

SWANKS NEWS

Swanks Car Club

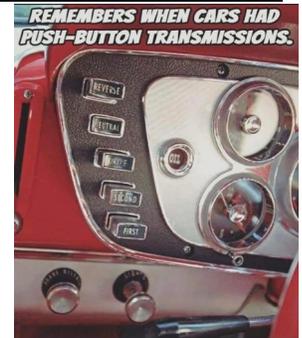
Established 1956

Swanks Newsletter

March-April 2023

Jamestown Car Show

Photos/Words: Ron Dahley



In This Issue

- Jamestown Car Show
- Feature Car
- What's the Diff?
- Lake Havasu Car Shows
- Winterfest of Wheels
- Swanks Garage Tour
- And More!

Issue Dates: Jan. 25th, March 25th, May 25th, July 25th, September 25th, November 25th

Going to a car show? Bring your camera and send in the photos for the next newsletter.

Got a project or a new car? Take a few photos and submit them to the newsletter.

Got something to sell? Put it into the newsletter—
rondahley@gmail.com



Above: Joe Eberhardt, Gary Johnson and Jon Baumler sell raffle tickets for the Swanks car 1941 Chevrolet.

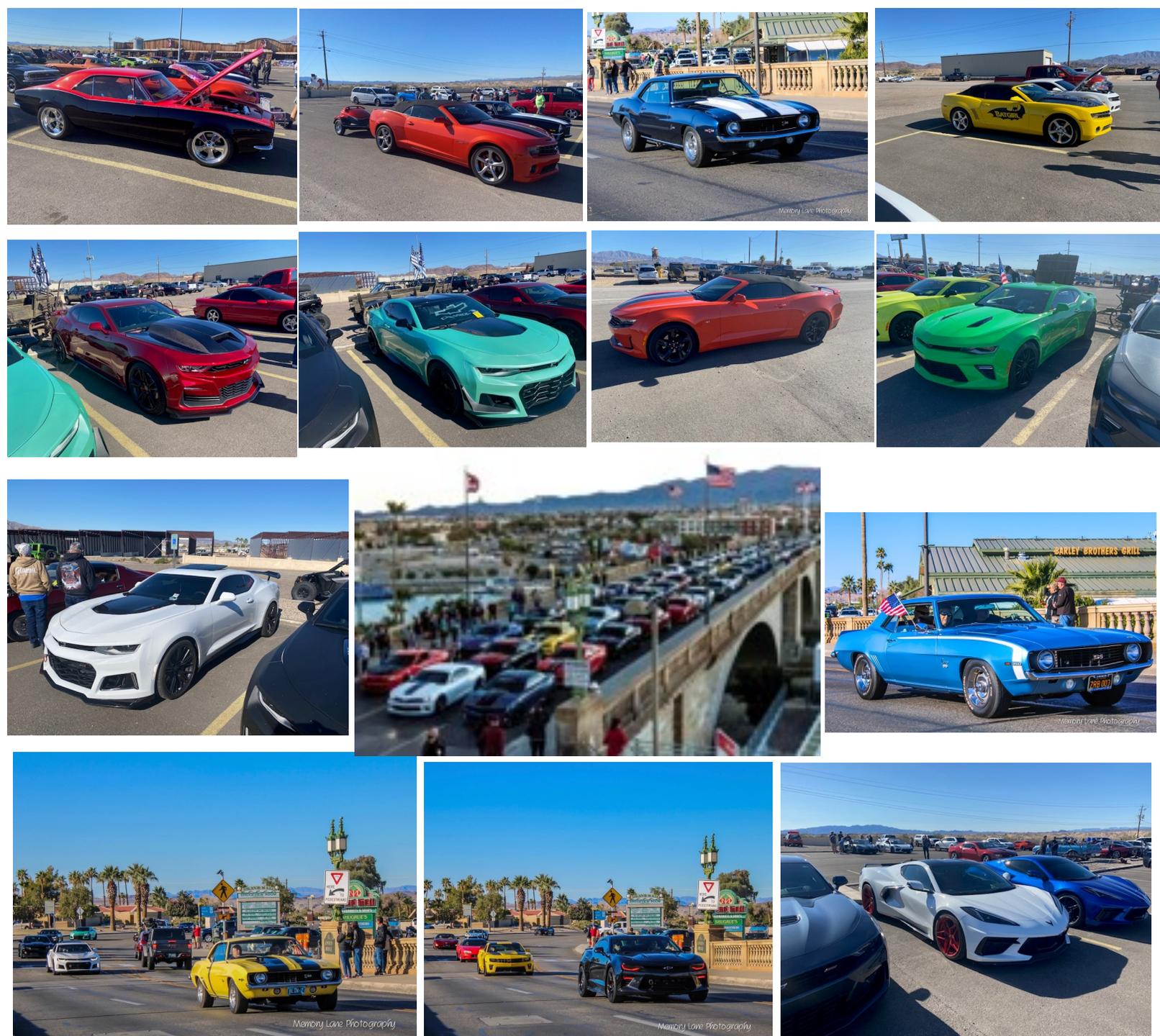
Below: Gary Johnson and Mark Kiefer greet people and sell tickets for the Chevrolet.



Camaro's On the Bridge Lake Havasu Information: Terry Madsen

Garrison Keillor shares stories from Lake Wobegon but our own Terry Madsen shares stories from Lake Havasu and if you are a car person; nothing against Garrison, just saying but, you will prefer Terry's stories. I think we all enjoy seeing pictures of sunny skies, snowless streets, and warmer temps this time of year. Thanks to Terry for sharing his experiences with us.

Terry states that the Camaros gathered for a show, then drove over the London Bridge to a restaurant. Some of the Camaros will drive to Las Vegas the next day to participate in a fund raiser driving on the Las Vegas Speedway.



Which picture is not like the rest?

Jamestown Car Show Winter of Wheels

Jamestown Classic Car Club

Photos/words Ron Dahley

The Jamestown Classic Car Club provided us with a wonderful car show this past January. The show was the first for most of us in the new year. The weather was cold outside but the warm greetings from club members made it all worthwhile.

This year the club held its first Valve Cover Races and it was a great success. At last count 38 racers had registered for the race. Jamestown club members made a new racetrack that worked flawlessly. The rules and registration were clear and went smoothly. Awards went to first through third place and best-looking racer. I will look forward to competing again next year after tuning my racer a little more.

It was also very fun to meet up with car people we haven't seen in a while and get caught up with car news from across the state. George Master's brought his 1957 Ford, *Calendar Girl*, to the show, I love those old school customs. Lots of nice cars, seeing old friends and making new friends made for a great January Saturday.

Swanks members please thank Mark Kieffer and Gary Johnson for all the hard work and time they have spent on our raffle cars. They have all the work on getting the 41 Chevy ready to be raffled off and they trailered the car to Jamestown, set it up and then drove home the next day they drove to Jamestown and sold tickets all day at the car show then had to trailer it home again. Those two put in countless hours to make this club is what it is. They really deserve our thanks.

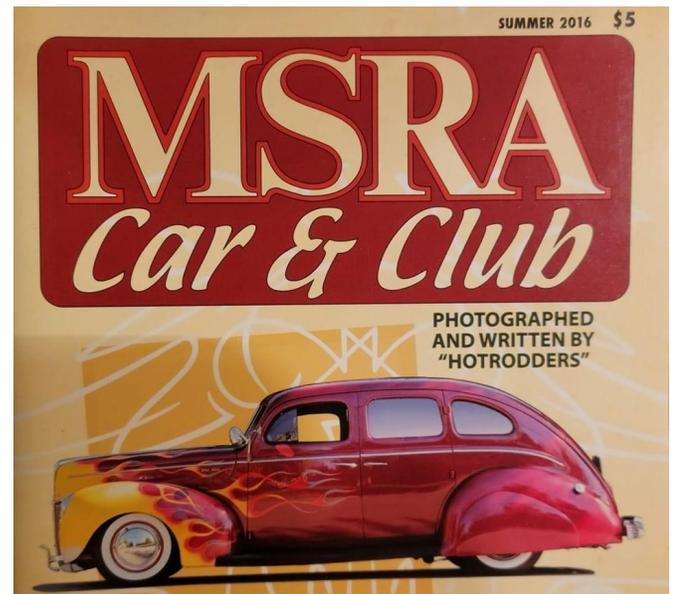


Ted Talk with Ted Bryans

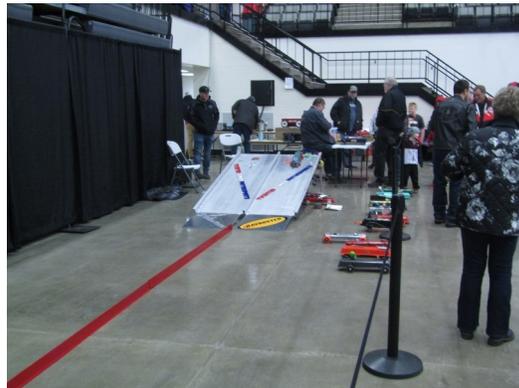
Remembering Fred Romo



Fred Romo passed away in January at the age of 85. Fred was well known among car folks, he lived most of his adult life in the Twin Cities moving from Grand Forks ND as a young man. I have known Fred for some time now, seeing him regularly at car shows from Back to the 50's to the Topper's, Grand Forks and many more. I often had lunch with Fred while setting up for the Topper's show on Friday. Fred was always friendly with lots of stories and a great sense of humor. Fred was well known for his 40 Ford 4 door and his 48 Pontiac 4 door. He had many customs before that, but I don't go back that far. Fred's nickname was 4 door because of his 4 door customs. Fred was a member of many car clubs throughout his life. He belonged to MSRA, The Amblers of the twin cities, The National Street Rod Association, and he was a founding member and membership director for the Old Farts Timing Association and he was an active member of all the organizations he belonged to. 4 door Fred will be missed by car people from across the country.



Winter of Wheels Continued...



Thank you to the Jamestown Classic Car Club for putting on such a fun car show and for their hospitality.

There was a lot of interest in the valve cover racing from other clubs at the show so I think we will see more opportunities to race if anyone is interested in building a racer.

Bench Rodding

Photo/Words: Ron Dahley

With Bernie McIlonie

Bernie and Darlene's 59 Buick Electra



Bernie and Darlene McIlonie farm near Jamestown, North Dakota and Bernie had been looking for a 1959 Buick for a while when one day driving into Carrington ND for weed killer he spotted this 59 Buick with a fresh For Sale sign on it. Well, a quick call to the owner and making arrangements to inspect the car the very next day the Buick quickly became Bernie and Darlene's new car. Bernie said he always liked the 59 Buick because as a teenager in high school his father bought a new 59 Buick and that the family did not buy many new cars. He had many fond memories of that car so when he had a chance, he purchased his own Buick.

Bernie has had the Buick about 10 years now and is enjoyed by his whole family. Since he purchased the car, he had the power steering rebuilt, gone through the brake system and replaced the seals in the transmission. Bernie said the records he has of the car indicate a repaint was done in 1991. Bernie stated that everything works in the car and is a dream to drive. The interior is all original and in beautiful condition and the odometer reads 80,000 miles.

Bernie and Darlene take the Buick out about 6 times a year, mostly to church and a cruise around town. Bernie has taken the Buick to the Jamestown summer car show in the park and to the Winter Wheels car show in Jamestown. Bernie said he does not take the car out on the highway because he worries about chipping that huge windshield or chipping the paint. I think this Buick has found the right home as Bernie admits "I'm kind of picky about the car." Bernie said he likes hot rods, but his favorite is stock cars.

The Buick is not the only collectible car Bernie owns, he also has a 49 International Pickup and a 50 Chevrolet Suburban. Both vehicles required a lot of work to restore but they are in top notch shape now and Bernie's adult daughters have already laid claim to be the next generation of care takers for them. The Suburban has received an honorable mention at the summer show and a People's Choice Award at the winter show.

Bernie said, "as kids we had toys and as adults we still like toys especially ones that have meaning to us."

Connie Francis

By Wikipedia



"Who's Sorry Now?" Connie Francis 1958. Written by the song writers Tin Pan Alley song writers Bert Kalmar, Harry Ruby and Ted Snyder, this song was originally recorded by Isham Jones and his orchestra in 1923. It was revived by Harry James in 1946 and was then sung by Gloria DeHaven in the 1950 movie Three Little Words. Johnny Ray's version was a hit in 1956.

Connie Francis did not want to record his song, but it was her father's favorite and he convinced her to do it. After a false start she sang it in one take.

Released as a single by MGM Records b/w "You Were Only Fooling (While I Was Falling in Love)", Connie enjoyed her first chart success as "Who's Sorry Now?" reached # 4 spot in March 1958. It was also the title track of her first album released in May of 1958.

Over the next ten years, she would place 55 more songs on the Billboard hit parade.

In 1958 Elvis Presley did a home recording of this song, along with a bit from Connie's song "I'm Sorry I made You Cry," with his then-girlfriend Anita Wood at a friend's house in Waco Texas.

**JUST FOUND MY OLD BOOMBOX
IN THE ATTIC**



**DOES ANYONE HAVE 22 "D" SIZE
BATTERIES I CAN BORROW?**



15th Annual Winterfest of Wheels Car Show

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Photos/Words: Ron Dahley

The 15th annual Winterfest of Wheels Car Show was a great success this year as always but, we had sad news, this year's car show will be the last. I was told the husband-and-wife team who have spear headed the show for the past 15 years are calling it quits because they are having so much difficulty finding volunteers to work the show.

It's sad this show is closing for several reasons, one being they bring in some very nice top end customs I don't see at other shows and the unique kinds of cars and bikes there seems to be something for every taste. The second reason is all proceeds from the show got to kids cancer research. Kids are welcome to this show with free admission, to face painting, balloon animals, coloring contests and the zoo brings in animals for the kids to see. This was a really great indoor car show that will be missed.



Top Left: Goodguys 2022 Truck of the Year

Top Right: 73 Cuda Hellcat drive train:

Left: Red 32 Ford 3 window 283 w/3 carbs

Left: Green 35 Ford Chip Foose Special
Designed/built Chip Foose
Painted by Charlie Hutton
Interior by Gabe Lopez



Fun Fact: The 1949 Buick introduced the side port holes. They would be used on Buick's into the 1970's. The Special and Super models had 3 holes the Century and the Roadmaster sported 4

Winterfest of Wheels Continued...



First Leisinger to win Duel in the Desert

Fastest Leisinger ever

58 Corvette



1963 Chevy Impala Z11 1 of 51 built
1/4 mile in 11 seconds
Very rare car

69 Smokey Yunich 302 Hemi Z28
first hemi built by Smokey Yunich
Previously owned by Reggie Jackson

68 Smokey Yunich Comaro
originally trans am race car never licensed

Abandoned Cars

Photos: Pinterest



Remembering

Larry Zaun *By Ted Bryans/ Ron Dahley*

We lost a great car guy and an awesome human being this past February when we lost Larry Zaun to cancer.

The Bryan's family including Ted were good friends with Larry and knew him for many years. I met him through the Bryans when Ted and Victor got a set of headers for my Chevy pickup build from Larry. Ted and I saw Larry at many car shows and we always looked for him when we attended the NHRA Nationals in Brainerd MN. I don't think Larry missed any of the races in Brainerd.



Larry by the Binder at the Swanks Car Show 2022

Ted and I will share a portion of his obituary regarding his love for cars and car people:

His passion for cars started at a very young age. At the age of 9, he began perusing car lots in Valley City. His first car was a 1970 Vitamin-C Orange Dodge Super Bee. Later in life he modified his father's '49 International farm pick-up truck into a bright yellow street rod, affectionately called "The Binder." It was the same pick-up that he had learned to drive at a very young age. From car club cruise nights to the entire Route 66, Larry & Penny made great memories in the Binder with friends. The hobby led to building a '48 International street rod pick-up for show. He was a longtime member and served as president of the Lisbon Hi-Way Rollers, where he made special friendships. He was also a member of Bridge City Cruisers in Valley City. Larry was the founder of the Shuffle Off to Buffalo Car Show and like everything else he did, he gave it his all.

Larry was a great car guy but he was also a wonderful husband, parent, grandparent, friend and community member.

We will fondly remember you, Larry.

Tortilla Flat Arizona

Tortilla Flat Arizona is a small community located in the central part of the state northeast of Apache Junction. It is the last surviving stagecoach stop along the Apache Trail. This is where we find the Baumler's and the Stokke's in late January for the Barrett Jackson Automobile Auction in Scottsdale Arizona. Jon Baumler shared: "The Stokke's, my wife and I went to Barrett Jackson, and we stopped at a little bar in Tortilla Flats. There are around \$700,000 worth of bills on the walls and ceiling and now they have a Swanks \$."



Feature Car 1929 Buick

Model 44 Roadster

John Brockman from Yankton SD introduced his completed 1929 Buick Model 44 roadster for the first time at the Winterfest of Wheels Car Show in Sioux Falls SD this past February. In 1929 Buick was celebrating its Silver Anniversary and this expensive automobile was probably built and sold early in 1929 before the great stock market crash. This Buick had a base price of \$1325.00 while the 29 Ford had a base price of \$385.00 so most blue-collar workers did not drive a Buick.

John purchased this Buick in 1994 and it sat dormant for years as he gathered parts, buying two parts cars and working. When he retired it was time to go to work on the Buick and after several years of hard work his efforts paid off with this beautiful automobile.

I thought that the flathead motor evolved into the overhead valve engine, but Buick had the overhead valve engine from the get go as this particular beauty is powered by an inline overhead valve six cylinder engine.

John told me that his Buick had wooden spoke wheels but the beautiful wire wheels on the car now were, and an option and he was able to score a set and have them refurbished for the Buick. Another feature you won't find on a model A is the space built to house your golf clubs. Thank goodness for guys like John who work so hard to preserve our automobile history.



Below: storage space in the door.



Above: spot for golf clubs

John with his beautiful 1929 Buick Model 44 Roadster

What's The Diff? 1966 and 67 Chevelle

Spotters Guide



From the front, the 1966 Chevelle grille is angled back from top to bottom, giving the headlamps a protruded look, and for 1967 the lamps a little inboard and the fender line is near vertical. The bumper for 1966 has two slots, split by the license plate area, and for 1967 the slot goes all the way across the bumper and captures the turn signal lamps within.



At the rear of the 1966 Chevelle, the reverse lamp is part of the tail lamp, which sits inside of the quarter panel. For 1967, the reverse lamp moves to the bumper, and the tail lamp wraps around the quarter panel.

Who Knew?

The first Hemi engine was built by Allie Ray Welch in 1901

From: The Drive

“Hemi” is the colloquial term for an engine with hemispherical combustion chambers, likely referring to Chrysler’s muscle cars in our modern automotive epoch. However, Chrysler isn’t the only manufacturer to have built “Hemi” engines, nor was it even the originator of the design. Sorry, muscle car fans, but the “Hemi” was invented by Allie Ray Welch out of Chelsea, Wisconsin around the turn of the last century, with the first prototype built by Truscott Launch and Engine Company. A two-cylinder engine, the first Hemi ever was built for use in a boat! As for the first Hemi-powered car, Chrysler wasn’t the first either, that honor went to a Belgian company called Pipe in 1905. After Pipe, Peugeot, Alfa Romeo, Daimler, and Riley began manufacturing “Hemi” engines, too, with Peugeot and Alfa Romeo dropping them into their respective Grand Prix racers.

Swanks Drive Careful



Up Coming Events 2023

Please call to ensure the events have not been cancelled.

March 18-19 Motor Madness Car Show, Duluth MN

April 1-2 Toppers Car Show West Fargo ND

April 1-2 Gopher State Timing Assoc. 65th annual car show St. Paul Fairgrounds Saint Paul, MN

April 15-16 Prime Steel Car Show Grand Forks ND

April 29-30 Valley Vintage Car Show West Fargo ND

May 6-7 Spirit Of America Bike/Car Show Alerus Center Grand Forks ND

June 2,3,4 Devils Run Devils Lake ND

June 17 Aneta Car Show 10am-2pm Aneta ND

June 17-18 Lanny's Can Am rendezvous Mayville ND NDSRA Pick site

June 23-25 Back to the 50's St Paul MN

June 24 Underwood Car/Bike Show 12:30-3:00 Underwood ND

June 30-July 2 Good Guys Heartland Nationals Iowa State Fairgrounds Des Moines Iowa

July 1 Larimore Dam Car Show 11am-3pm Larimore ND

July 14-15 Prairie Cruisers 40th annual Car Show Dickinson ND

July 27 Cruise to Casselton, Swanks Car Show Casselton

Frequent Events

1st Tues. Elroco Cruise Night Grand Forks ND 6:30-9:30.

2nd Tues. Elks Car Show Fargo ND 4-8:30 pm 3435 North Broadway.

Wed. Cruise Night Bismarck ND 6 to 9 pm Scotty's Drive-in.

Wed. Cruise Night Pelican Rapids MN 6:30 Main Street.

2nd Wed Cruise DL Detroit Lakes MN 4:00-8:30 pm West Lake Drive on the beach.

Thurs. Cruise Night Grand Forks ND 6-8:30 pm Culvers Restaurant.

1st Thursday Moorhead Cruise Night Moorhead MN 5-8:30 pm Downtown Center Avenue Moorhead. Starts in May.

2nd Thursday Barnesville MN Show "N" Shine 6-8 pm Downtown Barnesville.

3rd Thurs West Fargo Cruz Night West Fargo ND 4:30-9 pm

Ron's Helpful Hot Rod Tips

Son: Can I have the car?

Dad: Sure...

