

SWANKS NEWS

Swanks Car Club

Established 1956

Swanks Newsletter

July-August 2024

Back to the 50's 2024

Photos: Kevin Dahley, Johnny "Rocket" Nustad and Ron



In This Issue

- Back to the 50's
- Feature Car
- What's the Diff?
- Fergus Falls Car Show
- Ted Talk
- Cars in the Park
- And More!

Swanks members and friends bench racing on Gary Sporel Hill during Back to the 50's weekend. The Weather conditions was cool and cloudy with brief periods of sprinkles and a good rain for about two hours on Saturday. The weather was not as bad as one might have expected making for a good Back to the 50's. I believe the official count was 10,543 cars registered. Spirits were high and the streets crowded with car enthusiasts while Wings played 50's and 60's Rock "N" Roll all weekend long.

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



Back to the 50's 2024

The 50th Annual Car Show!

Minnesota Street Rod Association hosted their first Back to the 50's car show in a parking lot and it has grown to one of the largest car shows and one of the most popular car shows in the world.



More Back to the 50's in an upcoming issue.

Fergus Falls Cruise Night

Ron Dahley

Fergus Falls Minnesota started their own Cruise nights and are held the first Wednesday of each month June through September. I attended the first cruise night and was warmly welcomed. The hosts were very friendly and enthusiastic about the car show and shared their vision of expanding the show with music and vendors. If you are in the lakes area this may be a fun show for you to check out.



Feature Car “The Jade Idol”

Kustomrama

Today, we turn the spotlight onto one of the crown jewels of custom car history: The Jade Idol—Leroy Kemmerer's 1956 Mercury, a masterpiece that left an indelible mark on the kustom kulture landscape.

Crafted in the late 1950s, The Jade Idol is a testament to the creative genius of its innovative builder, Gene Winfield, alongside the vision of its owner, Leroy Kemmerer. This vehicle isn't just a car; it's a canvas where metal bends and curves into art, painted in hues that capture the imagination and don't let go.



The Jade Idol's journey from concept to car show icon was no small feat. It underwent a transformation so radical it pushed the boundaries of what was considered possible in car customization. With its sculpted body, seamless modifications, and a color scheme that blends green and pearl white in a mesmerizing dance, The Jade Idol became a symbol of innovation and style.

But what makes The Jade Idol truly remarkable is not just its appearance or the trophies it collected but its influence on the custom car culture. It inspired countless enthusiasts and builders to dream bigger, push harder, and create without limits. Its legacy is not just in the shows it won, or the magazine covers it graced but in the hearts and garages of those it inspired.

As we look back on The Jade Idol, we're reminded of the passion, creativity, and dedication that drive the kustom kulture. It stands as a beacon of what can be achieved when vision meets skill, reminding us that the road to creating something extraordinary is often as beautiful as the destination.

OK Tire Car Show Fargo

Photos Todd Schultz



That's Funny !



O'Reilly Auto Parts 1st Annual Show

Ron Dahley

The O'Reilly Auto Parts Store on 32nd Avenue South in Fargo, ND held their first show and shine and if filling the parking lot equals success they reached it. Lots of cars filled their parking lot and we were greeted by an O'Reilly person who welcomed us and helped us find a parking spot. A table at the front of the store held lots of freebies one could choose from. Several awards were given out as well as some door prizes.



Fun Fact

Steve Magnante

The 1955 Chevy 265 small block wasn't known as a small-block until the arrival of the W-Series 348 engine family. That's when comparisons could be drawn, and nicknames conjured. Thanks to its compact dimensions, hot rodders began calling the 265 (and its immediate 283 and 327 successors) "mouse motors." The term "rat" wasn't used until after the debut of the MK IV 396 engine family.

Ted Talk with Ted Bryans

Drag race fans are aware of 16-Time NHRA Funny car driver John Force's horrific accident in Virginia this past month. John, 75 years old, passed the finish line at over 300 mph when his engine exploded sending his car into both guard rails. Because of the freak explosion his parachutes did not deploy as they usually would, making the accident more severe.

John was coherent and communicating with the NHRA Medical Team at the accident scene. John was taken to the trauma intensive care unit and later moved to the neuro intensive care unit for his head injuries.

Austin Prock driving John Force's second funny car won the "Wally" that day and said "He's one tough son of a bitch, it's just tough to see somebody go through that. He will be back. I know John wanted us to be out here, going rounds, and I'm glad we did our job. This trophy is going straight to the hospital to John Force."



As John continues to recover, he has been transported to another hospital closer to his home. Doctors report he is making good gains but the road to complete recovery will be long and challenging.

John Force Racing has reported that their management and sponsorship are planning to announce a driver to fill in for John as he recovers. In a short time, we will hear who will be driving John's Peak Mustang for the rest of this year.

NHRA is investigating the accident including why the parachutes failed. There is also talk of adding the safe barriers like NASCAR has used for many years now.



Rothsay MN Car Show

Ron Dahley



Rock Roll and Stroll Car Show

Ron Dahley

Henning, MN

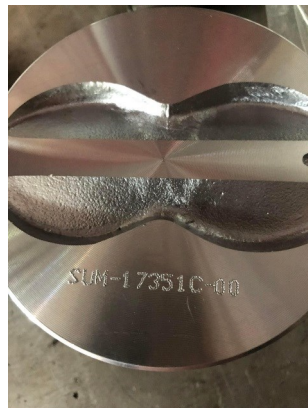
The Tri-County Cruiser Car Club sponsors a monthly car show in downtown Henning, MN. I attended the July show and found some very nice car people hanging out on the main street with their special cars. The August 10th show will have a band, the White Sidewalls a 50's and 60's rock band, sound like fun.



307 Small Block Chevrolet

Gen 1 350 Chevy Builds Berry Warren

Hear an old 1969 307. People throw them away. Back in the day bore it to a 4" bore you get a large journal 327 or add a 350 crank. Best std bore and 300hp with flat top heads.



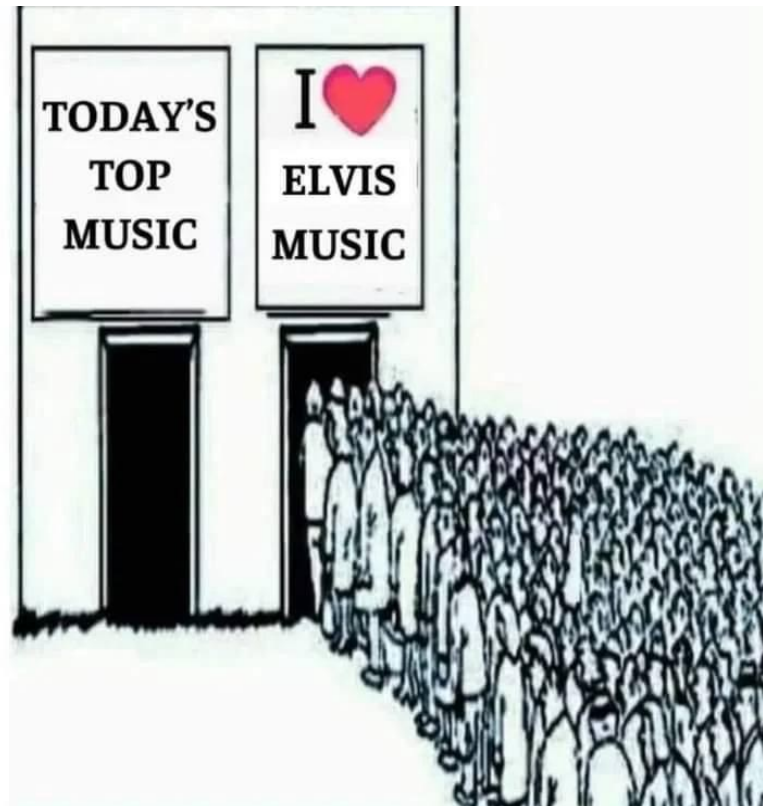
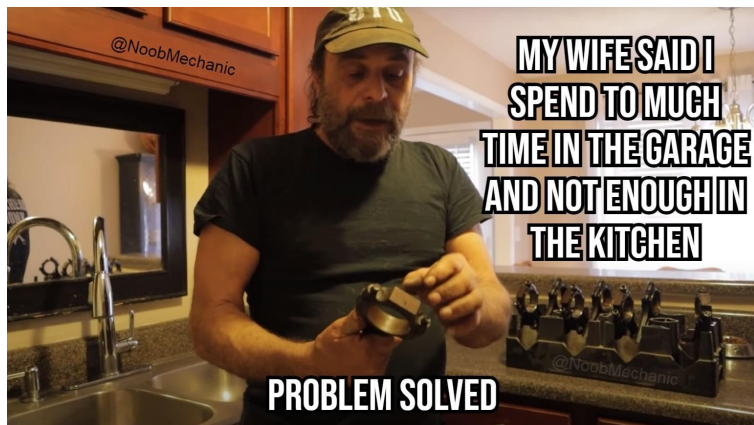


Rocket 88

The Saturday Hopper's Group

71 years ago, on March 5, 1951, Ike Turner's band, featuring vocalist Jackie Brenston, recorded "Rocket 88" in Memphis TN. Many have called the song the first rock and roll record. It's also the first hit produced by Country Music Hall of Famer Sam Phillips.

SWANKS COOKIN' CORNER



I have too many cars

Said no car guy ever



History Lesson

DOTNETAL.COM



In the year 1908, Henry Ford introduced the groundbreaking Ford Model

T, marking a new chapter in transportation. With its What set the Model T apart was Ford's clever assembly line production method. This not only sped up the manufacturing process but also set a new standard for efficiency and affordability in the car industry. The Model T became more than just a car; it became a symbol of progress.



Fascinated by the Model T's charm, fans soon started converting it into camper vans. These conversions weren't just modifications; they represented the spirit of freedom and exploration. The open road called out to adventure-seekers as these camper vans allowed people to travel and camp comfortably, opening up new possibilities for exploration. The Model T camper vans were cleverly modified, featuring personalized interiors and added conveniences. These changes turned the vehicle into a mobile home, sparking a sense of wanderlust and adventure for those who wanted to hit the open road. Even in the present day, the nostalgic charm of the Model T camper van remains strong. Its influence is evident in modern camper designs, fostering a lively community of vintage car enthusiasts.

The 1922 Ford Model T Camper Van endures as a symbol of innovation, adventure, and cultural significance, leaving a lasting mark on automotive history.

What's the Diff?

The 39 Ford Standard and Deluxe

Classic Old Cars & Motor City Garage

The 37-40 Ford line can be confusing as Henry Ford wanted to offer more choices to his customers as General Motors and Chrysler were doing. Ford came out with the Ford Deluxe to add to Ford's line up. Ford would offer the Ford, Ford Deluxe, Mercury, Lincoln Zephyr, and Lincoln.

The 39 Standard looks like the 38 Deluxe confusing people, a money saving technique of Henry Ford. Look closely to the pictures you will see some of the differences in the Standard and Deluxe models: start with the windshield wipers, headlight location, grill, standard; painted and horizontal; Deluxe, chrome and vertical. The hood is different and trim is different.



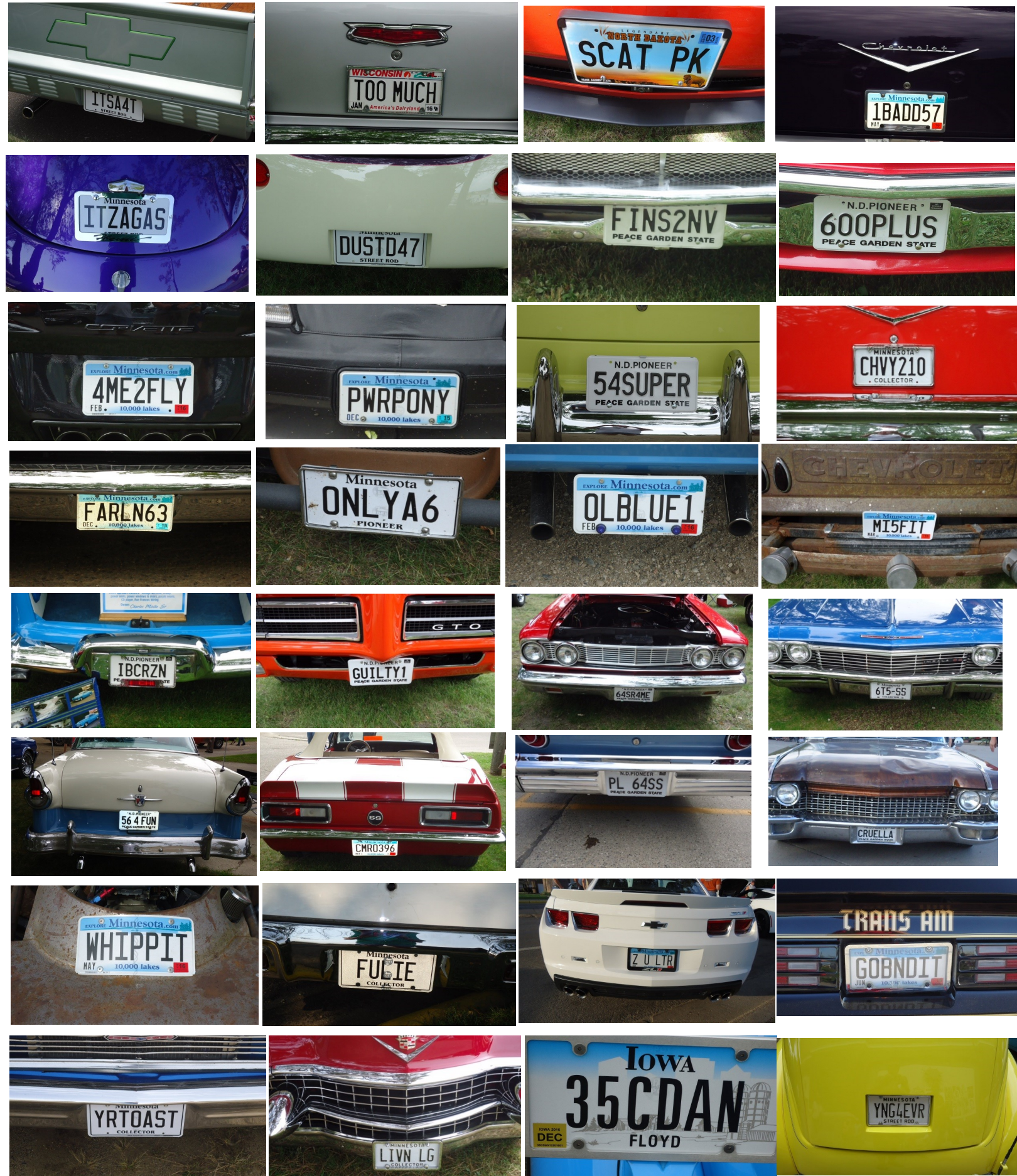
Moorhead Cruise Night

Ron Dahley

The Moorhead Cruise Nights have changed locations because of construction in downtown Moorhead. The car show is being held in the parking lot of Minnesota State Community and Technical College. The show is held on the first Thursday of the month during the summer. This show has a strong turnout each month. They also provide live music.



Personalized Plates



Cars in the Park

Ron Dahley

Pelican Rapids MN

Cars in the Park is One of my favorite car shows because of the setting, the people, and the beautiful cars that fill the park. The weather cooperated and the park was filled with cars making for a fun day.



Bench Rodding with Steve Olson

Steve Olson shared a story that took place many years ago, so he has met the statute of limitations and besides he was more of a bystander anyway so I feel safe in sharing this story.

As Steve remembers it he was cruising Broadway in Fargo with a couple of guys a little older than himself, they may have belonged to a certain Car club. Steve was younger and did not have a drivers license and was not affiliated with a car club. So he was riding in the backseat and cruising Broadway which was so popular in the 50's and 60's. Young cruisers would drive door handle to door handle, windows down, music blasting Rock "n" Roll from KVOX radio station or KUTT (Cutie) AM stations while checking out the guys and gals in the other cars. Kids would spend hours just cruising Broadway from 6th Avenue North South to Main Avenue. Cruisers would cross Main Avenue on Broadway and drive down the hill towards Island Park. They could turn either right or left at the bottom of the hill to loop around the block and reenter Broadway.

This particular summer evening road workers had set out some smudge pots down the center of Broadway on the hill. They had done some patching on the Broadway hill and laid some straw over their patches and then a few smudge pots to caution motorists.

Our young cruisers were coming up the Broadway hill and hit a red light. As the light changed to green one of the young men opened his door just enough to get his foot out and reach the first smudge pot on the top of the hill. With a quick flip of his foot, he engaged the smudge pot knocking it over. The kerosene fueled flame caught the straw on fire immediately and Steve reports it was a cool sight as the fire continued down the hill. There was not a lot of straw so the whole escapade only lasted a minute or so, no one got hurt and nothing was damaged, so it was a pretty harmless prank. The silly things we did in the 60's.



Smudge pot used in road construction up until the 70's to warn motorists of repair work ahead. Before blinking lights construction workers and the rail road used these pots to alert motorists to be extra cautious in work areas.

Carrington Car Show

PHOTOS: Todd Schultz



The hand, no matter how dexterous would be a useless piece of machinery were it not guided by intellect. Henry Ford

Drive Careful Swanks

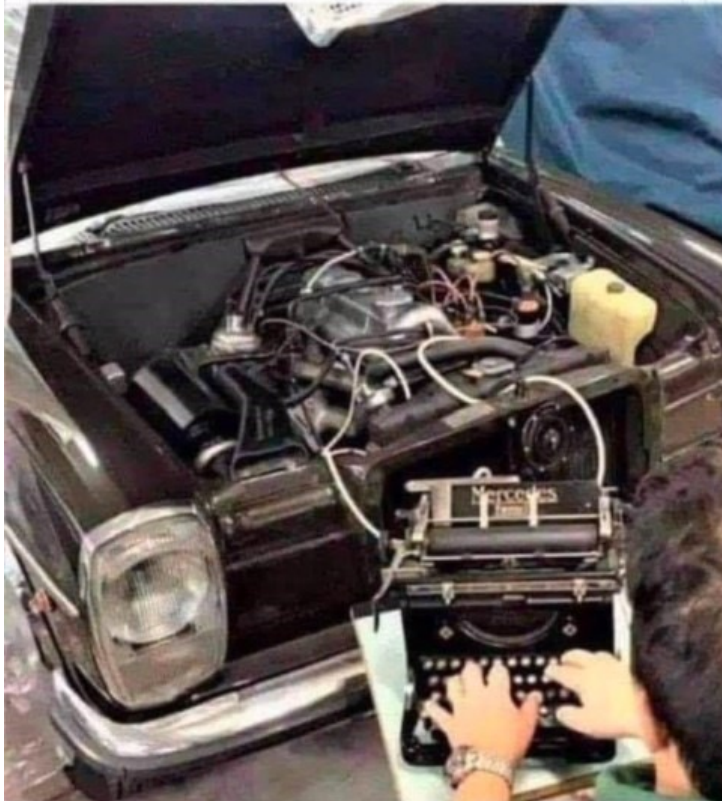


This is what a deer can do to your classic car.

Watch for deer Swanks

Ron's Helpful Hot Rod Tips

When the young mechanics ask you how you did tuning before laptops, show them this!



Up Coming Events

Please check to ensure the events dates and times have not changed.

July 25 Cruise to Casselton Swanks Car Show 5-9

July 27 Weekend of Wheels Grand Rapids MN 9-3

July 27 Car Show Warren ND

July 27 Hwy 2 Cruisers Car Show Fosston MN

July 27 VW's in the Valley Fargo ND

July 27 Crossroads Car Show Glenn Ulen ND

July 27 Buffalo Rally 11-3 Jamestown ND

July 27 Dilworth Loco Days Car Show 12-3 Dilworth MN

Aug. 3 Harwood-A-Rama Car Show Harwood ND 11:30am

Aug 3 MPCG FFA 1st. Annual car show 10-4 Mayville ND

Aug 4 Show and Swap Meet 9-2 Fergus Fall MN

Aug 7 Fergus Falls MN Car Show 5-8;30

Aug. 10 Show & Shine 9th annual hog roast Pelican Rapids MN 11-3pm

Aug. 10 Run To The Rapids Car Show Park Rapids MN

Aug. 10 Lynn Lucken Car Show 10-2 HWY 59 at the Depot Winger MN

Aug. 11 Big Wheel Car Show Jamestown ND 10-4

Aug. 14 Lidgerwood Car Show 5-9 pm

Aug. 15-18 Lucas NHRA Nationals Brainerd MN

Aug. 17 Headwaters Cruisers Car Show Park Rapids MN 10-3

Aug. 18 Sauk Rapids MN 7-3Pantowners 49th annual car show & swap meet

Aug. 21 Cruise to Lisbon Lisbon ND

Aug. 22 OK Tire Show Wahpeton ND

Aug.28 Cruise to the Scenic 4-9pm

Sept. 8 Cruise to the Island Mayville ND

Frequent Events

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

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

2nd Wed Detroit Lakes Cruise Night June-Sept, 4-8:30pm

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

Wed. Classic Cruise Nite Fort Saloon Abercrombie MN 6-10

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 Sheyenne St.