

LEND A HAND AND BRING A CAN!



• LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICAS SOCIETY •

# MODEL CAR BRIEFS

Meeting themes:

"Convertibles"

"1:1 night"

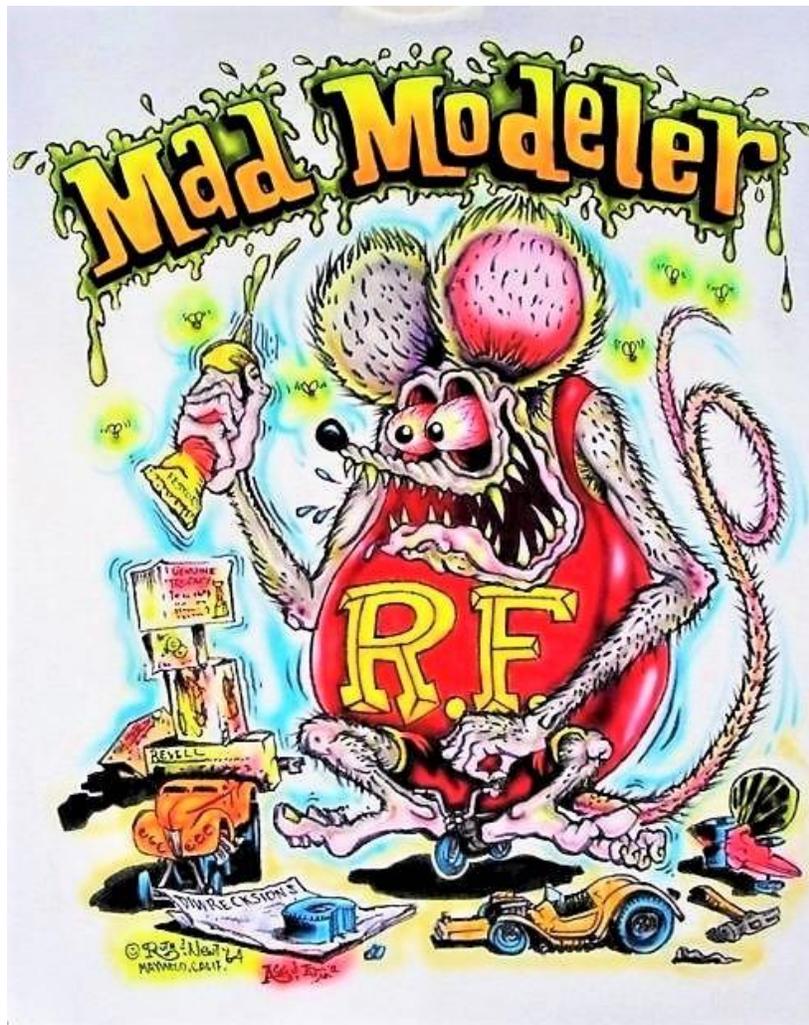
Discuss further planning for remainder of year,  
Model Car Challenge, ect...

### Newsletter Stuff:

**Richard Manri**  
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picorro93@gmail.com

### Club Stuff:

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





*Theme piece by John "The Artist" Pantlione*

*Lowrider '63 Impy near Bill Murry's residence. Wish this showed up last month...*



**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...**

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

**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 "Mickey" Gerace, Bill Murray/Doc. V, John "The Artist" Pantlione, John Heyer, Gary Weikert, Steve Magnante (for Motortrend)

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

**Hello everybody! Are we enjoying the dog days of summer? Could it be any hotter? Well, I guess it's to be expected. No painting getting done that's for sure! I have been working on a little project.**



**I'm converting a street Jaguar XK SS into a D-type short nose Race car. I filled all the holes for the bumpers and added the drivers fairing to the rear deck. Here are some progress pictures.**





**It is in primer now and I will have it at the meeting. Speaking of the meeting, August is our 1:1 car show. So if you have a classic car or show car, bring it down! I will try to bring one of mine down.**

**Now for some not so Model Car related news. My little girl, whom I used to carry in a car seat into the meetings almost 25 years ago, got engaged a couple weekends ago! My how time flies! There's only a few of us left in the club that remember her being that small!**

**That's all for now. I would like to nail down volunteers for the show soon. It's only three months away!**

**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.**

**Stay cool and hydrate! See you at the meeting!**

***Your unofficial official,***

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



**Remember those folks who made a difference in your life in 2023 (good or bad) and use the lessons learned to be a better you. Life is made up of people, events and decisions. 2024 is a time to start fresh. So surround yourself with good people, be active, happy and make remainder of 2024 great. Richie.**

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

***Had a bit more spare time this month to work on some projects, but the humid weather and constant rainstorms contributed to major painting setbacks!***





**Only got two builds completed (so far) that were started and painted before the July mtg, but par the course they're not convertibles! I had some of those planned too for the theme, but thank Mother Nature for delays in getting painting done!**

**I'd like to congratulate Dominick with his daughter getting engaged! It must be an emotional, but very proud feeling when one of your flesh and blood you used to care for eventually grow and starts their own life. That's how my dad felt when my sister got engaged in 2016 and got married shortly afterwards. Time does indeed fly as all that felt like it was 2 years ago instead of 7. Probably won't be long until his grandkids happen, and maybe one of them being boys would someday take an interest in vroom vroom and Superbirds like his Grandpa!**

**Also, I would like to welcome our newest member, John Heyer. Vinny Russo and I knew him for a while at car shows selling stuff, plus he was a member at some point and decided to check us out again. He also provided me content for the MCBs which helps out a lot.**

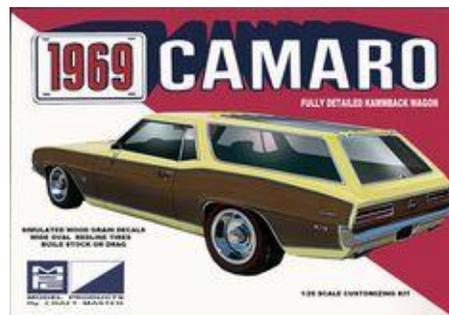
**On Sunday 8/4, yours truly visited Men At Arms in Coram. This was his selection at last check**



**On Saturday afternoon 8/10, Vinny R. and I made a stop to Gary's Get it on Paper shop in Islip. On top of all the vintage goodies he had and haul deals we got, Gary contributed to the MCB with a vintage 1969 product advertisement for AMT's 1/32<sup>nd</sup> line, accompanied with boxes for the initial run of kits in this line.**



**Other than that, that's all I have to say right now. Themes are convertibles and our annual 1:1 night. Rung what you've brung as they say! After the board meeting, I would like to discuss next months theme so people can know firsthand. Sometimes nobody knows the theme if we didn't talk about it until some of our guys left or not at all, and this may have created issues with last month's theme being light if not many knew what to bring.**



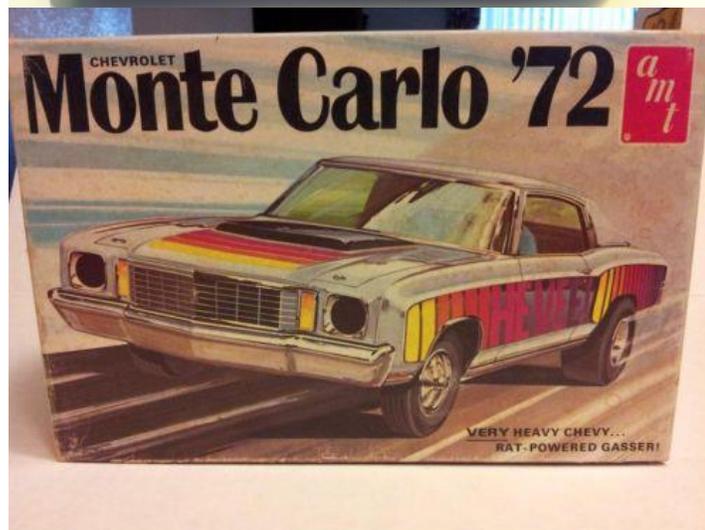
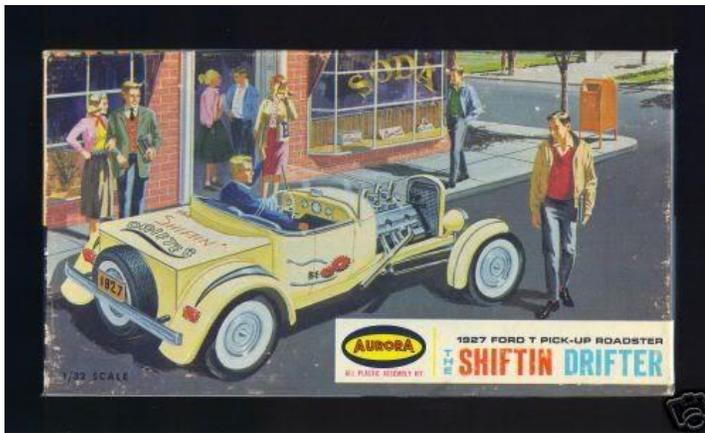
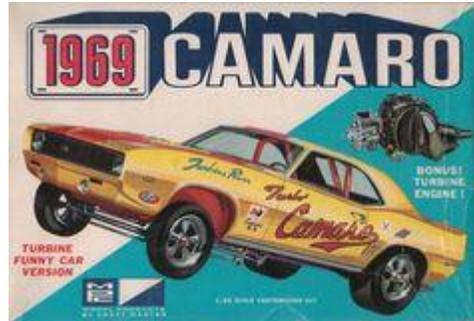
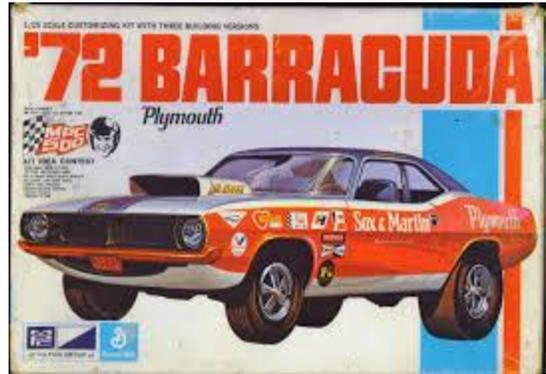
**This month I've had a bunch more contributions from our regulars. However, I can't man all of the MCB contents alone so we need more of our guys to provide and support the MCBs. Anything you say or even send over to your editor would be a tremendous aid!**

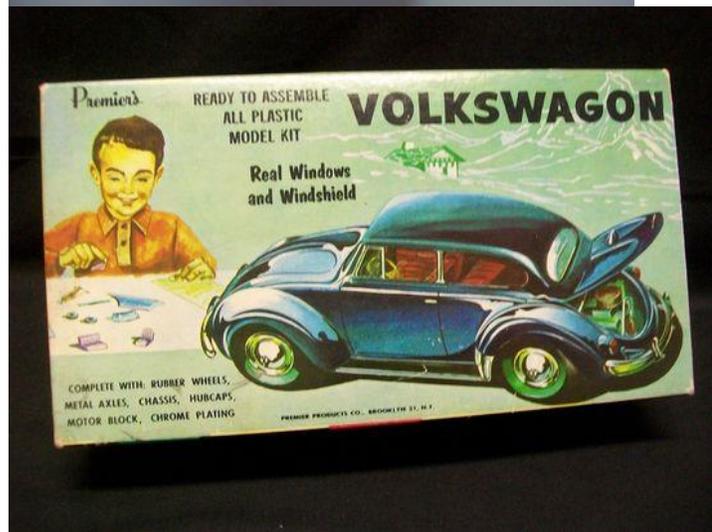
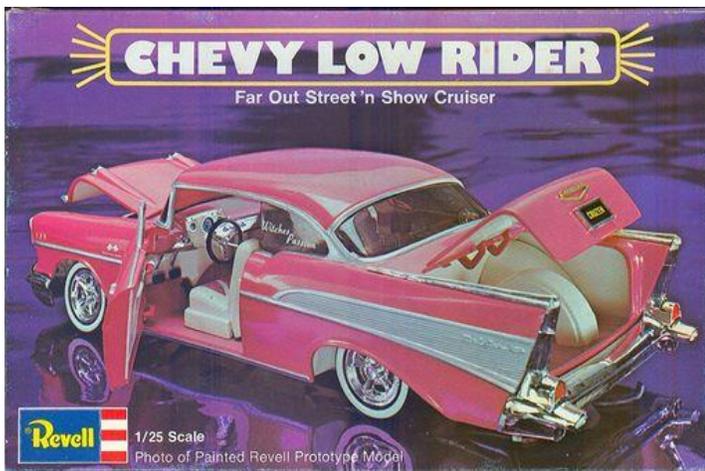
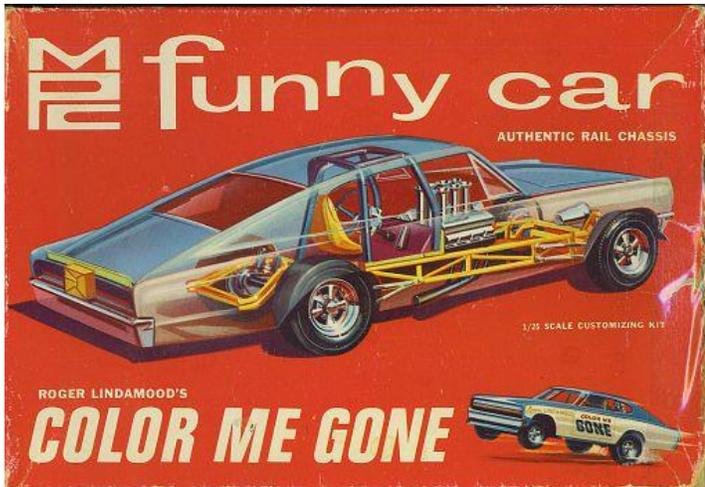


**If anyone has issues with getting or viewing the MCBs or any emails from me, please, PLEASE speak to me at the mgts or contact me at the header above.**

**Per the last few months, anybody have any rare and crazy/unique box arts to add for the next issues?**

**I got , um, some...**



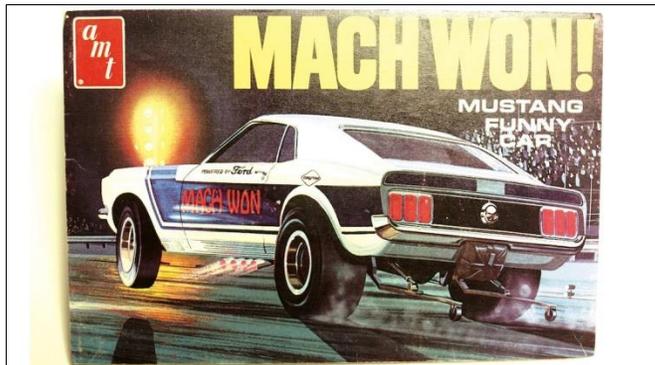


*And...*

**Classic '60s Model Car  
Box Art**

Steve Magnante

Nov 20, 2020



Model car kit box art from the '60s is one of the most overlooked styles of American illustration—except by hot rodders.

The level of model building has never been higher than it is today. The perfection and level of detail in the models that I see at shows blows me away—and puts to shame the gluey, fingerprint-marred cars I loved building 50 years ago. Granted, I was just a kid, and our basement wasn't well ventilated, and 100 other excuses for why my plastic hot rods didn't look like today's masterpieces. Nevertheless, I couldn't stop building them. I blame it on the box art.

[Related: Classic '60s Model Car Box Art, Part 2](#)

Back then, the outsides of model kit boxes featured fabulous and exciting illustrations of the street rods and race cars that were replicated, in unpainted 1:24-scale pieces of plastic, on the inside. There they were, belching flames, laying rubber, and pulling wheelies at the dragstrip. What kid could resist? Not me. Maybe not you. The artwork that once compelled us to spend a week's lunch money on a model, we now appreciate at a different level, but with just as much excitement.

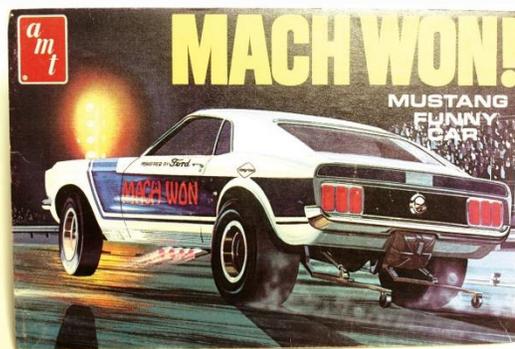
Nobody appreciates this stuff more than automotive journalist, TV host, hot rod and model builder Steve Magnante. Except for maybe model kit collector and historian Mark Lewis. A few years ago, Magnante and Lewis met up to talk about model kits and box art. The highlights of that [conversation](#) were presented in a feature article in [Elapsed Times](#) magazine, part of which is presented here. We will have more soon. Enjoy.

## 1965 Pontiac Grand Prix



Mark Lewis: "This 1965 Pontiac Grand Prix kit by AMT [kit T322-200] is one of the rarest model car kits in existence. When I say that, I'm not talking about the plastic parts inside—they've been released in numerous other boxes—but rather the box art illustration is what makes it special. It was issued in 1969 as part of the AMT All American Show and Go series. In 30 years of collecting, I've only seen two of these." So why would AMT re-release a '65 Pontiac kit in 1969? Money, baby, money. The product planners knew the kit was popular the first time around and so re-released it a few years later with catchy, new box art and decals. Here, we're grooving on the nighttime drive-in scene (signed by artist Larry Champine), depicting the owner bragging up his blown 421 mill before a street race. The door art (and decal sheet) reads "Funny Farmer"—a clear reference to Pontiac drag star Arnie Beswick.

## Mach Won Mustang



When AMT's Mach Won flip-top Funny Car kit hit the shelves in late 1970, Ford's Mach 1 Mustang

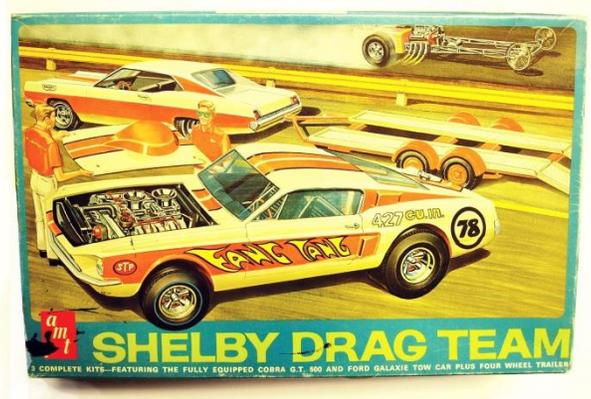
performance package had only been on the street for two years, but it was already a legend among kids of all ages. The only build choice was the Logghe tube chassis, GMC supercharged 427 SOHC, and one-piece flip-top Mustang body shell. This neat kit has never been re-released, but with the extremely hip Tom Lowe in charge of Round Two models—the keeper of vintage AMT and MPC model-kit tooling—we can realistically hope for a re-pop, assuming the tooling still exists.

## Hurst Hemi Under Glass



Another instance where the plastic parts have been re-released frequently is evident in this original issue of the Hurst Hemi Under Glass '66 Barracuda wheelstander by AMT (kit 6776-150). First released in late 1966, it gave kids an inside look at one of the day's most popular exhibition drag machines. After Hurst paired with MPC in 1968, Hurst-less AMT continued to produce this kit with alternate box art and decals depicting fictional wheelie cars like the Hemi Hustler and Mad Mackerel. The plastic bits have recently been re-released by the Model King and RC2 Models for under \$30, but not with this box art!

## Shelby Dream Team



Slap the Shelby name on anything, and you've got a surefire collector's item. And so it is with the AMT Shelby Drag Team (kit T501-500) of 1969. AMT has released similar value-added kits (two or even three models in one box) since the early '60s. The 500 suffix on the part number tells us the suggested retail price was \$5. In the case of the Shelby Drag Team, the box contained a '68 Shelby GT500 that could be built stock, custom, or drag; a '69 Ford Galaxie that also had multiple build options; and a two-axle open car trailer that'd been offered in various AMT kits since 1962. Again, each of the plastic kits in this item has been re-released numerous times but never with the Shelby box art, decal sheet, and diorama panel.

## Dodge Fever Bee



Funny Car model kits were hugely popular with kids in the '60s, and MPC was actively gunning for a chunk of their paper route money with tempting offerings like the Fever Bee '68 Dodge Super Bee (kit 706-200). Though the body shell is the same stock shell used in other MPC Super Bee kits in 1968 (and not massaged for Funny Car service), the only build option here was a Logghe-style tube-frame Funny Car. Parts for a stock

version were not included, though the kit's Hemi could be assembled with a "fuel-burning" 6-71 blower or "gas-burning" Hilborn fuel injection. Mark says the fictional Fever Bee is part of MPC's 700-series, which depicted mostly Funny Cars and was very well engineered with high realism and easy assembly.

## Mr. Speed Studebaker



Speaking of flip-top Funny Cars that never were, the AMT Mr. Speed Studebaker (kit 6773-150) was the hasty result of product planners' desire to add FC kits to the 1968 new product catalog as cheaply as possible. Again, this one is pure fantasy and has no real-world counterpart. That said, it portrays a very cool mid-engine match racer in the spirit of Tom McEwen's Hemi 'Cuda. In fact, the exotic 392 Hemi-powered, tube-frame chassis was originally tooled by AMT as part of its '66 Piranha mid-engine dragster kit. Conveniently, the body shell of the AMT '53 Studebaker Starliner Coupe kit has the same wheelbase as that on the Piranha, so mating elements of the two kits to create the Mr. Speed kit was a simple process. The only newly tooled parts were a body-hinge assembly and prop rod for displaying the raised body.

## Indy Drag Combo



The AMT Indy Drag Combo of 1968 (kit T357-300) included a '63 Nova wagon crew car, altered wheelbase '65 Chevy II, and the same dual-axle open-car trailer offered in the AMT Shelby Drag Team mentioned previously in this story. Don't be confused by the Indy nomenclature—it's got nothing to do with the annual milk-and-bricks, roundy-round event but everything to do with the fabled NHRA U.S. Nationals at Indianapolis Raceway Park. This kit depicts a typical independent Chevy match race team, likely running in Modified Production or Factory Experimental. Sharp eyes will recognize the Hurst Performance Clinic banner atop the background tent, a nod to Jack "Doc" Watson's ever-present Hurst repair facility at all major race events. The altered wheelbase Nova kit has been re-released separately as the Rat Packer, though the combination shown here has not been re-released yet. Fingers remain crossed.

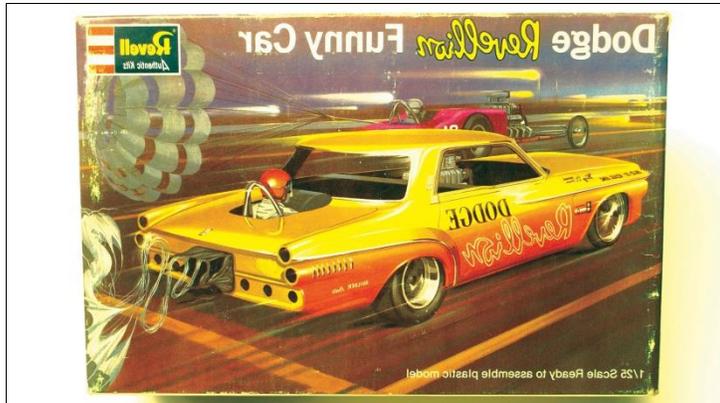
## Chevelle Drag Team



Yet another all-Chevy altered-wheelbase racer and tow car combo, the AMT Chevelle Drag Team (kit T360-300) was released in 1968 and included a '63 Impala tow car, supercharged '65 Chevelle match racer, and the same trailer used in the Indy Drag Combo and Shelby Drag Team. The mouthwatering Al Schrank art depicts fictional "Time Machine" graphics on the altered wheelbase Chevelle, though it was likely inspired by Malcolm Durham's real-life Strip Blazer. To get its altered-wheelbase body shell, AMT permanently modified the tooling for its '65 Chevelle annual kit, a practice common to the other AMT altered-wheelbase model-car kits (which included a '65 Falcon, '65 Mustang 2+2, '66 Cyclone, '63 Nova, '63 Tempest and '64 Olds Cutlass). Unlike the Falcon,

Mustang, Cyclone, Nova, and Tempest, the "funnied" Chevelle sub-kit has never been re-released by AMT.

## Dodge Revellion



The Dodge Revellion (kit H-1265-200) was one of Revell's first Funny Car kits, debuting in 1967 with the Miss Deal '53 Studebaker flip-top FC. Though Revell Funny Car kits of the early '70s were based on real-world machines (Jungle Jim's Camaro and Vega, Gene Snow's Charger, the Pisano and Matsubara Vega, Mickey Thompson's Grand Am, and Ed McCulloch's Demon, etc. ), the Revellion—and Miss Deal—were pure fantasy. Though the altered-wheelbase, flip-top Miss Deal Studebaker was tooled from scratch as a Funny Car, the Revellion is a great example of existing tooling that was hastily repurposed to grab a chunk of the growing market for FC kits. By combining an existing front-engine dragster kit, the unaltered body shell from the '62 Dodge Dart annual kit, and some wild graphics, Revell efficiently conjured this exciting offering. Its rail-dragster-with-a-body-on-top theme was likely inspired by the Don Garlits/Emery Cook Swamp Rat 9, a fiberglass '66 Dart roadster perched atop a fuel-rail chassis.

## Mustang 427 Funny Car



In 1968, AMT took its obsolete '65 Mustang 2+2 kit body, altered the wheelbase, and merged it with a special platform chassis to get the Mustang 427 Funny Car (kit 6753-150). Packing a Hilborn-injected 427 SOHC engine backed by a four-speed and leaf-sprung 9-inch rear axle, the end result is cool but not very faithful to reality. Unlike Chrysler altered-wheelbase factory Funny Cars, Ford's '66 FX strategy involved stretching the wheelbase and getting the car as close to the ground as possible. The resulting stretch-nose FX Mustangs (as campaigned by legends like Gas Ronda, Bill Lawton, Tommy Grove, and others) were low and sleek, not high and jaunty like this kit. That said, AMT's freestyle take on a Mustang match-racer pushes all the right buttons.



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## **1985: A Resin Odyssey**

**By John Heyer**

***Thank you for letting me join your wonderful club. 1985 was the beginning of the resin business for me. A model car club organized a kit auction at George barris's garage in Beverly hills California.***

***I bought a vendors table there and we had a lot of fun. A couple of guys there was selling mold making kits. It was a pint of resin they explained it was like polyurethane insulation without the bubbles. They said that if you wanted to make phone you added beer.***

***The show and the auction was a lot of fun. It looks like George was given at least two or four cartons of every kit that he was ever involved with. My theory was that he was getting a divorce and needed the money for his who sold to be ex-wife. The guy was totally undateable as far as I could see. But he was an artist. The auction went well but it was strange.***

***It was a professional auctioneer guy and he used the Dutch auction method. That is he will hold up an item and people would bid on it and when he***

***reached something like \$45 he would say sold and he then would ask the guy how many of these did the winner want.***

***So if the guy with the high bid wanted just two of them. The auctioneer would say does anybody want any at that price and then this is the stupid part he would lower the price by a dollar and say who wants some kids at \$44. And then it would go down down.***

***This is great for the auctioneer cuz he can get out of there today. But the seller loses. But that was George and he got all these kids for free. I bought about 30 monogram bed buggies that's the four post bed made into a Hot rod by who knows who. For \$4. Thank you!***

***So it took me a few years but I sold all of the bed buggy monogram kits. The last one went for \$30. So getting back to the resin situation I used that mold making kit and the resin that those guys sold me and then I made my first resin kit.***

***The reveal futura which was the multi-piece body so easy to make moles of. I sold quite a few of them but then 20-***

**30 years later they reissued the kit. Or later...**

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## **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:** Dave V. left a bag of rims on the table for Virgil, but he wasn't there took them. Dave forgot to take them back with him and is still lookin for them. If anyone finds or found a Ziploc baggie with wheels and tires on the meeting tables, contact Dave @ 516-381-4874

**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:** Johan '68-70 Oldsmobile Tornado BODY SHELL ONLY. Recently acquired an AMT boxed version that is missing the body, but everything else is there and untouched.

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.

## **July 2024 Meeting pictures**









**Free parts feeding frenzy**





***Impalas theme table***



***Goodies for sale***







***L.I.A.R.S leadership going over things like MCC plans and Auction stuff***





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



***Seagraves Bros***



**Superbird Mikey**





**And the rest of our guys**



***Happy summer motorin', and stay safe in the humid heat and constant rain!***



***Now don't drive  
your 'verts in the  
rain ether, unless  
you need an excuse  
for a shower to  
please your  
significant other!***



***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.***

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**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?** \_\_\_\_\_

Long Island Auto Replica Society  
**MODEL CAR CHALLENGE**

**MODEL CAR SHOW & CONTEST ★ SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024**

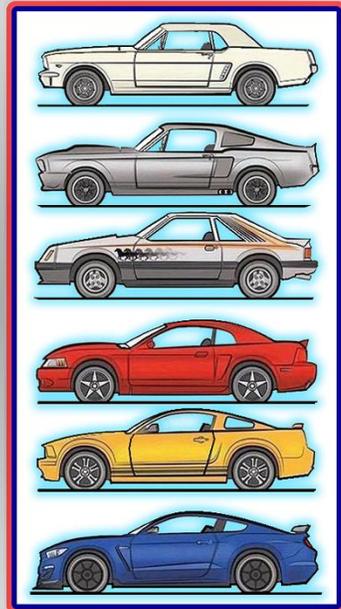
★ **FREEPORT RECREATION CENTER** ★

130 EAST MERRICK ROAD, FREEPORT, NY 11520  
 FOR MORE INFO-(516)377-2314



• LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICA SOCIETY •

★ **SPECIAL THEME CLASS** ★  
**60th Anniversary**  
 of the  
**FORD MUSTANG**



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**AGENDA:**  
 7:00 AM - VENDOR SETUP  
 9:00 AM - CONTEST REGISTRATION  
 AND  
 VENDOR TABLES OPEN  
 12:30 PM - REGISTRATION CLOSES  
 3:00 PM - AWARD CEREMONY

**MODEL REGISTRATION  
 and  
 ADMISSION FEES:**  
**ADULTS** - \$15.00 FOR FIRST 5 MODELS  
 - \$1.00 EACH ADITIONAL MODEL  
**JUNIOR** - (12 AND UNDER) **FREE**

**GENERAL ADMISSION FEES:**  
**ADULT SPECTATOR** \$5.00 ADMISSION  
**JUNIOR SPECTATOR** - (12 AND UNDER) **FREE**

★ **SUB-THEME** ★  
**TRI-FIVE CHEVROLETS**  
**55 56 57**

For Show and Vendor Information Call (516) - 680-2399, or go to the  
 LIARS website - ([www.liarsmodelcarbuilders.com](http://www.liarsmodelcarbuilders.com))

★ Please refer to our web page for show rules, vendor applications,  
 and to download our show registration forms.