

# The Parting Line

The Newsletter of IPMS / C.A.R.S. in Miniature of Northern Illinois

Volume 29 – Issue 04

Enjoying our 29<sup>th</sup> Year

April 2020

## From the Presidents Workbench

**Wow**, it's amazing how much of a significant change we have seen in our society in just over one month's time. I do hope that all of our members and their families are healthy and have been finding innovative ways to cope with the limited activities we are able to perform during our state's "stay-at-home" order. You should have received an email from Joe Salzburg a few days ago that announced the cancellation of our April Cars in Miniature club meeting. I had been contacted directly by the Algonquin Township management and told that all of the township facilities were officially closed to the public until further notice.

### More time to do \_\_\_ (you fill in the blank) ...

Though we are unable to hold our club meeting, I do hope that you are finding a little time to build some awesome vehicles. I know that some of our members are still working their full-time jobs, while some may not be so fortunate regarding employment, and for others there has been little change.



With the occasional warmer weather, we have been seeing, my wife thought it would be a good idea to take advantage and do some yard work. I'll admit that it felt

good to be out in the sunshine, and the outdoor cleanup needs to be done. Then there was the cleaning & organization of my once very disorganized garage. I have been spending more time performing these odd jobs than building at my workbench. I would seem that many of us have more time to do \_\_\_ (you fill in the blank).

In spite of these extracurricular activities, I have made some progress on my December contest builds, but not as much as I'd like. So I'm going to hope for rain and spend more time at my workbench.



As all of us find various ways to cope with the situation at hand, I do hope that your activities are productive, meaningful, and fun. **Let's place the emphasis on fun.**

**Stay safe out there!**



Happy Modeling,  
Craig

### April Show-N-Tell Theme



Keep on building:  
**Meeting Canceled**

### This Month's Content

Model Industry News	2
Meeting Notes	2
Observations from Joe	4
Show-N-Tell Themes	6
The Lil' Swap Meet	7
Tech Tip of the Month	7
Events Calendar	11

## Model Industry News & More from the VP

By Dave Green

Well thanks to the virus we are stuck in our homes or basements with the dog, cat, kids (for those who have kids at home) and the wife. At this point I'm all alone with my dog and two cats. I retired a couple years ago so I don't miss working but this is much stranger than being retired. It's not being able to go places like the hobby shop (only one near me is Ron's hobby in Mundelein) or to club, model swap meets and shows.

I shouldn't complain too much as I have a basement full of kits (last count 2,000). But somehow, I am still bored. After this is all over and back to normal, I'll be complaining that there's not enough time to build.

Right now, I am rearranging my work area. Got a new work bench with drawers (2) and a peg board back board. So, no excuse for not having enough room to work. Just need to organize the rest of the room with new shelves for the kits that have been on the floor. Looks like I will still have plenty of time.

As far as the hobby industry goes, we are in a giant time warp. Talked to the guys at Round 2. They have a bunch of reissues but will be hitting the states sometime in June as all of the plants are shut down in China and they have no idea when they will be back up and running. So, all of the releases that have been issued since Xmas is it for now.

I've been doing a lot of purchasing online from various vendors for decals and resin kits. I've been looking on eBay and Amazon. Got some decals coming in from eBay to build an altered wheelbase Plymouth from Mobius. Slix has updated their web site and have some new decals, Sox and Martin drag cars, altered wheelbase Plymouth and Darts and Colt pro stockers.

I can't wait for this to all be over. Hope you all are safe and staying home. Like they say- We are all in this together. Stay safe and see you soon.

*Happy modeling, your VP. - Dave*

## Last Month's Meeting Notes...

By Joe Salzburg

- Only 5 people showed up at the March club meeting... We were expecting a small turnout due to the current pandemic, and we got it! Still the 3 officers in attendance and two guests all had a great time and made an evening out of it.
- Craig and Joe brought in disinfectant cleaners and wipes and cleaned EVERYTHING! We wiped down ALL the tables, chairs, door knobs and handles and basically ANYTHING anyone would think of touching! The room smelled as clean as it looked, and we all felt more comfortable after putting in the effort. We also spaced everyone 6 feet apart... Officers, Guests chairs, etc. We left NO stone unturned and made sure the entire meeting room was as safe as we could make it.

- Dave popped in to drop off raffle tickets but left soon after due to doctors' orders. Dave's illness makes him more susceptible to catching and fighting the Covid-19 virus, so he listened to his doctor and will continue to do so as necessary. It was unnecessary for Dave to come down with the raffle tickets as we would have made do somehow... Still, we thank Dave for making the effort, taking his chances and thinking of the club.

- We discussed the current situation, as we foretasted things to come... Mainly that we may not be there come April... We were unfortunately correct on thinking we may not have an April club meeting, but still hoping for the best for May.





Scenes from the March meeting



**UPCOMING NEWS & Business for the April C.A.R.S. in Miniature Club Meeting:**

• If you haven't heard; the April meeting had been canceled due to the closure of the Township facilities resulting from the states' stay-at-home order.

• The Milwaukee NNL (For any club members that would have attended) has also been canceled.

• In addition, the Milwaukee Miniature Motors Annual Spring Swap Meet at the Waukesha Expo Center has also been Canceled.

• Our May Meeting brings us our FIRST Club Auction of the year... However as we go into April, having to cancel our April meeting, we are unsure of the status of the May club meeting. The Algonquin Township Highway Dept. building itself is closed until further notice. We need the building to be open to host our club meeting. We will keep everyone informed on **May's** meeting and Auction plans. For now, hopefully you are going through your collection of kits and supplies searching out things to set aside for the May Club auction. Now might be a good time to do so if you can.

• C.A.R.S. in Miniature member Steve Jahnke, along with his wife Bunny are officially Arizonians now, as they have relocated to their final digs in Arizona. We hope we all get the opportunity to see Steve again, but for now, we know he's out there on Facebook should anyone wish to look him up and/or contact him. We're sure he'd like to hear from some old friends. Officers will begin discussions of adding Steve as a lifetime member for all of the contributions Steve has made to C.A.R.S. in Miniature over the past 29 years. For now we want to wish Steve and Bunny the very best in the next chapter of their lives. God Bless and take care!



**Observations from Joe's Workbench**

**When the wheels stopped rollin'**

*Seems like just that. Everything has just stopped.*

As the world, our great nation... Our state... Our communities deal with this very dangerous and deadly pandemic... known to all as COVID-19... We all now struggle with our daily lives in isolation. Some of us are dealing with personal hardships such as layoffs or unemployment, time away from loved ones, the inability to go out, see friends and family, and of course isolate ourselves from extended family, friends and activities. Some of us are doing ok with it while others I'm sure are struggling with it. Every event is being canceled, as our state as well as most of the others in the nation are on a quarantine lock down. Agree or disagree with it, we do have to catch up with this virus and slow its path down of spreading. And right now, keeping people from spreading the disease any further is of the utmost importance right now. Our country (And others) were not and are not prepared for such a deadly virus, as the United States is now surpassing other countries with the amount of people infected and sadly rising numbers of people dying from it. So, we too, cannot take this

lightly and we implore ALL of you to take this very seriously and practice social distancing, cleanliness and self-imposed isolation. For myself as an example, I have quarantined my parents to our home, as both are nearly 80 and with ongoing health issues. For myself, both unfortunately and fortunately, I STILL have to work. So being out there is both dangerous and scary for me, as I am desperately trying NOT to catch anything and pass it along to family, but at the same time I am still getting a paycheck. Something many Americans have found themselves in serious trouble with, as for those who cannot go to work, no longer have an income or can pay their bills much longer. I personally cannot imagine that, but I too, know that things can change in a heartbeat to whereas my company can be affected by just one employee coming down with the virus. It angers me to see some people NOT taking this seriously and taking chances with both their own lives and livelihoods as well as with others around them. So, for myself there is a lot of mental anguish building too as this continues day by day. Those in the mandated isolation are going through their own issues I am sure... as some might be dealing with depression and other issues. Now that things like

club meetings, family gatherings... EASTER... Model Shows and Swap Meets... (The upcoming Milwaukee NNL has been canceled as well), car shows and anything of the like are also canceled. We've lost ALL major sports, and with that auto racing too! The Indy 500 has been postponed until August 24th now and as of right now, we simply don't know how much longer this pandemic will last. One can argue how long we may go on this (I am predicting a possible 6 to 8 weeks or more... And I sure hope I am wrong). Some have argued with me that we'd be through this before Easter weekend, and I just never saw it. We could be in for a long haul with all of this, and that means maybe going through May and part of June. I pray it doesn't, but no one knows this timeline... We can simply hope and pray is all.

Now... That I have gotten through the depressing part of my article. Let's focus on how we can possibly look at this in a POSITIVE way! ONE THING I am going to start off saying is this... For those of us who are model builders... My friends, you have certainly got a GREAT HOBBY to be a part of! That is the absolute truth! Some might joke, that for a model builder, isolation could be the greatest thing for a hobby! And this hobby of ours can certainly be self-medicating! I will pull no punches here and tell you all this... this virus may put us all in isolation... However, my friends, I GIVE YOU THE REMINDER THAT YOU HAVE ONE OF THE BEST HOBBIES ONE COULD HAVE! Sure, there is home improvement, house cleaning, blah blah blah... But being quarantined to your home? BUST OUT THE MODEL KITS! GET THAT PAINT BOOTH SET UP! LAY OUT THE NEWSPAPER! AND GET TO WORK! You have a LOT of time on your hands... So use this time to your benefit! For myself... I have some good news for my fellow club members who haven't seen me build much of ANYTHING of late... Part of the problem has been simply that my Hobby Room has become as a whole 'a storage room'. While it is PART of a storage room, it's a large "L-Shaped" area at the bottom of one end of the house that now serves 4 purposes. It's one-part Hobby Room, one Part Woodshop/Workshop, one-part Storage room and one-part exercise room now. Many of you have never been in my home, but a few of you have, and those- that have, know that to enter that room, you have to enter a door in the back of a guest bedroom to get to it. For some time now, that room has become the "Collector" if you will, of anything and everything when

it simply comes to storing anything quickly and albeit temporarily or hiding something quickly that you want out of the guest bedroom. Anything from furniture to appliances to boxes, vacuums, etc. etc. All of this clutter. I've been spending several days pulling out stuff, re-organizing and cleaning and finding NEW ways of organizing my growing collection of model paints, supplies and model parts. My ultimate goal would be to list and catalog all my model kits and parts... But I know right now, that just isn't on the table for any time in the foreseeable future. But cleaning out, re-organizing and getting my workbench and worktables clean and ready to build again is definitely the priority here. Knowing the sooner I get all this done, the sooner I can build again. I will say this too, I am getting the urge to build again, the more and more that I DO go through all my models, parts and supplies as I clean and organize my hobby room / workshop area. I've got a growing number of kits that I'd like to build and some serious scratch building ideas festering and building up. So for me... Progress is the key, and this quarantine does have a few benefits despite all the negatives. For a model car builder or a model builder this is our time to really come up with some great builds. I can see a lot of new births coming up at the end of the year with hospital infirmaries filled up with new babies. I'll leave that one to your imagination. I also see a LOT of model builders coming out of their hobby rooms with a LOT of FRESH builds too when all this is over with.

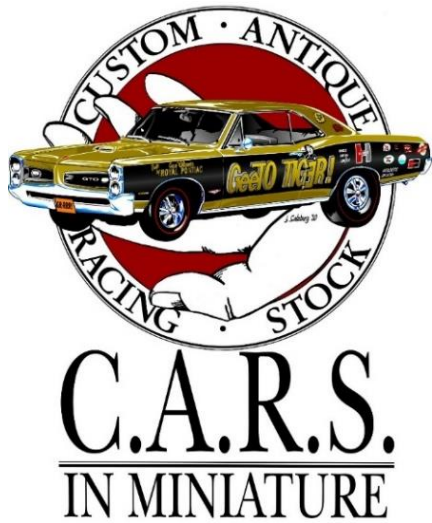
If anything, take advantage of this time that we are all locked up in our homes with nowhere to go or nothing else to do! If you took anything away from my 2nd part of this article, you know my feelings towards stepping on the gas pedal of your model building.

If you have any suggestions for the club, email us and let us know what you think. Our email in case you forget is: [carsinminiaturemodelclub@gmail.com](mailto:carsinminiaturemodelclub@gmail.com)

***We truly hope to see you all really soon! Take care of yourselves and each other! Be safe out there and GET BUILDING!***

**Joe**





## 2020 Show-N-Tell Themes



**January** – What's on Your Workbench?

& Past People's Choice Entrants

**February** – Vehicles in Red & cars you LOVE

**March** – Not from here: European & Asian Cars

**April** – My favorite Kit & Cars in Song

**May** – Auction Night

**June** – Build Night – Odd Scale & Metal

**July** – Build Night - Kit bashing & Customs

**August** – Build Night – Straight Out of the Box

**September** – Pure Stock & Drag Racing

**October** – Big Screen & TV Vehicles

**November** – Auction Night & Nominations

**December** – Gen-X, Vehicles 1967 -1982



### Vintage CARS in Miniature Club Shirts

We have several extra club shirts left from over the years. Extras that we ordered back in the day and items we STILL have to sell!

ALL items have been marked down and ALL proceeds go directly to the Club's Treasury to help fund our activities!

Here are the remaining items listed with the quantity, design/color and sizes.

#### Sweatshirts: (\$12.00)

- (1) White / 10th Anniversary Shirt Md

#### Polos: (\$10.00)

- (1) Red / '69 2XL

#### T-Shirts: (\$10.00)

- (1) Black / '67 GTO 1XL
- (2) Red / '69 Mustang - Sm
- (1) Red / '69 Mustang - M

#### Hats: (\$5.00)

- (1) Grey / Black Logo

### Kit Reviews

Nothing to report here... so if you have a recent build that you would like to report on, please send on in. Contact the newsletter editor.

### Club Dues are Due

\*DUE to the current state of the Pandemic, we will be extending our deadline for the collection of Annual Club Dues! If you have NOT renewed your dues yet, we will be extending the deadline by a month to May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Remember, paying your dues will secure your entry for the 2020 People's Choice Contest. Otherwise you will only be allowed bring a model to display.

Remember your Annual Club Dues cost ONLY \$20.<sup>00</sup>!

### Club Demos

We are looking for modeling related DEMOS for 2020! If you have a technique that helps you with your builds, or a slick trick for detailing your build, regardless of how big or simple, please share it with the rest of the club.

The demo can be short 5-minute presentation. Contact a club officer to schedule your demo as soon as you can!

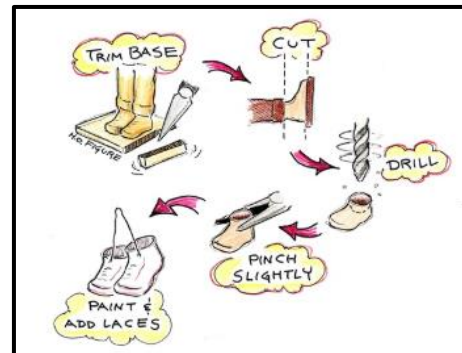
**Please share what you know! We'll publish it in the newsletter!**

### The Lil' Swap Meet

**Wanted:** Revell '67 Corvette 427 convertible kit that anyone would like to sell or trade. Contact Craig Z.

### Tech Tip of the Month - provided by Scale Auto Magazine

Here's a tip for builders with a flair for nostalgia. Fuzzy dice hanging from the rearview mirror were once a requirement, but baby shoes were another popular item. First, find a suitable HO scale model railroad figure. Trim as shown & cut the shoes from the legs. Hollow out the top of the shoe with a micro-drill bit and pinch the top just enough to get rid of the round look of the shoe. Attach the lace, which can be made from fine wire or thread. Hang the completed shoes from your mirror, and you're ready to cruise.



## BUILD BETTER MODELS



## Kit Review: Revell 1970 Pontiac Firebird

Provided by Scale Auto Magazine, Mark D. Jones | February 25, 2020

**Kit No.:** 85-4489

**Scale:** 1/24

**Mfg.:** Revell, [revell.com](http://revell.com)

**Price:** \$24.95

**Comments:** 83 plastic parts (white, clear, clear red, chrome plated); four vinyl tires

**Pros:** New improved decal sheet with a lot of elements; tampo-printed tires

**Cons:** Some accuracy issues; older molds with less detail



Originally issued in 1991, Revell's rerelease of the iconic '70 Pontiac Firebird is a welcome one. While the kit captures the essence of the car, it has a few accuracy issues that may go unnoticed by some and stand out to others depending on one's familiarity with the real cars. By making a few simple adjustments, you can increase the kit's accuracy and create a better model.

First, as an owner of a real F-body of this era, the roofline stood out to me: As you can see, the tops of the side window openings are flat — too flat.



The kit has no drip-rail trim (optional on the real cars), which makes the fix a matter of sanding the openings to match a photo of a 1/1 Firebird. I reshaped the window with a 320-grit sanding stick and finished with 600-grit sandpaper. Additionally, I scribed around the fender vents because they are separate units on the real cars. I inserted a metal pin into the sideview mirrors for a stronger attachment and drilled a mounting hole for them in the doors.

The instructions show the nose cemented onto the body after it's on the chassis and after painting. However, I

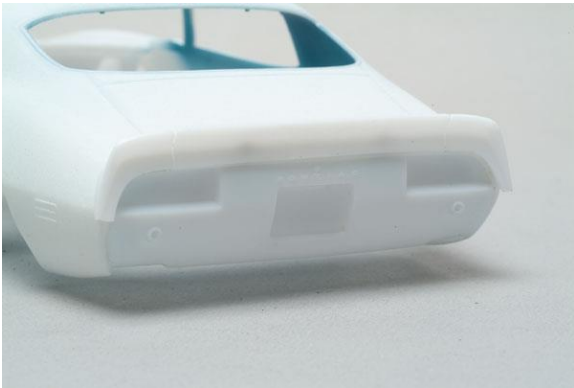
recommend attaching the nose to the body first. The grille and headlight details can be installed afterward, and there's enough clearance to install the chassis. The fit isn't perfect and is better handled before painting. With the front in place, I filled the seams at the flares and spoiler and re-scribed the panel lines where the nose meets the fenders. I also scribed vertical panel lines on the chin spoiler below the parking lights and deepened the horizontal line (darkened for clarity).



Like the nose, the instructions show the lower rear valance cemented in place after connecting the body to the chassis. Attach the rear valance before installing the chassis; it's easier than waiting until after painting. Also, the rear spoiler sticks out too far. It should be flush with the back of the car. The rear valance should be flat across the bottom. Cement two pieces of styrene into the contours and sand them flush. I re-scribed the side seams from the taillights to the bottom of the body. Although incorrect, I didn't adjust the spoiler location; it becomes less noticeable once the rear bumper is installed. Simply moving the spoiler forward creates more problems than it solves. I drilled holes in the bottom of the spoiler and through the deck lid to accept



metal pins. The spoiler's fit isn't bad, but I prefer to glue painted body parts from the inside.



The only exterior colors available for the Firebird Trans Am in 1970 were polar white and Lucerne blue. I went with the more common white. I planned to use Tamiya pure white (TS-20) and primed first to keep the paint from pulling away from the edges. Note the mounting pins in the mirrors and spoiler, which also provide a convenient way to hold them while painting.



The windshield frame engraving is soft and a little oversized, probably to include the multistep trim detail. I scribed the outside line and smoothed away the step. The left rear fender top was slightly higher than the deck lid toward the rear; I sanded it to match and re-scribed the panel lines.



I prefer the blue interior on these white cars. Black decal seat belts are a nice inclusion, but they are color keyed, so I did not use them.

The decals for the dash and console are also a very welcome addition, but the heavily molded detail complicates application without some adjustments. You can remove the raised details or fill the recesses, as I did. After shaving off the headlight and cigarette lighter knobs, I filled the gauges, A/C vents, and controls with canopy glue. The glue shrinks, so it took a couple of applications. Then I brushed three coats of Pledge Floor Gloss (PFG) over the canopy glue to even out the surfaces and let it dry for 24 hours.



The decals fit well when they did not have to align with or conform to the molded detail. I applied the main section first to ensure the gauges could be centered in their respective openings.

I removed the raised details from the console because they're relatively flush on the real cars. (Yes, I should have done it before painting, but it was an easy fix.) I filled the outer edges of the shifter plate with superglue before sanding it down making sure not to fill the slot in the center. I sanded the base of the shifter to about 1/4 of its original thickness so it would sit below the shifter plate. The kit provides decals for door handles and window cranks. A slight error on the instructions has the wrong number for the left door handle (No. 19 should be No. 18 for both sides).

The engine is what one would expect from a kit of this era: A somewhat simplified Pontiac 400. It comes with a two-piece Holley carb; factory stock would be a Rochester Quadrajets. Either way, it's hidden under the shaker scoop. Decals are provided for the fan belts, oil filter, and upper radiator hose.



Extra decals for the scoop are included for later years, but it didn't have any markings in '70.



Despite the fine additions Revell made to the decal sheet with stripes and a ton of interior, exterior, and under-hood details, the Trans Am lettering is conspicuously missing from the decals and box art. This is probably due to a licensing issue.

Nevertheless, for me, it is an omission that stands out on the finished model. I drew up the lettering and printed up a set of three (two front fenders and the rear spoiler) on clear decal paper. All the decals benefitted from a little

Tamiya Mark Fit (mild) decal solvent to help them conform.

The instructions show the interior cemented to the chassis before mounting the body over both. However, the drawings show locating bosses absent on the parts. I tacked the interior to the body first, then slid the chassis into that assembly. The grille and headlight assembly fits into the nose positively but looks a bit off around the head and parking lights.

The tires have the proper Firestone lettering tampo-printed on their sides, but the tread is still the Goodyear Eagle GT pattern. In this instance, I like the sidewall detail more than I'm concerned about the tread pattern. Ignore the tire-decal instructions.

The Rallye II wheels come chrome plated; in 1970 the Trans Am did not have chrome trim rings even though many were retrofitted with them by their owners. Since the detail of the raw steel wheel is not molded as such, I went with the chrome accents. I hand-painted Tamiya gunmetal (X-10) for the gray areas and flat aluminum (XF-16) for the argent colored details. The kit provides decals for the PMD center caps. A great touch!

If you're looking for a bit of a custom look, the kit includes a set of larger wheels and tires with decals.

The shaker scoop and air cleaner did not sit in the center of the opening upon final assembly. I shaved about half of the mounting boss on the bottom of the air cleaner so I could position it after closing the hood. A drop of canopy glue dropped in the hole of the carb kept it in place.

### Final thoughts

All in all, Revell's reissued 1970 Firebird is an enjoyable kit to build, and the minor adjustments I made were very easy. Sure, there are more corrections you could make, but once it is assembled, it looks pretty darn good. I recommend this kit and would gladly build another.

## The Club Event Calendar

### April 2020

- April 11th. C.A.R.S. in Miniature Club Meeting **CANCELED**
- April 18th... 28th Annual Milwaukee NNL; The Excellence Center, Waukesha WI **CANCELED**
- April 19th... Milwaukee Miniature Motors Annual Spring Swap Meet **CANCELED**

### May 2020

- May 9th... C.A.R.S. in Miniature Club Meeting / Auction
- May 15-16... 40th Annual Hoosier Model Car Contest and Swap Meet. Johnson County Fairgrounds, Franklin, IN [mike51oleary@gmail.com](mailto:mike51oleary@gmail.com)
- May 24th... 104th Running of the Indianapolis 500 **(POSTPONED UNTIL AUGUST 23rd)**

### June 2020

- June 13th... C.A.R.S. in Miniature Club Meeting
- June 13th... 2020 IPMS Region 5 Convention, hosted by IPMS/Lakes Region Scale Modelers Crystal Lake, IL.

### July 2020

- July 11th... C.A.R.S. in Miniature Club Meeting
- July 9 thru 11th... Iola Car Show... Iola, WI.
- July 29 Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. 2020 IPMS/USA Nationals San Marcos, TX

### August 2020

- August 8th... C.A.R.S. in Miniature Club Meeting
- August 23rd... 104th Running of the Indianapolis 500 **(Re-Scheduled from May)**

### September 2020

- September 12th... C.A.R.S. in Miniature Club Meeting
- September 27th... Illinois Plastic Kit & Toy Show, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton IL Info contact: (630) 969-1847 or Email: [pthpowerinc@aol.com](mailto:pthpowerinc@aol.com)

### October 2020

- October 10th... C.A.R.S. in Miniature Club Meeting
- October 18th... Countryside Collectors Classic Show, Park Place of Countryside, Countryside, IL [www.uniqueevents.com](http://www.uniqueevents.com)
- October 24th... Circle City Model Show & Swap Meet

### November 2020

- November 14th... C.A.R.S. in Miniature Club Meeting / Auction Night
- November 14th... Butch O'Hare Model Contest & Swap. (More Info to come)

### December 2020

- December 12th... C.A.R.S. in Miniature Club Christmas Party

Hope to see everyone when the 'stay-at-home' order is lifted!



### 2020 Club Officers

President, Craig Zaplatynsky  
Vice-President, Dave Green  
Secretary/Chapter Contact, Joe Salzburg  
Treasurer, Ken Kellner  
Newsletter Editor, Craig Zaplatynsky

### C.A.R.S. in Miniature



Club meetings occur on the second  
Saturday of each month at 7:00 PM  
Algonquin Township Offices  
3702 U.S. Highway 14, Crystal Lake IL