



## On track for fun at Modelville Hobby in Ashland

By **Bob Tremblay/Daily News staff**

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ASHLAND — For model car racing enthusiasts in MetroWest, Modelville Hobby has been a mecca since Richard "D" opened the raceway in Framingham's Irving Square in 1965.

Moves to Waverly Street in Framingham and Union Street in Ashland followed. During these migrations, the business reopened with tracks of varying sizes added and replaced. In 1990, Cafarelli sold Modelville Hobby to Richard Payne. Payne's wife, Suzanne, came on board as co-owner following their marriage in 2000.

Cafarelli, who had resided in Framingham, died in 2009, but the Paynes intend to keep his enthusiasm for model car racing at the business' new location at 280 Eliot St. behind Lentros Engineering in Ashland. The raceway reopened after being closed for 4 1/2-months to renovate the new location and set up the new tracks.

"Slot cars and raceways like Modelville Hobby are a place for kids of all ages," says Payne. "From dads and moms coming with kids or maybe granddad bringing the kids down. It might be the twentysomething who just wants to race or the 60-year-old looking for something to do instead of sitting at home. They are all welcome.

"Slot car raceways have it all. There is no limit on what you can do or how you can do it. At a slot car raceway you get mechanical skills, artistic skills, eye-hand coordination and a little social skill to get some fun all at the same time."

Payne, an inventory manager at Intel in Hudson who was a Modelville Hobby customer before he became its owner, discussed the business with Daily News staff writer Bob Tremblay.

QUESTION: Why was Modelville Hobby started?

ANSWER: I'm not sure why Dick started the raceway, but in the early- to mid-1960s slot car raceways were very popular because I was having too much fun and saw too many other people having fun and did not want it to go away. It was a place for a family to play together.

QUESTION: Why did you choose your current locale?

ANSWER: The space we were at for 30 years at Union Street was too small and had no room for us to expand or offer services or products.

The new locale gives us space to carry more lines and have more tracks. We have more parking than before and a much larger lot. We also have a lot more room to host parties.

In addition, there's room for tracks for other scales other than just 1/24th scale. Right now we have two 1/24th scale and two HO scale tracks running. We are working on a 1/24th scale Sovereign built in 1965 and a Model Car Magazi. We are still planning on a 1/32nd scale track.

QUESTION: What does your company sell?

ANSWER: We try to sell fun. Modelville Hobby is a model car raceway. It is a place to go to race toy cars around tracks.

scale car is about 3 1/4-inches wide and 7-inches long. Cars for the HO scale tracks are about 1-inch wide and 2 1/2-supply parts, cars and service for all scales of slot cars.

QUESTION: What makes you different from the competition?

ANSWER: We are the only model car raceway in Massachusetts that only deals in slot cars. Our competition is every your spare time.

QUESTION: What is the price of your service?

ANSWER: A 1/24th scale car costs about \$52 and you can always spend more. Track time, if you have your own car, minutes. If you do not own a car, your can rent one of ours for \$5 for 15 minutes.

If you have a group, we can rent the Blue track with 8 cars and controllers for an hour for \$90 and have a party.

QUESTION: Any future plans?

ANSWER: We are hoping to host some large national race events that will bring slot car racers from all over the Uni the world. We want to have a small Pinewood Derby track set up for local Boy Scouts to try their cars before their ra

We are also trying to plan the layout of a 1/32nd scale track. Then we will have a track for just about any slot car the

QUESTION: Any news to report?

ANSWER: We just hosted the New England Championship Cup series and the Yankee United States Racing Associa series. On Dec. 11, we will be hosting the Miniature Association for Race Cars (MARC) HO series. It will be making i Ashland.

We are also looking forward to the opening of the Sovereign track on Jan. 1 It was the first of its kind and is being re have only been 10 of these made in the United States.

#### MODELVILLE HOBBY

Address: 280 Eliot St., Ashland

Owners: Richard and Suzanne Payne

Hours of operation: Tuesday through Friday 4 to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1 to 6 p.m. Closed Monday

Website: [www.modelvillehobby.com](http://www.modelvillehobby.com)

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