



# The Steering Wheel

## September 2021

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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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. 90<sup>th</sup> 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,

The weather is changing and old car driving season will soon be coming to an end. I hope you can spend the time enjoying the weather and driving your car while it is cooler outside.

Covid is still affecting our tour destinations this year. We have been going to a lot of retirement communities (and will this month) to show our cars to people who have problems going to ordinary car shows. We hope that 2022 will bring us back to a “normal” driving tour schedule.

As I mentioned last month, my brothers and I are still working on my Dad's 47 Chevy. We are now wet sanding the new pain and permanently attaching the fenders, trunk and hood. It was been a great experience for all of us. We finally put the reupholstered seat in the car in August so Dad can drive it around the block.

John and Karen Thurber



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **September Driving Tour – September 26**

We will be visiting Crown Pointe Senior Living to show our cars to the residents on **Sunday, September 26**. Long-time MAAC member, Dale Freyer, is a resident of Crown Pointe and we would like to show our cars to Dale and the rest of the facility's residents. The event will be held in the parking lot of the Senior Living Community and they will have snacks for us during the show. **We will meet at Crown Pointe at 2820 S. 80<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha between 1:30 and 2 p.m.** The show will start at 2 p.m. We are also planning to have light snacks after the show at Pipal Park.

### **October Driving Tour**

We are tentatively planning a driving tour to Fontanelle Orchard in Fontanelle NE (north and west of Blair). The tour will include some apple pie samples. We are tentatively planning the tour on **Sunday, October 10**. More information to come in the October Steering Wheel.

### **Member News**

#### **August Tour – Prairie Gate Retirement Community**

I appreciate those that showed up for the tour to Prairie Gate Retirement Community. Due to a late outbreak of COVID, Prairie Gate asked that we don't stop and show our cars. I know that the residents appreciated our circular drive around their facility. I also appreciated the nice drive around Council Bluffs that Ed Hedegaard set up for us. I am sorry that we were not able to set up for any food or snacks, but we didn't find out about the car show cancellation at Prairie Gate until noon on Sunday. Again, thank you for everyone that showed up.

**Sad note** - Harvey Lenners, a previous long-time member of MAAC, passed away in late August.

## Magic Eraser melamine sponges can work real magic on dirty car interiors

By [Mark J. McCourt](#) Hemmings Motor News



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My father recently purchased a [P3-chassis Volvo XC70](#) that, while well maintained and in fine overall condition, was crying out for cosmetic help inside. The light "Sandstone Beige" leather upholstery on its driver and passenger front seats was deeply creased in areas, the matching leather on its steering wheel, automatic shift knob, and center console armrest had grimy sections from years of handling, and its light-colored door panels, carpeting, and fabric headlining material had numerous spots and markings that were eyesores.

It was a pleasure to spend a weekend afternoon working alongside him as we tended to the needs of his "new" station wagon. Keeping in mind some [recent pro tips we'd received](#), I decided to try using a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser Auto I had on hand; this melamine foam sponge was approved for use on numerous surfaces, and I wanted to see how far its abilities might reach.

Now, leather was actually a surface this sponge was expressly *not* recommended for use on, and that's likely because the product is slightly abrasive; used too aggressively, it could damage automotive leather's top color layer. The ecologically tanned leather in modern Volvos has a reputation for looking tired before its time, and is very susceptible to damage if not regularly cared for.

I was curious if, with gentle, focused application, it could take the ground-in dirt out of the seats' creases, and remove the nasty skin oils that discolored the steering wheel rim, shifter, and armrests. Dampening the sponge, I gingerly rubbed it over the soiled touchpoints and was very pleased to watch the grime completely disappearing, the light tan color coming back to the surface. After drying with a microfiber towel, I did note the treated leather had a very smooth feeling that likely resulted from the sponge's abrasion filing down whatever natural texture remained; this wasn't of personal concern. I did the same with the seats, finding that in that application, the sponge did spot-clean the creases a bit, although the darker lines of deeper areas

remained visible. I followed all the leather work with automotive-grade PH-balanced leather cleaner and conditioner to restore the oils that had likely been stripped.

The vinyls and plastics that make up this car's interior panels also showed years of use, and it was obvious that a prior owner had regularly carried young children in the back seat, as we found residual stains –we guessed from food and drink– on the doors and headliner in that part of the cabin. The Magic Eraser made quick work of cleaning the multi-material door panels, again having been applied carefully and followed with UV-rated interior protectant. This sponge also did its trick in the cargo area, largely eliminating some scuffs that blemished areas of hard plastic trim.

Spot-cleaning the headliner fabric on the ceiling and upper side panels was something I was nervous to attempt, lest I oversaturate the material (leading to it coming unglued) or alter its color (making the spots I treated obvious, and still an eyesore). Volvo used a light-colored, waffle-texture material, so once again, I gingerly tried the melamine sponge. To my delight, it removed the offending dark spots, which had dried on, but hadn't actually stained, the cloth underneath. I made certain to keep the sponge nearly dry, and touch the fabric very lightly; the result was a big improvement that pleased both me and my dad.

Expanding our experiment beyond one single car, Hemmings Editor Mike Austin took a melamine sponge to the door trim on his 1991 Honda Beat. Mike reported that the doors looked a little lighter afterwards, guessing that the sponge might have also removed some of the plastic paint. As with the leather, using the melamine sponge on plastic trim is probably best done with an abundance of caution.

Now if you've ever used a melamine sponge, you know they can disintegrate pretty quickly, especially if you're rubbing them on a rough surface. Doing this work, I went through the two I had on hand, and subsequently used up a couple more that my mom had in the house. Brand names aside, you can pick these sponges up in most stores, as well as from [numerous vendors online](#). If you have some automotive detailing projects to tackle, give them a shot. Test your surfaces for color fastness, and work very carefully, especially when you aren't cleaning solid plastic or vinyl. Hopefully you'll enjoy a similar good result.

## **MIDWEST ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB**

**AN INDEPENDENT GROUP OF COLLECTIBLE VEHICLE ETHUSIASTS**