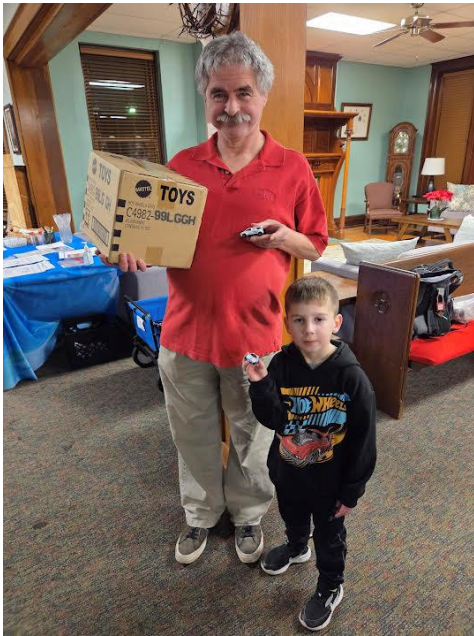


Greater Cincinnati Hot Wheels Club Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 2

We had a blast at our February meeting with our annual Night at the Races! Congratulations to our winners:



- Case Race: Tom took home the case!



- Any Car from 2024: David sped to victory!



- Monster High Ghoul Mobile: Elliott conquered the course!



Mark Your Calendars!

- **March 8th, 2025:** Random Acts Of Kindness (RAOK) Decal Demonstration & Buy/Sell/Trade

Mike Lober will demonstrate how he creates his amazing RAOKs for the Hot Wheels Nationals. Learn tips and tricks for making your own! Bring your questions! Afterwards, tables will be set up for buying, selling, and trading.

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Setup begins at 5:30 PM – volunteers welcome!) Location: Zion Church

- **March 22nd:** Semi-Annual Diecast Show & Swap

**Join us at Lakota East High School for our semi-annual Diecast Show & Swap! **

Volunteers are *greatly* needed for setup on Friday night, during the show, and for teardown at 2:00 PM. Sign up to volunteer here: <https://grow.withlome.com/a/2841c21c-cdb2-4ab6-af2f-b8015f8f899c>

Tables are selling out fast! 6ft tables are \$25, and 8ft tables are \$30. Paid club members receive \$5 off per table (up to 4 tables per year).

- **April 12th: Hot Wheels Nationals Discussion**

A panel of members who have attended or will be attending this year's Nationals in St. Louis will share their experiences and insights, including tips on events and room-to-room trading.

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Setup begins at 5:30 PM – volunteers welcome!) Location: Zion Church

- May 10th: *[Event details to be announced]*

Membership Information

Membership sign-up for 2025 is now open!

- New Members: Visit <https://cincyhotwheels.com/about-the-gchwc/join-the-gchwc-today/>
- Existing Members: Renew your membership at <https://cincyhotwheels.com/about-the-gchwc/gchwc-club-membership/>

Member Spotlight:

Paul Barron's Diecast Delights: A Collector's Journey

Our club member, Paul Barron, has been seriously immersed in the world of diecast collecting for an impressive 30 years, and his passion shows no signs of slowing down. Paul's collection is a testament to the thrill of the hunt, the joy of community, and the sheer fun of these miniature marvels.

When asked about his favorite brand, Paul's loyalty lies with Johnny Lightning. This brand's reputation for detail and variety clearly resonates with him. But amongst his vast collection, one car holds a special place: his original Custom Camaro from when he was just eight years old. This piece isn't just a diecast car; it's a tangible connection to his childhood and the spark that ignited his collecting journey.

For Paul, the best part of collecting isn't just the cars themselves, it's the friendships he's forged and the incredible variety of vehicles he's encountered. He appreciates the shared passion and the camaraderie within the diecast community. And while he admits to owning "a few" unique and unusual pieces, including one from the legendary Larry Wood, he remains delightfully modest about the extent of his collection's treasures.

Paul's advice for budding collectors is simple yet profound: "Set them FREE!" This philosophy likely speaks to both the joy of displaying and appreciating the cars outside of their packaging and the

freedom to explore different collecting avenues. He also emphasizes the importance of community, citing the Nationals as his favorite diecast car show and event each year. It's a chance to connect with fellow enthusiasts, share stories, and of course, find new treasures.

Speaking of treasures, Paul shared some insights into his collecting habits and the thrill of the chase. He highlighted the "room to room trading" at the Nationals as a fantastic way to discover unique cars and meet fascinating people. His key takeaway? "Never underestimate the other collectors and how they can help you." This collaborative spirit is clearly a core part of Paul's collecting experience.

Paul's collecting journey is far from over. He readily admits that there are "always more to hunt," hinting at his ongoing quest for new and exciting additions to his collection. He stays connected to the broader diecast world through Facebook, a hub for collectors to share their finds, discuss their passions, and stay up-to-date on the latest releases.

Paul's story is a reminder that diecast collecting is more than just a hobby; it's a passion that connects people, evokes memories, and fuels the thrill of the hunt. His dedication to the community and his enthusiasm for the cars themselves are truly inspiring. We're fortunate to have Paul as a member of our club, and we look forward to seeing what treasures he uncovers next!