

Swanks Special Edition II

Words/Photos: Ron Dahley & Kevin Dahley

So many great cars, so many great car shows, so many great people, so little space in our regular newsletter requires us at Swanks Publications International to provide supplements from time to time. This will be our second supplement for 2024 and you may expect a few more during our too short car show season. I know, I know there are a lot of pictures, but how do you cut pictures of very cool hot rods? Believe it or not we do cut out some pictures but it is difficult to leave someone's cool ride out. We hope you enjoy the pictures and get out to a car show, take a friend or a kid and remember to wear your Swanks gear!

Gopher State Timing Association 66th Annual Rod and Custom Show



GSTA Continued...



Buffalo Wild Wings Car Show

Ted Bryans & Ron Dahley

The Buffalo Wild Wings Car Show is held monthly at the Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant in Moorhead MN. This particular night it doubled as a charity fundraising night for "Dare 2 Standout" a charitable organization designed to continue the legacy of Danny Mapes, a young man with disabilities who attended West Fargo High School and a classmate and good friend of Ted Bryans. Danny and Ted worked for the band 32 Below before he moved to Florida to take golf lessons, an interesting career choice for a young man confined to a wheelchair. Danny completed school and went to work instructing and coaching golf students. He died unexpectedly around Christmas time a few years ago from COVID.

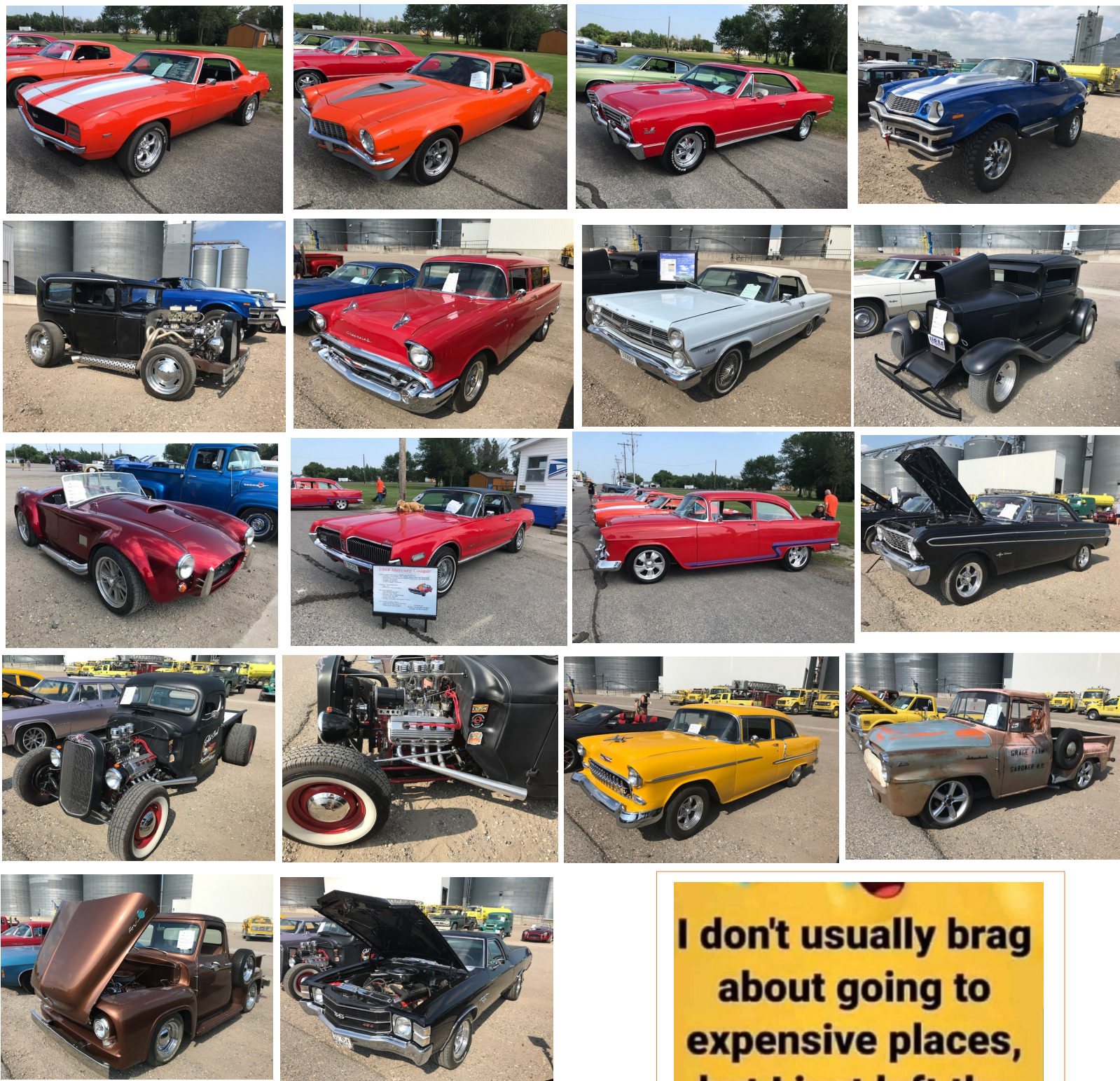
Danny's family and friends have started Dare 2 Standout and Ted Bryans has been an instrumental part of the charity. This is the second car show fund-raising event Ted has put on and has worked on many more fund raising activities. The charity has provided the parks department with accessible wheelchairs for young golfers who need assistance to get out on the greens and play a game of golf.



This is more proof that most car people are really good folks. Thanks Ted Bryans for doing so much for your community and the car community too.

Cruise to Grandin Ron Dahley

Cruise to Grandin was a car show I had planned on attending for several years but something always happened to change my plans, well this year the stars were aligned, and I was able to make an enjoyable cruise to Grandin. About 35-40 cars were on hand, a band played, there were T-shirts to buy and food available. I met some friends and had an enjoyable afternoon bench rodding with folks.



I don't usually brag about going to expensive places, but I just left the gas station.

FAST JACK' TO DRIVE PEAK CHEVY IN RELIEF OF FORCE

Monday Morning Racer

Former Champ Will Pursue NHRA Championship on Behalf of Hall of Famer
BROWNSBURG, Ind. (July 30, 2024) – With an NHRA championship still very much in play, John Force Racing president Robert Hight announced Tuesday that 2012 Funny Car World Champion Jack Beckman will drive Force's PEAK Antifreeze and Coolant Chevrolet Camaro SS for the remainder of the 2024 season in what the team is calling, "Joint Task Force – Mission Championship".

While Force continues to recover from a TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) suffered in a June 23 crash in Richmond, Va., "Fast Jack" will slide into the seat occupied by the 157-time tour winner during the season's first nine races. Beckman will make his debut in the PEAK Camaro in this week's non-championship event, the 47th Annual Cornwell Tools "Night Under Fire" at Summit Motorsports Park, where he and John Force Racing teammate Brittany Force in the Cornwell Tools Chevrolet dragster will both compete.

When Force was injured, he was second in points behind John Force Racing teammate Austin Prock. By NHRA rules, when a driver is unable to compete, the race team may employ a substitute who can earn points for the original driver in a maximum of eight tour events. This means when Beckman rolls to the starting line for qualifying at the 42nd Lucas Oil Nationals at Brainerd, Minn., on August 16, he'll be pursuing a 17th championship title for Force. He currently sits sixth in the driver standings with two races remaining before points reset for the Countdown to the Championship.

"When you think about someone who can handle the driving, can deal with the media, take care of the sponsors and take care of the fans, there was only one obvious choice and that was Jack Beckman," Hight said. "Plus, he has history with Chris Cunningham (co-crew chief on the PEAK Auto Chevy with Dan Hood and Tim Fabrisi) and has the respect of John's family."

A 33-time event winner in Funny Car, Beckman last raced competitively in 2020 when he returned to being a full-time elevator technician, a career that he left 22 years earlier to follow his drag racing dream. The 58-year-old Californian is keenly aware of the unique situation.

"It's been nearly four years since I stood on the throttle, and I thought that feeling was something I'd never experience again. Though the circumstances that brought me back are regrettable, the opportunity presented to me is beyond my ability to find words. I'm not replacing John...nobody could ever do that. John is one of a kind, and his impact on this sport, and my life, cannot be overemphasized. I know how fortunate I am to have been picked to fill in for John, and I should be easy to spot in the pits. I'll be the guy who can't stop smiling."



Brian Bohlander, Director of Marketing at Old World Industries added, "We're happy to have the PEAK team back on track and Jack is the right person for this job until John can return. It's great for the fans and our customers as Jack is an automotive enthusiast and DIYer who will fit right in with our program on and off the track."

Although he won the Funny Car championship in 2012, Beckman's best season was 2015 when he advanced to nine final rounds and won seven races coming up just 56 -points shy of being a two-time Funny Car champion.

A cancer survivor and U.S. Air Force veteran, Beckman has taught more than 7,000 students the basics of drag racing as an instructor at Frank Hawley's Drag Racing School. Among them were Force's daughters, Ashley, Brittany and Courtney, and his wife, Laurie, who also earned her Super Comp license under Beckman's tutelage.

Before distinguishing himself in the Funny Car division, Beckman won the 2003 NHRA Super Comp World Championship. He is licensed in 12 different NHRA competition categories including Top Fuel, the class in which he made his professional racing debut in 2005.

The following year, he made his Funny Car debut late in the season, and in just his fourth race in the category, he won the NHRA Nevada Nationals at The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Two weeks later, in the season-ending World Finals, he qualified No. 1, set NHRA national records for time and speed, and finished runner-up to Force.

Eventually, Beckman would become one of only a few drivers in the sport to enjoy a winning record against the Hall of Fame driver and car owner. Force won the most recent of his 16 championships in 2013 after starting the Countdown from the No. 4 position. Beckman won his Funny Car championship from the No. 3 starting position. Team President Robert Hight made history in 2009 for himself and JFR when he won his first championship from the No. 10 starting position.

Prime Steel Car Show 40th Anniversary



O'Reilly Auto Parts Fill the Parking Lot

Ron Dahley

The first annual O'Reilly Auto Parts Fill the Parking Lot Car Show was held at the 32nd Avenue store in Fargo ND the weather cooperated which brought out lots of cars that did fill the parking lot. We were greeted by friendly staff that helped us park and register. Several plaques were presented including one to Keith Frueh with his 55 Chevy. Keith belonged to the Swanks many years ago.



Twin Valley Town and Country Car Show

Ron Dahley



34 bicycles given away

Elks Car Show Ron Dahley

The Elks Club located in North Fargo sponsors a car show the second Tuesday of each month in the summer. It's a fun little car show with food and beverages available on their patio.



Felton Field Days Ron Dahley



American Legion Car Show

Ron Dahley

American Legion Post 21 in Moorhead MN sponsors a monthly car show. Lots of interesting rides several I had not seen before.



Cruise for a Cure 2024

Ron Dahley

May of 2024 a car show was held at West Fargo High School parking lot to raise money for cancer research. It's a nice show that has been going on for just a few years but each year seems to bring out more cars and spectators.



Barnesville Cruise Nite

Ron Dahley

Barnesville Cruise Nite is another monthly show. The show is held downtown Barnesville MN on main street. A DJ spins records while food vendors serve brats and burgers on the sidewalk.



Art Olson Swap Meet & Car show

Ron Dahley



Ken Nicholson
Swanks member
active in the 60's

Swanks Working and Playing Together

It is heartwarming to see Swanks Car Club members working and playing together. Socializing, and lending each other a hand when needed, that's what a car club is all about. Many time these acts of friendship and cordiality goes unseen but in some rare times we capture such moments on film.



Left: Two Swanks members spending some quality time in the shop. In this particular shot we see Gary asking his good friend Mark to hand him a small ball peen hammer.

Right: Several Swanks members, not in the photo, helping Swanks member Donnie with his lunch. Notice no bib and not a spot on his Swanks shirt.



Valley Vintage Car Show

Kevin Dahley & Ron Dahley

47th Annual



When one door closes another one opens, other than that it's a pretty good car.

Rydell Toy Shop

Kevin Dahley and Ron Dahley



*If you aren't happy single, you won't be happy in a relationship.
Remember happiness comes from hot rods, not relationships.*