

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A FOOD STUFF FOR THE PANTRY

LIARS
"Not Just Another Model Car Club!"
 EST. 1991

MODEL CAR BRIEFS

LONG ISLAND AUTO REPLICAS SOCIETY

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*This month's theme:
Mercury Models*

January Theme: Funny Cars On Display



Rev's Contribution



*Last Minute fixing
And here are the LIARS enjoying them!*



As we continue our 29th year as a Club, let's hope that in this New Year, we all stay healthy (please honor this request)) and that we can all attain some measure of prosperity. Then perhaps we can build a new Club display...

MCB Contributors: Steve "Big Daddy" Blake, Paul Drago, Ernie Finamore, & Rich "Charlie" Manson

Tributes to Phil Melfi: Big Daddy, The Buzzard, & Muddy

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

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

LIARS Unofficial Official

HOT STUFF

Old & New

This month's theme is Mercury.

I want to thank everyone for their well wishes during my recent illness/recovery, I plan on attending this month's meeting! **HOW ABOUT THAT.**

Sorry to hear about the passing of Phil MolFi, the LIARS 1st Unofficial Official, who truly did a lot for the club!

Best wishes to Mike Brennan during his on-going recovery and Rich "Charlie" Manson upcoming surgery.

I plan on having us regroup at the Feb. mtg. to recapture our primary goal – **HAVE FUN!**

See Pat V who is collecting membership dues (still \$30.). Let's try and complete this task this month. Remember, the food pantry.

Rich r.argus@juno.com mr.argus@juno.com

AMT started releasing Mercury Parklane (OK full size) kits from 1959 – '66, Comets from 1960 - '62, then Meteor in 62. Kits resumed with '70 Cyclone ('71 & '72) Monterey. Capri's released in '73, '76, '79 & '80. Eventually 49, 50, 51 (e.g., Mod Squad Wgn) & numerous issues/reissues kits were released – **SO BUILD 1 or 2 and bring them to the Feb. meeting. Dr. V**

Some Words from the Editor At Large

Good day to my fellow LIARS &/or friends thereof. As you can see from page 1, this is the 340th MCB issue. The MCB was envisioned to include member inputs plus relevant modeling goodies, such as Ernie's show reports.

I have requested the membership to step up to the plate and provide articles, identification of upcoming shows, etc. to no avail! Nor have I received any **LIARS Annual (2020) INPUT SHEET** responses. (I've attached the sheet again.)

Unfortunately this situation also applies to the LIARS board more often than not. Our Unofficial Official does provide monthly input. For this I thank him.

Request that the membership discuss the envisioned MCB's future at the February meeting. It's your newsletter! Contribute!

You will also notice a small number of Jan. Theme models that were on display. Perhaps membership should be asked as to whether they can/will actively support the candidate theme – else choose another theme. Underlying premise is for you to share your modeling skills with fellow modelers.

First Impressions

One of the LIARS principals is to allow any member to voice his/her opinion at our monthly meeting &/or route via an email (&/or TELCON) to the Leader of the Pack.

- then to present a summary followed by voting at the next meeting or two with our Leader of the Pack concurrence
- then route to membership via MCB

At the January meeting:

Pat Z noted that Members frequently say they have too many kits in storage and they cannot possibly build them all. Some even say they have duplicate kits.

The monthly club raffle supports the LIARS club by having the membership donate their extra kits. The monthly raffle is \$3.00 for each chance and generally raises about \$24-\$30 monthly for the club treasury.

- a proposal was made for each member to donate a model kit (at least once a year) for the monthly raffle (Pat Z has depleted her supply)
- a previously discussed policy change was voted on to no longer return Trophy Package donations under any condition.

Concern is that we had a rather small attendance – Suggest board clarifies as to how many members need to be present to vote on a policy change; over to the board for action.

Our treasurer also requested that each member purchase a Trophy package each year. Dr V's concern is that membership costs might not be affordable. (\$30. Dues, plus e.g., \$20 for donated kit(s) plus \$40 for a Trophy package; to which one adds monthly food donations.) Dr. V believes donations should remain voluntary. Over to the board for action.

Pat Z also noted that the 50/50 raffle has not been running for awhile. Again, over to the board for action.

Received the following from Rich Manson

As you may be aware, one of my "goals" in modeling is to have every American made car for every year of the 1950's. So far I've only completed one year.....1956 (17 cars). I'm using plastic kits, resin kits, promos or die casts as long as they're in 1/24, 1/25, or even 1/26 scale (they're all close in scale).

For 1958 the only car I haven't gotten or done yet, is a 1958 Desoto. I have a Johan promo of that car but it has that infamous "Johan smile" that so far I haven't been able to straighten out using the hot water/cold water method. If you know of anyone who has

an un-warped '58 Desoto promo, and who would be willing to part with it, I'd pay up to ... for it, or even a little more, within reason.

I'm also looking for a reasonably priced kit, or diecast, of a 1959 Thunderbird... That's the only car I don't have in my 1959 "TO DO pile".

I just hope that I live long enough to build the huge pile of '50's cars that I have stockpiled.

Scenes from the January LIARS Meeting

Rev's Classic 61 Buick Build



The Rev presented his recently completed 1961 Buick Invicta AMT model. Rev performed a great job on the interior between paint, flock, chrome, etc. You'll need to ask the Rev since Dr. V forgot the actual '61 Buick color.

George DeFronzo displayed a 1/35 scale Bulldozer that he had obtained years ago. The packaging box was labeled UPC.

Does anyone know the history of this kit? Dr. V: UPC was known for re-releasing another manufactures kits.



Members checking model instructions...



Pat Z displayed some of her husband's resins



along with an associated article...



Wow!

What's Almost New

Ernie attended a local (Freeport LI) Train/Hobby Jan. show and handed out numerous LIARS flyers. Here's a show scene:



2020 SUPER BOWL SLOT CAR SHOW Huntington Hilton Hotel, Melville, NY

The early admissions crowd started flowing in around 7am and never stopped. This has been the trend here lately and was probably the most no. of early arrivals to date. I was so busy I unfortunately took no pictures at all. The show was VERY busy for good four or five hours, and I'm happy to report that I had my best financial result in the 31 years we've had this event. Aside from purchasing a new custom built controller from one of my HO racing friends, I actually only made a few small purchases such as parts, tires, etc. -- which is NOT the norm for me! That helped to keep the total profit from the show in a good place.

Of course, it's not all about the money, and I had a great time as usual greeting friends and acquaintances from the hobby. LIARS member and friend Pat Z. stopped by to visit after the venue had cleared out a bit, so we were at least able to have a conversation while my friend manned the table for a few minutes. Up next is a slot car show at Modelville Hobby in Ashland, MA on February 23rd. This venue is a very large commercial slot car raceway which also has some amazing custom built HO raceways within its walls. I've been looking forward to seeing this place for about three years, and I'm glad I will be part of the inaugural event.

I know, slot car stuff, but wait...

After that, LIARS members will I'm sure want to attend the 3rd annual Philly Area NNL at the fabulous Simeone Museum near the Philadelphia Airport. I was a vendor at the inaugural event but had to miss last year's show due to family commitments. LIARS

member Pat Z. will be making her 3rd appearance there with her son Alex.

I'll be doing the "double" that weekend, after I pack up on Saturday (and of course take another lap around the museum), I'll be heading south on Interstate 95 to the Baltimore area for the spring slot car show at the Hilton in White Marsh the next day. Needless to say, my van will be PACKED!

Pat &/or myself can answer questions about the Philly model car show at the next meeting. See ya there! – Ernie

John Carlisle's Jan. NY PA Model show was cancelled due to the threat of snow (again)- before you criticize remember we are ALL GETTING OLDER & may have difficulty traveling in snow!

Looking for someone to summarize the Annual (Carlisle Productions) Allentown show. Pat V supported the Long Island Motor Touring Club's January 2020 Hobby night by displaying



One LIMTC member displayed his childhood (IDEAL released) '52 Cadillac that could be disassembled/reassembled. Sorry for the picture size, but that's a rare 50 Hudson promotional model that was also on display.



Dr. V's sales pitch - Whether you prefer the LIARS or LIMTC meeting, once the formal meeting has been completed; the attendees roam the room looking for goodies that interest them! I've tried to have joint meetings to take advantage of the later. Oh well –best of luck to both clubs!

Note to the Buzzard - Dr. V recently read an article by "Mental Floss: Here's What Happens to New Cars at a Dealership That Don't Get Sold" Checkout the title - did you copyright?

Buzzard Response:

"Yep, that publication has been around for a while. I figure that imitation is a form of flattery. That's life."

Replicating the Past: The Summer of '86
By Steve "Big Daddy"

I have a fond memory of an Illinois summer Saturday when my friend Jimmy asked me to drive his '57 Chevy to St Louis International raceway while he drove his '67 Chevelle SS396 for some shakedown runs on an open race night.



She was a beauty, Bright red with a simple black interior. Under the hood was a strong small block 400 with a Turbo 350, enough power to get me in trouble.

The plan was to head to the track with both cars. I was to follow in the '57 while Jimmy drove the '67 Chevelle. He wanted to run some bugs out of both cars and I was supposed to make my maiden run at Drag racing after. That didn't happen.

Jim set up and the 396 exploded its clutch on launch. We pushed the car to the side, cleaned the aftermath and with that Jim said, "slide over, we're goin' home." We determined I was bad luck and never drove her again. POOP.

I started with a "junkyard" buy Monogram 57, I cleaned up some paint and glue bombing.



Next was taking the molded in exhaust off with a Dremel tool filling the holes with AB epoxy.



The engine was pirated from an old Monogram NASCAR kit. The Turbo 350 was another problem. I found in my "Parts is parts" box an old Curbside Diaramics Die cast tranny.



Well that's all for now, until I can find my camera. Somewhere in the piles of boxes is still half of our lives.

So until next time; Hugs and Kisses Big Daddy,
Steve Blake

PS Steve routed a picture of their new mountain home - well he says he owns the mountain...

Greetings From God's Country



Dr.V – 57 Chevy brings back memories to when I convinced a friend to let us use his front lawn's tree to change a 57 Chevy engine – well no one told us we had to drain the oil 1st! - But that's another story... (as in cleaning oil from lawn ...)
PS – Steve: No, there aren't even any Hobby Lobby stores within 100 mi. I got well off the grid... Does anyone know of any model clubs in the north central Pa area. They don't have to be model cars, just hobbyists.

Dr. V suggests checkout <https://www.cpmcc.org/>

Did anyone receive this Essential 2020 Beach Accessory for Valentine's Day?



Due to the following goodies, the planned "GREAT MODELING CLEANUP" whether it be a desk, closet, spare room (or in Dr. V's case basement) will appear next month.

By Rich "Charlie" Manson

Yeah, I've been a model building fool lately, banging these cars out like crazy. It's helping me keep my sanity...



This time it's a 1950 Mercury done up as a very mild custom. I used the MPC Super Snap kit of the 1950 Merc. The color is Tamiya maroon. It is a pretty rudimentary kit with only 26 pieces. I trashed the 2 piece plastic tires and used a set of whitewall tires from my parts stash along with the stock Mercury hubcaps from the AMT '49 Mercury kit. I added half-moon headlight covers, gave the grille a blackwash, and added white pinstripe decals to the hood & trunk. The lake pipes have photo-etched metal flames attached, and I put in a sunken antenna on the rear passenger side. The taillights got a coat of Tamiya clear red and I added tiny MV lens blue dots. The mirror and license plate are from the parts box.



The interior is painted Tamiya light sand with brown painted "carpet".



Resin door handles & window cranks were chromed with Molotow chrome ink and side panel trim was done with Bare Metal Foil. The dashboard was painted body color with bare metal foil trim, and a piece of shirt pin was added to the steering column for a shifter.



Hope you like it..... Now on to the next one...
Love to all, Rich



This was a fun break from working on the 1950's cars.



Another model finished...

This time I was in a "Street Rod" mood, so I decided to make a 1941 Plymouth "Resto-Rod". It is an AMT kit that I've wanted to build for a long time. I built it as if it was a restored car with some mechanical upgrades and dress-up parts. The color is Tamiya British Green. The whitewall tires are from Steve Zimmerman. I neglected to take pictures of the interior before I assembled the model. Sad smile, but it is painted Tamiya gray-green with green embossing powder for carpeting. The dashboard is painted body color with bare-metal foil detailing.



Now it's back to working on the 1957 Desoto which was giving me assembly issues.

Stay well everyone...Rich Then Rich sends ...
1956 Studebaker model FINALLY finished



The straight-six flathead engine has a pre-wired distributor, heater hoses, fuel & vacuum lines, a dipstick, photo-etched bolt heads, an aluminum air cleaner and bee-hive oil filter. I added a brake master cylinder & line to the firewall and the battery has added terminals & cables. The outside mirror & license plate are from my parts stash & the antenna was scratchbuilt.



I am soooooo happy to have finally finished this model. It fought me at the end.... I'm not totally happy with the way it came out, but it will do and it completes my collection of American made cars for 1956. It is a '56 Studebaker Golden Hawk. I used an AMT promo combined with the interior, front glass & wheels from an AMT 1953 Studebaker kit.



The interior doesn't fit "perfectly" and the promo chassis

doesn't fit "perfectly", but they'll do, and it looks OK..... (None of my models are ever "perfect" anyway...)



I now have what I think is a complete collection of American made cars for 1956... a total of 17 cars. At some point I'll send pictures of all 17 of them. I used plastic kits, resin kits, promotional cars, and diecasts to complete this collection. I'm trying to do the same thing for all of the other years of the 1950's..... Quite a project...!!!

...

How about sharing pictures of your work bench? If so can you route to Dr. V? Thanks.

ICM has released a model of the 1886 Benz includes Photo-etched wheels and chain-drive. Perhaps part of the reason for the high \$\$\$.



2020 Model Cars Magazine Update

I finally got the long-awaited Contest Issue out this past November, 2019. Yes, that was a long wait, and yes, there were some issues (pardon the pun)

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

with some of the photos in the GSL coverage. It seems that I did the classic pre-press no-no, sent up the files without triple checking how the black background photos would turn out on the final printed paper. I have done black background photos before, but never this many on so many pages. It seems that the black ink got so over saturated, and some of the photos came out terrible. No, my proofs were awesome, which is why I thought it would be okay, but it all falls on me. Some were bad, really bad, and I apologize for this. Lesson learned.

I haven't sent out the renewal letters/notices yet, that's on the list of things to do now. I also haven't updated the USPS returns/bad addresses yet, there's about a dozen or two of them to go through. So if you didn't get your mag yet, and you did move within the last year or two, let me know. The post office doesn't forward magazines after a short period of time, and I get the label only sent back to me. I'm still working on the new mailing/subscription database software/program that I switched over to, and it seems to be working pretty good, so far. I lost a few brain cells trying to learn everything all over again though. So, what's next? I am trying to get the next Contest Issue done right behind this one, but I don't think it will be this issue (#207). I will do a quick issue, on what's going on, what's new, and a lot of goodbyes (we lost so many friends over the past year or two), some show coverages, and get the magazine on a good stable footing. I'm also looking for writers to take over for those who have passed away, so let me know if you are interested.

We still have about half of the Lifetime Subscription offers available (\$150 for lifetime subs), and after this, I will be closing the offer. We are also looking some other ideas and options, such as different (or rather new) newsstand distribution and mailings, and other things to speed up the delivery of the mag, billings, and other business things that need to be done with the magazine. I have let a lot of things get by me, and that's something that there should be no excuse for. I honestly forgot to do a lot of things behind the scenes for the magazine that should have been done. I did do the final audit with the USPS in January, 2020, and hopefully that side of the mag is finally taken care of.

As for me, and the infamous messed up back (thank you, hit-and-run driver on 12/22/16), it's getting worse. Doc now says he wants to do two more

surgeries, going through the front, having to break two ribs to get to the upper area of the lower spine, either fuse and/or take out some discs, and then flip me over, and extend the rods/cages from S1-L1 all the way up to T something or other level. Yeah, more screws and rods for this dummy... Don't know when that will happen, it's all up to the insurance guys now.

So that's it in a nut shell. Not giving up, trying to sit up and work whenever I can, and watching my wife's parents 24/7, it's a full day, every day. Like they say, it could be worse! At least I'm breathing oxygen instead of dirt...

Thanks everyone, for your patience, support, kind words, and not swearing and cussing at me too much.

LIARS Annual (2020) INPUT 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 righting on this sheet and it will be discussed at the next meeting. Please bring your filled out sheet with you. 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 ...)

- 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? _____
- Do you ever take built models and run them around on the table or floor making "Vroom, vroom" noises? _____
- 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? _____
- Did you take your medication today? _____
- 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 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? _____

Essay question: What else should you tell us? _____

PS can you provide DR. V with your survey responses?

Member Status:

Mike Brennan suffered a brain bleed in early January. In Mike's words: "Had a horrible headache and since I never get them I knew there was a problem."

They opened the hood to relieve some of the pressure from the overheating hose LOL. Next time maybe they can put in silicon hose to avoid this (in the future)."

- No he did let Dr. V fill in for him @ a 1/7/2020 movie shot...the nerve of some of us!

Today, Mike is recovering at home & appears to be fantastic (well I'm not a doc (beyond being Dr. V)) His long term memory exceeds Dr.V's. His short term response requires him to think (so Dr. V's spin does not count, since Dr. V doesn't at times think!) but it is improving (both with Mike & hopefully Dr V).

Mike currently has side vision impairment.

He does miss seeing you @ the monthly meetings (even if he ate the last of his infamous chess cake piece) Dr. V

- In Rich Manson words "I've had no left side peripheral vision since I had my stroke back in 2000. That's why I don't drive anymore. It took me a while to overcome and compensate for it, but overall it thankfully doesn't seem to affect my model building."

More from Rich Manson – "Now we move to I'm not looking forward to this... As a result of recent possible congestive heart failure issues, cardiac stress tests, and an additional echocardiogram & CT scan, I unfortunately will have Bypass Surgery on February 26th. I will be in Allegheny General Hospital in North Hills for about 5 days if all goes well.

I'm sure I won't be climbing up & down the 13 steps to my basement modeling workbench for a while after that. I'm freaked out over this and model building has helped take my mind off of it. I'm hoping for the best, just not looking forward to the experience.

My surgeon said that he has done around 250 of these operations, so I guess he knows what he's doing and is good at it.

A lot of people tell me that this is a "routine" operation...!!! Yeah... Right... It might be "routine" for the surgeon and staff that are doing it, but, it's NOT so "routine" for the person who is having it done.

Back to building models I finished 3 cars in the last 6 weeks and have 2 more "in the works" at

the moment. They should hopefully be done well before the 26th.

Please stay very well everyone. Rich Manson!"

Steve Blake routed the following on 2/6: "I have some bad news. Phil Melfi, a founding member of the LIARS club and first unofficial official is in a bad way. I and Big Mike Brennan spoke with him today and he seemed to be in good spirits despite the prognosis. His kidneys have shut down and the Docs can't transplant because too much damage and age. As of today Phil said the Doc gives him 5 days.

- Would you prefer pre-notification? More next mo. On 2/9 LIARS received:

For Phil

By, Steve "Big Daddy" Blake

2/9/2020, a little before 4am, we lost Phil Melfi. After living with diabetes his adult life his kidneys said enough. The Doc citing age and damage he could not transplant. Surprising to me, Phil was good with that. I think losing his son Jimmy 2 months ago had a lot to do with it.

His wishes are not to dwell on that but to remember the good fun things we had with him. The laughs, gags and the things we built together. Like the models, friendships, the club and contacts that made the shows possible.

On that fateful day in 1991 a group of reprobate model car builders met in Phil's basement office to flesh out what became the Long Island Auto Replica Society. In attendance were; Big Mike Brennan, Eddy Cervo, George DeFronzo, Bill Ciberi, Ron Min and myself, with Phil being the mover and shaker, the spark starting the engine.

We agreed that this was for fun so the organization was made loose, no officials. We had to have someone at the front table so we agreed to make Phil the first "Unofficial Official" of the LIARS club.

Phil with his irrepressible personality made the contacts with the model companies. From AMT to Tamiya, he was able to garner donations for our prizes and show gifts. He negotiated the meeting places, keeping them relatively central for ease of travel for members and relatively cheap. He contacted and got aftermarket vendors to come to our shows. Phil also coordinated the locations for the shows over the years. If it wasn't for Phil Melfi there would not be a LIARS club.

I hope he's up there cutting up and misbehaving with the likes of past members Jerry "The Gimp"

Lotz, Luddy, Tony “Slice and Dice” DelVeccio, “Crazy” Kevin Argus, Big Trucker John and others we’ve lost.

I for one will be remembering the fun times; Thanks Phil and God Bless Steve

Some Random Thoughts

By Ted Pappacena

I called Mike Brennan on Thursday February 6 to see how he was coming along after his stint in rehab following his recent medical issues. We spoke for a while and said goodbye. Then later he called me back. He told me that Phil (Melfi) had called him to say “Goodbye”. Just like that. I know that Phil was having medical issues and was in a bad way but not being as close as we once were, I didn’t know just how bad. Now I knew. Mike told me he didn’t have much time left.

Sure enough, I got the e-mail confirming his passing Sunday afternoon February 9 (as I write this). So many thoughts are going through my head. Phil started the LIARS club in his basement with a handful of friends including Mike. It started out informally but quickly grew to the point where a meeting hall was needed. Phil got it. He organized every part of a club that didn’t have any rules. Actually as I mentioned at the last meeting there was one; “There are no rules”. He had contacts with the model companies as well as Scale Auto Enthusiast magazine. He knew the top builders too, being one himself.

I literally stumbled into the club in September of 1993. I was supposed to meet an acquaintance at the hall to get some drag racing tapes he made. He didn’t show up that night so I was on my own taking in a pretty chaotic (to me) scene. People were everywhere with models, kits, and magazines. People walked up to me and Phil was one of the first to welcome me. Towards the end of the “meeting” he asked if I was going to join. I said yes. We were on opposite ends of the room so he called to me “Spell your last name for me”. So I said, “Y-O-U-R-L-A-S-T-N-A-M-E-F-O-R-M-E”. I will never forget his laugh from across the room. We were off and running. At every meeting he would ask when I was going to build something. In 1994 I went to my first NNL East and bought a few kits and built the Lindberg 34 Ford pickup into my first distressed model. I made real metal license plates by putting the decals on aluminum foil then bending them to the desired shape. When I finally got up enough courage to put the finished model on the table, he was the first

to come over and take a look. He really liked what I did but was intrigued by the plates. “How did you get them so real”, he asked. I told him and he was really excited for me and put a blurb in the newsletter. Always encouraging me and then asking me to write a column for the newsletter. I told him I’ve never written anything but term papers and book reports. He’d say, “Don’t worry about it, write what’s on your mind” and he kept skootching me until I submitted one. Then he literally couldn’t stop me.

As Mike and I reminisced over the phone (no offence to Tony Del Vecchio (RIP), George Vita, and Rich Argus) Phil’s meetings were not so much meetings as “happenings”. It was once a month mayhem. We laughed and had a lot of fun. Phil gave out awards like “Most Improved Modeler of the Year”, “Modeler of the Year”, and an appreciation award to a member he felt contributed the most to the club overall. He even designated a “Spokesperson of the Month” to run the meeting. Pure bedlam! I couldn’t get to those meetings fast enough, they were that much fun. He was also responsible for the infamous bus to the NNL. When we went there, we went in style. However I did miss the “Melf” building competition that later made its way into Scale Auto Enthusiast and the “I’m Not Phil Melfi” buttons.

Phil left the club a few years after I joined and I lost touch. I would see him occasionally at a local car show where we exchanged small talk and I hadn’t seen him since the time he came to a meeting a number of years ago. I got occasional updates from Mike and Alan but that’s about it. I’m sorry I didn’t put more of an effort to keep in touch.

Rest easy, Phil.



Dr. V believes the derivation comes from NNL East attendees asking folks wearing LIARS shirts “Are You Phil Melfi” So, at the next NNL East, LIARS wore Phil’s button...Memories...

Mental Floss by John the Buzzard

I'm at a loss for words right now. I just opened an email from Bill; it bore the message that Phil Melfi passed away.

In case you don't know him, he was (if I remember correctly) the founder of the LIARS club so many years ago. If not the founder, he was one of the first two or three members. I first met him at a car show at a fireman's park out in Hagerman in October of '91. He admired the Road Runner that I entered, offered some helpful advice and critique and invited me to attend the next meeting of the club. Yep, I went, and the rest is how life went. He loved to bust chops and he liked to play devil's advocate. He could trade barbs and jokes with anybody, and he kept things lively and interesting during the early years of the club. More importantly, he cared about the club. He and I sometimes didn't see eye to eye about things, including the judging rules, but we always respected each other. He was one hell of a modeler and he partnered with Ken Hamilton on a few articles for Scale Auto Enthusiast magazine. One of his dioramas was featured on the cover of one issue. And, he managed to get the club in a feature article of the same magazine (but a different issue).

That was tied in with his being able to obtain a bunch of resin cast... cars, if you will. They looked like a VW bug/Fiat Topolino cross; the main factor about them was that the tires were perpendicular to the body at the bottom edge of the body- I don't know why. I don't know the origination of the "Melfs", which they came to be called, nor do I know how he got them or from whom. The club decided to have a contest featuring the Melfs; it was strictly in-house, and I don't remember if there was any serious judging involved. Gentlemen, if I don't get some of the details correct, please feel free to make any corrections necessary. We're talking 26 years ago.

Those of us who had the Melfs were able to do whatever we chose to with them and enter them in various classes, just like any other contest. I believe that Best in Show was a "Melflower" moving van by Ken Paladino. My entry was a Star Kist Tuna Melf stock car. I believe Mickey G took pictures, one of our members cross-dressed as the daughter of the fictional designer/builder of the Melf, we had security at the door and there was some mild violence regarding the auction of Melf memorabilia. An article was written; it was sent to Scale Auto Enthusiast along with the pictures and the LIARS Club hit the big time. I'm pretty sure that was the

first year we had a coach bus take us to the NNL East. I know I still have a copy of that magazine, but it's packed away in storage right now. With a few friendly reminders, I'll try to remember to get the article out to the club when I get my hands on it.

Phil was in the wholesale seafood business. He once won Harley Davidson in a contest associated with that business. Somehow, he used the Harley to have a '55 Chevy built for him. Again, I don't remember the details, but I do remember that there was an incident in which the fan wound up hitting the radiator very early in the car's history - like, loading it onto the trailer or first start up(?). We kidded him about it, but it all worked out well. He even installed a car seat for his young son. Phil was happy; that's what counts.

I don't remember when he stopped attending meetings nor do I really know why. I didn't see him often after that. When I got the first email about his condition being so dire, I wanted to call him, but I had no idea of what to say. "How's it going?" just wouldn't do. I was giving it thought, thinking there was enough time (5 days), and then I got the second email. We always think we have enough time when we really don't. Rest in peace, Phil. You will be missed.

I'll see you guys soon. Please, please, PLEASE take care of yourselves. Keep on building.

So your editor dedicates this MCB to Phil, Rich M. & Mike! On a positive note our Unofficial Official IS BACK AMONGST US!

Dr. V inclusion of the above was to let my fellow LIARS know that we are there for you when you need us, as well as, to have you in our prayers!

God's speed in getting better – the alternative SUCKS

Please stay well my/our LIARS friends.

If you can, share your favorite memories, stories, and/or mementos of Phil at the Feb. Mtg. BTW: [REPLICON 30](#) – March 28 @ Freeport Rec Center. – ADM: \$15. If you enter model, else Adult \$10 – but seniors are \$5. (includes Dr. V)

Could this be the 2020 LIARS bus?



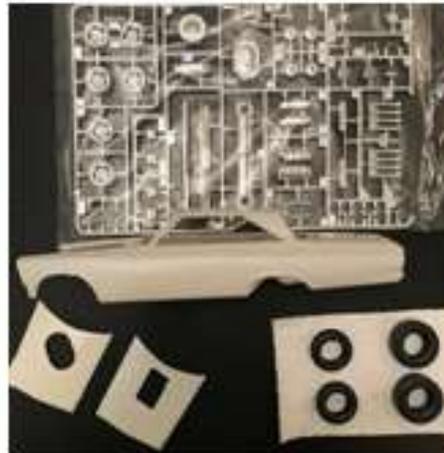
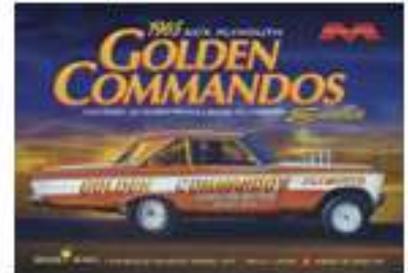
YOU'RE **NOT** DREAMING.....By Paul Drago

Some time ago at the NNL, I visited the Moebius company display. I could have sworn I've seen a prototype for an (AWB) altered wheelbase A/FX car. I figured as long as MOEBIUS was releasing such kits as the 65 Plymouth and Comet super stock cars, it would make sense to go the next step. A few years later I sent them an E-mail asking if the AWB cars are being released soon, only to receive a disappointing E-mail "we have no such product planned". I wish I had that E-mail now...

Not since AMT's attempt in the late 60's were there any resemblance to an Altered Wheel base car. Those kits were rather basic and lacked high detail. Revell made two versions, even more obscure, such as the Miss deal Studebaker, and Dodge Revellion. We have not seen an AWB car made by a major manufacturer for 50 years.

Fast forward to a few weeks ago. I thought I was dreaming while on the internet, I came across a photo of a Moebius model kit of the GOLDEN COMMANDOS 1965 ALTERED WHEELBASE PLYMOUTH. Without hesitation I went to Willis Hobby shop and sure enough, there it was! Just came in! Needless to say, I bought one and hurried home to rip into it.

THIS IS A GAME CHANGER! One of the most detailed and accurate AWB kits ever produced. You can build one of TWO versions of the car. The 426 Hemi Engine combinations can be built 3 ways: as a carbureted, Short Injectors (under hood) and long injectors (through hood.)



The Hilborn injectors are the most accurate for any 1/25 model. FINALLY injectors that are not merely protruding up from the intake manifold (until AURORA made an accurate injected engine in 1/16 scale, back in 1974) these injectors are curved and connect to the cylinder heads as it should. As a donor kit, this can be used to create a number of historic drag cars from the era. I have to say, Moebius really stepped up their game and has filled a long needed void.

Until next month's MCB enjoy building!