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R/C cars and trucks – Beyond the toy store shelves

By Mike Eggert

From the high pitched whine of a nitro engine, to the whirring of an electric motor. All across the land, on any given weekend, you can find them bashing about everywhere from vacant lots, to parking lots. RC car and truck racing has become one of the hottest hobbies in recent memory.

You've probably seen them on the shelves of your local discount store, toy store, or electronics store. But, the real excitement this sport has to offer can only be found at a real RC hobby shop.

The RC cars, trucks, and other various RC vehicles found at the discount chains can be a great deal of fun, but if you never venture beyond these toys you might find yourself feeling a bit let down by their quality and excitement level. The difference between the "real" RC vehicles, and the chain store toys can be quite amazing. Obviously, there is a difference in cost, but as the old saying goes, "You get what you pay for."

You can choose from a wide variety of styles of RC vehicles, from mild to wild, and everything in between. From two wheel drive cars, trucks and buggies, to four wheel drive buggies, stadium trucks and monster trucks.

The electric cars and trucks, which are powered by rechargeable battery packs, are probably the best place to start your new hobby. Some of these can reach speeds in excess of 40 miles per hour! As time goes by you may find yourself craving even more speed and excitement. Look no further than the gas powered beasts that run on a blend of nitromethane and methanol for their fuel. Some of these radical rides can approach an amazing 70 miles per hour!

You can jump right in with a Ready to Run (or RTR as they are known in the sport) car or truck, or take on the challenge of a completely unassembled kit. The latter does require a bit of mechanical ability, as well as a dose of patience, but can be a very rewarding project to undertake with your son or daughter, teaching them valuable skills as well as just having a great time together.

No matter which type of RC vehicle you choose, you are sure to have a wonderful time enjoying a wholesome family activity in the great outdoors.

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So stop by your local hobby shop or online retailer and see what the "real" world of RC cars and trucks has to offer. You'll be glad you did.

For even more information about this exciting sport check out

<http://www.rc-hq.com>

Mike Eggert is an R/C car and truck racing enthusiast, and author of the RC information website

<http://www.rc-hq.com>

What A Load Of ...

By Mike Dobson

Non-truckers often don't stop and think about the trucking industry and the many trucking companies that help keep the economy going. Without those big rigs hauling various loads, whether it is gasoline, office supplies or grocery items, this country would be at a stand still. Where do you think the gasoline you pump comes from? What about that package of diapers you are buying your child? How did they get on the shelves? The answer: a big truck delivers all of that and much more!

Let's talk about the various types of trucks that you might encounter on the roads. Each one is different because the loads of cargo are different. For example, the same truck that delivers your favorite ice cream brand to the grocery store will not be the same type of truck that delivers office supplies to the local discount store. By the same token, you will have a trucking company that might specialize in the delivery of one certain type of product over the other.

Possibly one of the most hair-raising trucks on the road today is the one that hauls vehicles. You know - those car carriers where you just KNOW that one of those vehicles are going to come loose and fly off onto the hood of your car! Or how about the tanker trucks that haul fuel or other hazardous products like fertilizers and chemicals? Truckers who drive these types of trucks probably have nerves of steel. Not only do they have to worry about safety precautions for their own loads they are hauling, but they also have to keep an eye on some of the crazy drivers on the road and always be on the lookout for potential hazards.

Some trucking companies specifically handle household or office moving. Think of those families that sell their homes and move half way across the country. Truckers that handle that type of load not only have to be careful of these household items due to insurance issues but also have to have great customer service skills to handle these stressed out people making this move.

There are many other types of trucks on the roads today. Flatbed carriers, refrigerated trucks, dry van carriers and even those trucks that carry livestock ... non-truckers encounter some of these every day on the roads. We all should be cognizant of the fact that these trucking companies and truckers literally drive the economy. They have a tough load to carry and without them doing their jobs, we could not do

our own.

Mike Dobson is the creator of

<http://www.truckingbuddy.com>

the web's most comprehensive trucking

resource. Visit

<http://www.truckingbuddy.com>

and learn about trucking jobs and trucking companies

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