



The Steering Wheel

June 2020

Newsletter of the Midwest Antique Auto Club
Not affiliated with any national club.

An independent group of collectible vehicle enthusiasts.

Dedicated to the preservation of the antique/collectible automobile.

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<u>News Letter Editors</u>	We still need someone	<u>Ph. (xxx)-xxx-xxxx</u>
<u>Historians</u>	<u>Clif & Joyce Ellis</u>	<u>Ph. (402)-397-4279</u>

Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month. The Board meets at 1:30 p.m. and the general meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. during the months of November, January, February and March at the **NEW CASSEL RETIREMENT CENTER at 900 N. 90th St., Omaha, NE 68114.** During the summer months of April, May, June, July, August, September and October, there are no inside meetings. In these months we have “Official Car Tours” on the third Sunday of each month. Plus whatever extra tours may please us. There is no meeting in December, that meeting is replaced by our annual Christmas banquet. All vehicles are welcome, any year, make or model, but a drivable collectible/antique vehicle is not a requirement for membership.

The deadline for articles for the Steering Wheel is the last Saturday of the month.

The President's Message



Hello Everyone,

I hope you are staying safe and healthy while we stay at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I was glad to see a great turnout for our May tour to various sites in Council Bluffs.

We are planning to visit four retirement communities/assisted living centers during our June 2020 tour. We plan to keep social distance from each other and the residents by driving our cars to around each facility so those in the facilities can see our cars as we drive by. I hope you can join us and give the residents a mini car parade.

Be safe and stay healthy

John and Karen Thurber☼

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 20th (Saturday)

We are planning to have a car drive by at four retirement communities/assisted living centers. We will meet in the parking lot at **New Cassel Retirement Center (900 N. 90th Street, Omaha)** at 1:00 p.m. and will start driving our cars around the facility at 1:30 p.m. We will then leave to drive by **Bloomfield Senior Living** (8904 Nicholas), **Westgate Assisted Living** (3030 S. 80th Street) and **Crown Pointe Independent Living** (2820 S. 80th Street). At each facility, we will just be driving through the parking lots so that the residents can view our cars as we drive past. We will end up at Pipal Park 7770 Hascall Street and finish the tour there. No food or drink will be provided during the tour but we will receive a “goodie bag” from New Cassel.

July 19th (Sunday)

Tour is still being arranged and will be finalized and discussed in the next Steering Wheel.

Member News

****DUES ARE PAST DUE! PLEASE SEND THEM TO DIXIE FOOTE IF YOU HAVE NOT YET PAID.**

May 17th Tour- Participants, Chuck and Lola Christensen (56 Ford), Jim and Cheryl Cushman (39 Buick), Clif and Lisa Ellis (67 Mustang), Ken, Dixie and Donna Foote (49 Packard), Monte and Marge Frost (Modern), Ed, Janet and Katie Hedegaard (38 Chevy), Tom and Gloria Kannas (41 Buick), Randy Kolb (63 Chevy), Charlie and Mickey Moriarty (49 Chrysler), John and Karen Thurber (47 Chevy), Michael Thurber (66 Toronado), Frank and Elizabeth Van Doorn (41 Studebaker), Lean Zaiger/Jeanie Oles (Modern), Mike Sadler (Vintage Corvette)

We had a great time visiting the Lincoln Memorial, Lewis & Clark Landing and Zestos. Thank you to everyone that participated.



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Garage 101: How to keep an orderly garage **By Kurt Ernst on Jun 2nd, 2020**

Size: 27 feet by 36 feet, 2-1/2 carStyle: detached gable roofVehicles: 2014 Toyota 4Runner, 2008 Toyota FJ Cruiser, 2012 Mazda MX-5 Miata. This wasn't the way it was supposed to work. Somewhere along the line, I was going to buy a house with an ideal garage, or failing that, build one to my specifications from the ground up to house my cars, bikes, and projects. Instead, with our move to Vermont we're on house number five, and none of our previous real estate transactions left me with "garage mahal" money in the bank.

Still, when it came time to buy a house here, the garage was a major consideration for me. It had to be two cars or larger in size, had to have a cement floor, and had to be closed to the elements. In most markets, this wouldn't be a challenge, but Vermont is not at all like most real estate markets. Finding a barn with a dirt floor was not a problem. Finding a two-plus car garage, in salvageable condition and within our budget, required a bit of effort.

The house we settled on included a freestanding garage that showed potential. The ancient garage door openers didn't function with any regularity, the wood entry door had seen better days, the single-pane windows didn't open, and the quartet of incandescent bulbs on the ceiling provided scant illumination. Step one towards making the garage organized and useful was addressing the basics. That started with a pair of new garage door openers, followed by a new entry door and new double-pane, double-hung windows. After that came eight overhead LED shop lights, four per side, dramatically increasing the amount of light inside, regardless of weather or time of day. The end result is a garage that's more functional, with far better ventilation and lighting. Another step was adding additional GFI outlets throughout the garage, making it easy to throw Battery Tenders on anything parked more than a few days (which, given the current situation, is everything with wheels and an engine). It also means anything that needs power doesn't isn't stuck in the only corner of the garage with power. I don't own a welder, and no longer have a large, vertical compressor for air tools, so standard 110v, 20A outlets work just fine.

A shed is on the list of projects, and getting car-denting implements off the walls would net me peace of mind. As the water stain on the floor illustrates, drainage around the garage needs work, too. The key to living with a not-quite-large-enough garage that serves many masters is organization, and here's where a bit of planning comes into play. Everything has a permanent place, and assortments of similar items are gathered together in plastic totes or storage bins. Not only can I tell you where any tool in my collection resides, I can also tell you with reasonable accuracy where my cloth shop towels are (top shelf rack, bottom small tote), as well as the microfiber towels (big tote, top shelf) and cotton towels (the other small tote on the top shelf). Need brake cleaner, or throttle-body cleaner? You'll find them in the white tote on the middle shelf, along with anti-seize (the silver aluminum-based stuff, that gets all over everything when the jar is opened), assembly lube, spray grease, and graphite powder. Car care products go on the shelf below, while the bottom shelf is for bulky stuff like my jack stands, portable air tank, and wash bucket. It's probably worth noting that none of this is labeled, it's just committed to memory, potentially displacing other, more useful information.

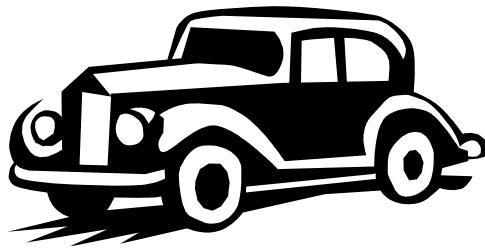
If you've ever dealt with a gasoline fire, you know this: it spreads quickly, and can go from no big deal to fully involved in a matter of seconds. I keep three, 5-pound ABC fire extinguishers in my garage for that very reason. One is located just inside the entry door, another just short of the center of the same wall, and one is on the back wall. The circuit breaker for the garage is just inside the entry door as well, in the unlikely event of an electrical fire. I don't keep oil soaked rags around, but still have a metal rag safe for this purpose if needed (call it a byproduct of growing up in the family service station).

My now-vintage rag safe has been repurposed to basement garbage can duty. If I switched back to using cloth garage rags instead of the paper disposable ones, it could easily be pressed into service.

The garage also needs to house the yard equipment and snowblower (along with 2 tons of wood pellets, beginning each October), and though it's big enough to fit our three vehicles inside (as long as the Miata is parked across the back), that doesn't leave much floor space for winter oil changes and such. It's also not heated, but because it's not insulated, I really don't see the point of adding an overhead heater. At one point it did have fiberglass batting between the studs (and potentially even drywall), but a previous owner—likely battling the same rodent overpopulation issue I've dealt with—pulled this down. Re-insulating would simply give mice more places to nest, compounding the problem instead of helping to eliminate it. My garage isn't tall enough for a lift, either, and then there's the drainage issue on the uphill side (pine tree roots are tenacious and incredibly invasive) to deal with. Still, humble though it may be, it's a shop to call my own, and because it's organized it gives me the space needed to carry out maintenance and repair out of the elements. If I ever hit the lottery, it's big enough to handle a restoration project as well.

M.A.A.C.
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MIDWEST ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB



AN INDEPENDENT GROUP OF COLLECTIBLE VEHICLE ETHUSIASTS