewalk on a hot summer day.*

*This Minute Maid Tonka box truck was clearly played with, but due the inclusion of all its original parts and its overall rarity, it still sold for \$380.*

#### **45. Vintage 1950s Tonka Aerial Sand Loader**



**Price:** \$380

**Bottom line:** *Not all vintage Tonka toys are trucks. This Aerial Sand Loader was tons of fun to play with at the playground. It was made of solid metal, and the paint is in impressively good condition for an item that's more than 70 years old.*

*The seller even joked, "I took great care of this toy, and it's in amazing shape for its age. But then again, so am I!"*

#### **44. Vintage 1960 Tonka Tanker Truck**



**Price:** \$385

*Bottom line: Tonka Tanker No. 145 was a large, pressed steel Tonka Toy that was sold for several seasons in the 1960s.*

*Even though some of the lettering was chipped, and the red paint shows wear in spots, this tanker is rare enough to still be worth hundreds of dollars.*

#### *41. Vintage Tonka 1962 Pink Jeep Surrey (Tie)*



**Price:** \$389

*Bottom line: It's not often that a feminine-looking vintage Tonka toy pops up, so this Jeep Surrey is quite a find. It's bright, bubblegum pink and in perfect condition.*

*It was also on the cover of the Tonka catalog and would look amazing on display alongside a [vintage Barbie](#).*

#### *41. Vintage Tonka 1955 Wrecker Tow Truck (Tie)*



**Price:** \$389

*Bottom line: Great for a display piece, this bright red-and-white Tonka toy hails from the year 1955.*

*The pressed steel toy has some minor wear from the child who played with it long ago, but the scuffed paint gives it a timeless, antique look that many collectors appreciate.*

#### **41. Vintage Tonka Bulk Storage Fuel Tanks (Tie)**



**Price:** \$389

*Bottom line: Not all valuable, vintage Tonka toys are trucks. Tonka made tons of lifelike equipment that were miniature models of the real thing, including these bulk storage fuel tanks. Often, listings only offer one, but this seller had a matching set to share.*

*Each 11-inch tank was in good condition with working valves and the original labels. One platform was rustier than the other, but for an item half a century old, that's hardly shocking.*

#### **40. Original Buddy L. Ford Dump Truck**



**Price:** \$399.99

**Bottom line:** *This 1960s Buddy L Ford tandem axle hydraulic dump truck is a great example of an unrestored, vintage Tonka truck. It was clearly played with, with scuffs and scratches from decades long past.*

*To some, that's a deterrent. To other collectors, its wear adds charm and tells a story. Despite having a crack in the windshield, the truck was sold in working order, including a fully functional hydraulic system.*

### 39. Vintage Tonka Toy Fisherman Pickup Truck



**Price:** \$400

**Bottom line:** *This pressed steel Tonka Fisherman pickup truck was a refurbishment project by a seasoned reseller and restoration expert.*

*The truck was fully repainted with a pearlescent blue hood and a white roof. The rest of the truck was left untouched, and it still has the original headlights and tires.*

### 38. Vintage Tonka Mighty Scraper



**Price:** \$405

**Bottom line:** *This vintage Tonka mighty scraper was made in 1968. Toys like this were made to play rough with, digging in dirty sandboxes and mud piles, so it's a wonder this one was kept in mint condition.*

*It was only taken out of the box for photos, so its \$405 selling price was quite a find.*

### 37. Vintage Tonka Tanker No. 145



**Price:** \$412.25

**Bottom line:** *Vintage toy collectors would be hard-pressed to find a Tonka fire engine that looks better than this one.*

*Its original, bright red paint is just as glossy as the day it hit the shelves in 1960, and the truck doesn't have a single crack or scratch on it.*

### 35. Tonka Jeep Wrecker Tow Truck (Tie)



**Price:** \$434

**Bottom line:** *The seller didn't share much information about this Tonka Jeep Wrecker Tow Truck, but isn't she a beauty?*

*Model number 2435 was made of pressed steel and came with a plow, and judging by the pictures, this one was in mint condition. It also came with the original box, which always boosts its value.*

### 35. Vintage 1956 Tonka Metro Van (Tie)



**Price:** \$434

*Bottom line: Original, mint condition Tonka trucks are the most valuable, but high-quality restorations are worth a pretty penny, too.*

*This 1956 Dodge Holsum bread van was too worn to sell in its original state, so it was sandblasted down to the metal, then primed, sanded, and painted orange.*

*It was also fixed up with new handles headlights, axles, hub caps, bumpers and tires.*

### **33. Tonka Vintage Military Grader (Tie)**



**Price:** \$450

*Bottom line: Produced between 1963 and 1966, the Tonka GR 2-2431 Military Green Grader is a favorite among collectors. They were first sold as part of a four-piece boxed set with a grader, dozer, truck and jeep.*

*Now, it's hard to find a complete set up for sale. Even so, this grader was a priceless find, with just some minor scuffs and scratches on the 17-inch long vehicle.*

***33. Vintage Tonka No. 5 Pumper Truck (Tie)***



**Price:** \$450

*Bottom line: Estate sales are a fantastic place to scoop up hidden gems like this vintage Tonka No. 5 fire truck. The shiny red paint looks almost brand-new, and the rubber and plastic fittings are all intact.*

*It's almost miraculous that a truck made in the 1950s has held up so well.*

### **32. Tonka Toys 'Flavor-Kist' Private Label Box Truck**



**Price:** \$461

*Bottom line: Tonka produced several private-label, branded trucks that were especially popular because of how recognizable they were. This 1950s Flavor-Kist truck was made on a 1:16th scale.*

*It has plenty of wear and tear, but for the seasoned collector, it makes an ideal restoration piece.*

### **30. Vintage Tonka Toys No. 380 Troop Carrier (Tie)**



**Price:** \$465

**Bottom line:** *Tonka Toys made the No. 380 Troop Carrier in 1964. Like most early Tonka trucks, it was made of pressed steel that held up remarkably well over the years.*

*The version sold on was never played with, but it did have some tarnishing and discoloration due to its age. Still, with the original box, it was worth almost \$500.*

### **30. Tonka Marshall Field Semi Truck, Trailer, Pressed Steel (Tie)**



**Price:** \$465

**Bottom line:** *Unlike today's toy trucks, vintage Tonka trucks were made of steel. This one was made in 1952 with metallic navy blue paint and the Marshall Field logo on the side.*

*If \$465 sounds like a lot, that's nothing compared to the Tonka trucks in better condition. This one has scratches and paint chips, and some parts have been replaced over the years.*

*Still, the private label made this 22-inch Tonka toy a toughie to find, so it went for a few hundred dollars despite the mediocre condition.*

***29. DeSalle Tonka G Fox Hartford CT Vintage Toy Truck***



**Price:** \$486.89

**Bottom line:** Privately branded Tonka trucks tend to be more valuable than standard models. This DeSalle Tonka toy is only 15 inches long, but only 300 of them were made. Despite the vintage design, it was made in 1997 in the style of the older 1960s Tonka trucks.

While it was displayed on a shelf for a decade, it was never played with and sold in mint condition. The fact that it comes with a signed certificate of authenticity and the bottom of the truck was signed by Don DeSalle himself only adds to its value.

#### 28. Vintage Mighty Tonka Euclid Green Dump Truck



**Price:** \$498

**Bottom line:** The age of vintage Tonka toys can be estimated by the style of the truck. This 1971 model used brighter, neon paint and more modern wheels than some of the earlier Tonka designs.

*It has a few signs of play wear, but the 34-inch truck was still in unusually good condition for a truck that's over 50 years old.*

***27. Vintage Tonka Marine Service Truck Trailer***



**Price:** \$495

**Bottom line:** *Tonka toys were meant to be miniature versions of real vehicles, and this one didn't miss the mark. The blue, pressed steel Tonka Marine Service semi had it all — a boat trailer, four Tonka boats with seats and two extra outboard motors.*

*The set measures 27 inches in length, and it likely would have been worth even more if it weren't for a crack in the windshield and paint loss on the body of the truck.*

#### **26. Mighty Tonka Clam Train**



**Price:** \$499

**Bottom line:** *Tonka didn't just make trucks. They made all kinds of vehicles back in the 1960s, including this clam crane toy. While the toy was played with in 1966 and has scratches and rust here and there, it works just fine, clam digger and all.*

*Of the early Tonka toys, the clam train is one of the more challenging to find.*

#### **25. Vintage Tonka Toys Sanitary Service Truck**



**Price:** \$499.95

**Bottom line:** *If we were kids, a trash truck wouldn't be our first choice for a toy. Vintage toy collectors, on the other hand, seem to have a different opinion. This old sanitary service truck has a working hydraulic scoop and was sold with two matching dumpsters.*

*Even with a few chips here and there and missing Tonka decals, the sanitary service truck is valuable. That's mostly because it was only sold for a year, so there are only a handful out there to scoop up.*

#### **24. Vintage Tonka Truck Mighty Car Carrier 3990**



**Price:** \$499.99

**Bottom line:** *We couldn't find out much about this vintage Tonka truck car carrier, but it sure looks cool. It was offered on with a set of small cars and the original box, and it appears to be in pristine condition. Judging by the design, it was likely made in the 1960s.*

#### **23. Vintage Yellow Tonka Arcade Game Shovel Toy**



**Price:** \$499.99

**Bottom line:** *They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and we're inclined to agree. This vintage Tonka arcade game shovel looks like junk. It's visibly worn with paint loss and rust all over, but miraculously, the toy still works.*

*We'd never have guessed that something so rusty would sell for \$500, but it's rare enough that it's worth restoring for a serious collector.*

## **22. Tonka Toy Gasoline Oil Tanker Trunk No 33\**



**Price:** \$535

**Bottom line:** *Even toy trucks need gas, and how is the gas going to get to the gas station without a gasoline tanker? Tonka really thought of everything.*

*This bright red gasoline tanker truck was made in the 1960s. It has visible patches of missing paint, but to an antique collector, the chips only add to the toy's charm.*

***21. Tonka Hot Pickup 2360***



**Price:** \$549.99

**Bottom line:** *Can you guess when this fun Tonka truck was made? The red, orange and yellow stripes on the side are a hint. The rugged pickup truck was made in 1978.*

*Unlike the previous Tonka toys listed, this one was never played with. Finding a toy this old in near-perfect condition is almost unheard of.*

*It's not as rare as the Tonka models from the 1950s, but it's still worth a ton.*

#### **20. Tonka Lumber Truck**



**Price:** \$560

**Bottom line:** *Ever seen one of those trucks piled high with logs? It's by far the most terrifying truck to drive behind, but Tonka couldn't resist making a toy version.*

*The metallic bronze truck has a few chips in the paint, but no significant dents or damage.*

#### **19. Vintage Tonka Aerial Ladder No. 5**



**Price:** \$575

*Bottom line: If we had to pick a collectible Tonka toy that looks the most fun to play with, it would be this one.*

*The vintage 1955 fire truck was only sold for a year, and it has more features than you'd ever imagine. It has a bubble light on the roof, a siren mounted on the right front fender, two working ladders and four fire extinguishers.*

*The most unique element of the Tonka aerial ladder truck is that it was made while Mound Metalcraft was in the process of rebranding to Tonka Toys. On the edge of the trailer, it still has M.F.D. (Mound Fire Department) printed along the side.*

#### **18. Tonka Red Interchanger Truck**



**Price:** \$598

*Bottom line: Tonka truck No. 875-5 first appeared in Tonka's 1955 catalog. It was sold alongside the builders supply set, which came with a load of lumber and chains to secure them.*

*While this particular listing didn't include these accessories, the truck alone sold for a whopping \$600. Plus shipping.*

***17. Tonka No. 5 Sportsman Truck***



**Price:** \$600

*Bottom line: Now here's a perfect example of what a mint condition vintage Tonka truck looks like. The Tonka No. 5 Sportsman Truck was made in the 1960s, but judging by the picture, you'd never know that it's as old as your parents.*

*Not a dent or ding is to be found on the truck, boat or box. A collector's dream.*

*16. Vintage Tonka Camper Truck No. 530*



**Price:** \$612

*Bottom line: A trademark of vintage toys, the Tonka Camper Truck No. 530 featured a pastel, sky blue finish with a white top and tiny, functional windows.*

*The piece had a few scratches at the time of sale, but thanks to its original state and the inclusion of its original box, it was still quite valuable.*

***15. Vintage Tonka Farms Stake Truck***



**Price:** \$710

**Bottom line:** *The Tonka Farms line of toys had several vehicles made for a farm scene, including tractors, pickup trucks, and this one, which was meant to transport livestock.*

*The paint is worn in places, but that's to be expected for an item as old as it is. Cracks or dents would reduce its value, but the aging paint just makes it look like more of an antique.*

#### **14. Tonka Structo Sears Roebuck Trailer Truck**



**Price:** \$728

**Bottom line:** *Tonka really went the extra mile for authenticity. After all, kids love to play with mini versions of what they see out in the real world.*

*In the 1970s, Sears Roebuck was huge. Tonka made a branded Sears truck with a connected trailer, and it was a major hit. If you have one up in the attic, consider yourself lucky. Not many were made, so it's worth hundreds.*

### 13. Tonka Toys Light Green Pickup Truck



**Price:** \$737.76

**Bottom line:** *Vintage toys come with varying degrees of wear and tear, but you're not likely to find one in better condition than this light green Tonka pickup truck. Produced in the 1960s, the truck is immaculately clean, gently played with and in near mint condition.*

*The only way you'd find one in better shape is to get ahold of one that's new in its original, unopened box.*

### 12. Tonka Star-Kist Tuna Delivery Truck



**Price:** \$800

**Bottom line:** *What a beauty. Like the Sears Roebuck Tonka truck, this is another great example of a branded Tonka toy that held its value through the decades.*

*Made of pressed steel in 1955, it's surprisingly heavy, weighing in at nearly four pounds. It's also a fantastic reminder to treat your toys with care, because this one sold for 800 bucks.*

*It was, admittedly, restored by a professional, but it's nearly impossible to tell.*

### ***11. Vintage Red Tonka Ramp Hoist***



**Price:** \$899

***Bottom line:*** This vintage, bright red tonka ramp truck was far from perfect when it was sold on . It had rust patches under the Tonka truck door decals, missing patches of paint, and wear and tear consistent with play on the bed of the truck.

*While its \$900 selling price might come as a surprise what with all the marks, to the right collector, it tells a story. A played- with toy is much more special than one that spent its entire life on a shelf.*

### ***10. Vintage Smith Miller Custom Oliver Tractor***



**Price:** \$910

***Bottom line:*** Beep, beep. This vintage Tonka truck is as old as a Tonka truck can get. It was originally produced in the 1940s out of cast aluminum, but it was later refurbished and combined with parts from a Tonka truck made in the '60s.

*Mash-ups like this might sound less appealing than a true, vintage Tonka, but the restoration was so well done that it's hard to see the difference.*

*With the trailer attached, the entire setup measures an impressive 27 inches. As a bonus, the listing included a 1/16 scale Oliver Super 77 diesel tractor.*

**9. Vintage Tonka Ramp Hoist Truck Restore/Painted Mint Green**



**Price:** \$950

**Bottom line:** *Toys with working parts are so much cooler than ones that just sit there and look pretty. This vintage Tonka ramp hoist truck from 1965 was meticulously restored to superb condition.*

*The ramp on the 19.5-inch truck is fully functional, too. Vintage collectibles are the most valuable when sold in original mint condition, but for a display piece, a quality restoration piece is still a lucky find.*

#### **8. Rare Tonka No. 2140 Outdoor Living Set**



**Price:** \$995

**Bottom line:** *If camping is more your thing, this outdoor living set might be your dream collectible. Set No. 2140 came with a camper van, a jeep, and an SUV with a boat trailer. All of the items are a shade of mint green with white and cream accents.*

*The set was made in 1965, so the box has seen its better days, and some of the white paint is discolored. Even with minor wear, it sold for close to \$1,000.*

#### **7. Vintage Tonka Roll-Back Truck No. 640**



**Price:** \$1,050

**Bottom line:** *This vintage, pressed steel Tonka truck might be the best choice for a holiday display piece. Made in 1963, it comes with a working roll back and the original tow hook.*

*It was discovered at an estate sale with minor wear, but it was resold on for over \$1,000. Can't you just see it with a miniature Christmas tree loaded on the bed?*

#### 6. Vintage Blue Tonka Pickup Truck

→ <https://www.workandmoney.com/s/valuable-tonka-toys-1be1aaad4cb8484d>



**Price:** \$1,100

**Bottom line:** *Look at this beauty. Even after decades, the blue paint is still shiny, aside from a couple of minor scuff marks on the roof.*

*While most vintage Tonka trucks have tons of dents and scratches, this one showed almost no signs of play wear at the time it was sold.*

*As tempting as it is to play with such a beautiful truck, its price tag definitely makes it a display-only piece.*

#### 5. Tonka Toys Wheaton Van Lines Semi



**Price:** \$1,275

**Bottom line:** *If you have an old Tonka truck that isn't in perfect condition, don't count yourself out.*

*This 1960s Wheaton Van Lines truck had visible rust spots along the roof, but the rest of the toy was in good condition. No dents, working axles and a scratch-free windshield.*

*While it would have been worth even more with a perfect coat of paint, it still sold for over \$1,000.*

#### **4. White Tonka Hydraulic Aerial Ladder Fire Truck Set**



**Price:** \$1,601.99

**Bottom line:** *The more detailed a collectible toy is, the harder it is to find without missing or damaged parts. Made in 1959, this vintage Tonka fire truck set had a working aerial fire ladder, a hydrant, a wrench, and three different firefighting vehicles included.*

*The only damaged part was a cracked hose. The box also showed light signs of wear, but on the whole, it was in fantastic condition.*

### 3. Tonka Big Mike State Highway Snow Plow



**Price:** \$1,900

**Bottom line:** *Even pretend cities need snowplows on winter days. Tonka produced Big Mike, a state highway snowplow, with dual hydraulics.*

*The solid metal truck was played with gently, but the previous owner restored the paint and replaced missing parts, including a tire, hubcap and front lamp. All the hydraulics work, however, and the sheet metal in front doesn't have a single dent.*

*It just goes to show that keeping your collectibles in excellent condition is worth the effort. You never know [what items collectors value](#).*

### 2. Tonka 405 Sportsman Toy Pickup Truck



**Price:** \$2,177.77

**Bottom line:** *Just by the picture, it's easy to see that this vintage Tonka truck was kept in pristine condition. It still had its original finish without a single scratch, plus its original box and the boat it came with. Pretty impressive considering it was made in the early 1960s.*

*Even with some slight yellowing in places, we'd gladly take a road trip in it. Maybe not for two grand, though.*

### 1. Tonka B-210 Road Builders Set

*to used toys, and the set sold for over \$3,000. [Home](#)*

*[PageAbout UsTerms of ServicePrivacy PolicyAdvertiseConta](#)*

STORE name	LOCATION	NOTES	STATUS Open Defunct
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[c](#)  
[t](#)



<https://www.workandmoney.com/s/valuable-tonka-toys-1be1aaad4cb8484d>



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*Edition, Inc.*

**Hobby Shop List:**

**By Paul Drago**

HOBBY SHOP LIST, NASSAU / SUFFOLK  
work in progress last update  
1/11/25

**Price:** \$3,055

**Bottom line:** *Needless to say, an entire set of Tonka toys is more valuable than a single item. What really makes this set valuable, however, is that it was made in 1957. Like most Tonka toys, it's not in brand-new condition. Toys were meant to be played with, right?*

*This set had some wear and tear when it was sold, including a broken hydraulics system, some black markings on the dump truck and tape on the corners of the box.*

*That's what buyers expect when it comes*

	Alsand's	Deer Park	Soldiers, miniatures, models, supplies
	Baseline Hobbies	West Babylon	Full-service store
3.	Bay Snore Hobby	Bay Shore	Moved from the clusterfluck a few stores down
4.	Caboose Hobbies	Huntington	
5.	Caboose Hobbies	PortWashingt on	on Harbor Road?
6.	Coronet	Hicksville	(Children store), but had a big selection of models
7.	DAVES	Freeport	One of the best
8.	Dick's Hobby land		Started in Bayport and moved to Sayville
9.	East coast hobbies		models and r/c's
10.	EASTLI	Massapequa	Ernie Finimore worked there! And he has great stories
11.	EDLEES	Levittown	slot car and hobby shop / became an electronics store
12.	Fletchers Hobby House	Centereach	2 doors down from pancake cottage on Rt 25
13.	Fourth world	Smithtown	sells comics and models relating to comics
14.	Gold Coast Hobby	Glen Head	In train station storefront
15.	Gold Spike	ISLIP	Rt 111 in Islip
16.	Great Escapes	Sun Vet mall.	
17.	Hank's		
18.	Hobby time	Plainview	Morton village shopping center
19.	Hobby world	East Islip	

20.	Hurricane hobbies		r/c's models slot cars / slot Track and supplies
21.	Island Hobby Nut	Commack	RC store
22.	Larry's	Northport	On Jericho Turnpike
23.	Men at arms	Middle Island	Models, and a diverse selection of related items
24.	Nassau Hobbies	Freeport	Old store still in business
25.	Patchogue Hobby	Patchogue	
26.	Paul's Toybox	Massapequa	Former LIARS member Paul Lehack had a store
27.	Phase 3	Farmingdale	slot car track and hobby shop
28.	Platinum Hobbies	Selden	RC store
29.	Polk's Hobby	East Meadow	Branch store from famous NY City store
30.	Port Jeff Slot Cars	Port Jefferson	Slot car track and models
31.	Squadron	Syosett	On Jericho Turnpike
32.	Sunrise Trail	E. Farmingdale	eBay store, in an industrial complex? trains, RC , supplies
33.	Three Guys Hobby	smith town	sold trains and related along with models
34.	TRACK DAY hobbies	Elmont	Appears to be a RC store
35.	Train Land	Lynbrook	Large train store
36.	UNKNOWN*	Wantagh	Park Ave, Near Mulcahy's: art supplies and hobbies
37.	UNKNOWN*	Uniondale	Small crowded hobby shop on Front Street
38.	UNKNOWN*		Bay Shore on Union Blvd,
39.	UNKNOWN*	Farmingdale	On Main Street in heart of town
40.	UNKNOWN*	Mineola	Baseline hobbies? small store in town, mostly military
41.	Willis Hobbies	Mineola	RC, models, trains, slot cars, supplies

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.

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.

### **Christmas Party Meeting pictures**

This is an ongoing list: it is designed primarily for full-service hobby shops (As we remember and grew up with) there can be a few suggestions as we add more entries. Sadly, Today's listing of "hobby shops" can be misleading: They are classifying gaming stores, cards and collectables, sports memorabilia stores as such.

## **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.







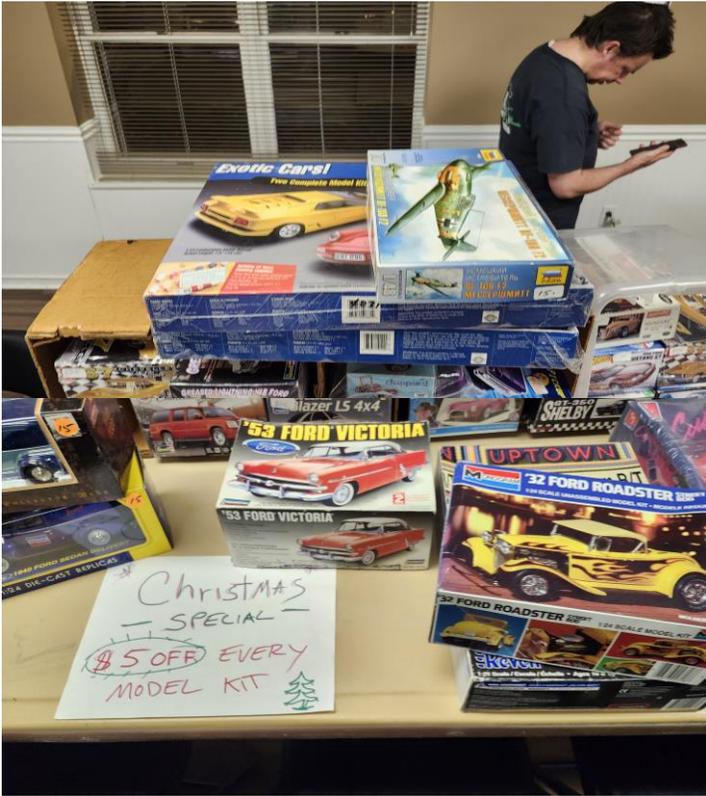






**Goodies for sale**





*Works of art from yours truly*

*L.I.A.R.S committee wishing all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year...*



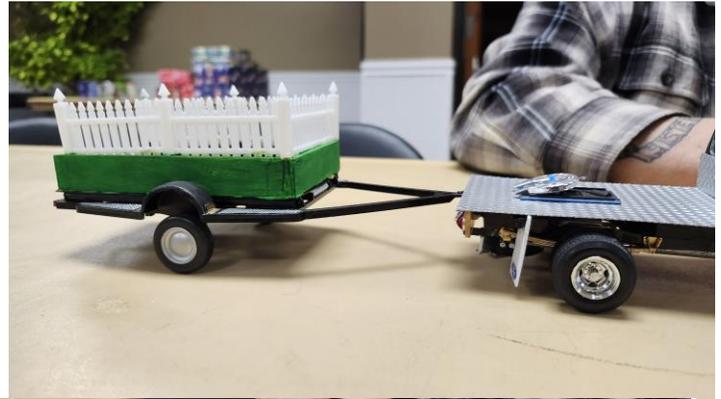




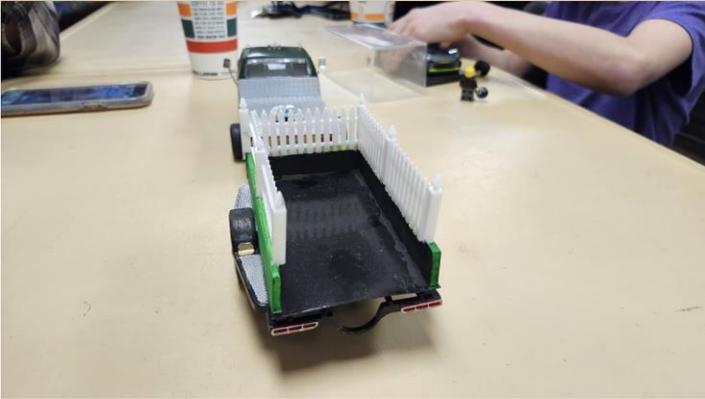
**The Seagraves Bros**



**Jeff Robinson**

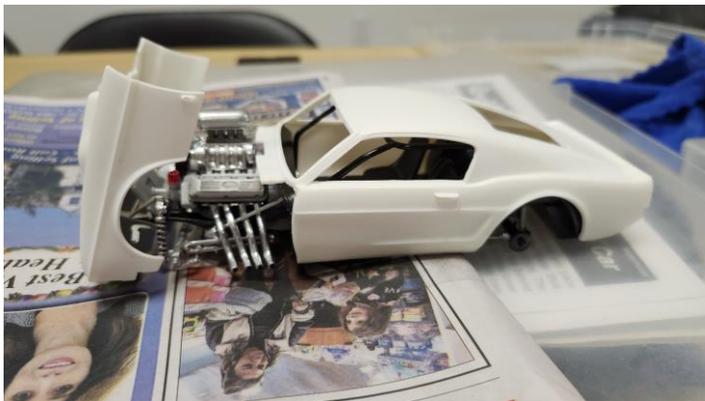


**Joe Murch and grandson**



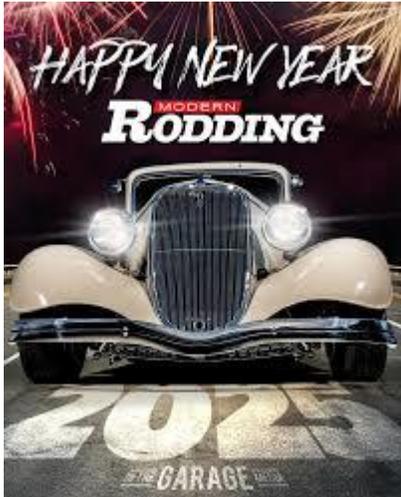
*Among other members works*

*Vinny Russo's WIPs*





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



***Next page contains the LIARS  
Annual (2025) INPUT SHEET. You  
can either email or bring it to the  
next meeting...***

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**LIARS Annual (2025) 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