



# The Steering Wheel

## May 2023

Newsletter of the Midwest Antique Auto Club

Not affiliated with any national club.

An independent group of collectible vehicle enthusiasts.

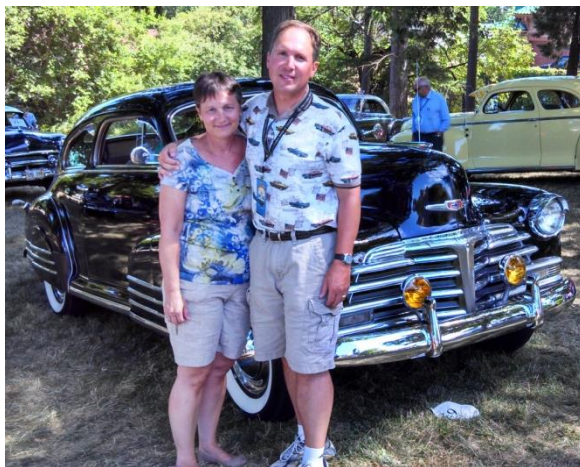
Dedicated to the preservation of the antique/collectible automobile.

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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 latest Steering Wheel can be found at <https://midwestantiqueautoclub.org>.**

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

### The President’s Message



Hello Everyone,

I hope you enjoyed our tour to Ed and Janet Hedegaard’s home in April. I always appreciate the Hedegaard’s hospitality in hosting us for the first tour of the year. It is hard plan the first tour since the weather can still be cold and it may not be suitable to drive our old cars.

As I mentioned in an earlier email, I am sad to report that Monte and Marj Frost’s home burnt down in April. Monte is staying temporarily with a granddaughter in Hummel Park. Monte’s cell phone number is 402-659-7685 and Marj’s cell phone number is 402-350-7623. Please call them to find out what they need and how you can help support them.

We are planning a special tour in May to the Hot Shops Art Center. The facility is in North downtown Omaha at 1301 Nicholas Street. The facility is where local artists make paintings, pottery and glass objects. I have shared a few pictures of the facility on the next page from Janet Hedegaard. I hope you can join us.

John and Karen Thurber



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Second Driving Tour - Hot Shops Art Center – May 20, 2023

This is our second driving tour of the year. Our driving tour will be on **Saturday, May 20th** to the Hot Shops Art Center. The facility is in North downtown Omaha at 1301 Nicholas Street. The facility is where local artists make paintings, pottery and glass objects. Ed has arranged a special demonstration of pottery making. I believe that this will be something interesting to see and attend. **We will meet at the Phillips 66 Station at 11<sup>th</sup> & Locust Street in Carter Lake IA no later than 1:00 p.m. and leave to go to Hot Shops at 1:15 p.m.** We will have a light box lunch available to eat at Hot Shops – no need to bring any food. The streets around Hot Shops are under construction so feel free to bring a modern car if you wish. I hope you can attend our tour in May.

### Tangier Shriners Show and Shine Car Show – June 4, 2023

The Tangier's are holding a Show & Shine car show on June 4<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration is from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and costs \$20 on the day of the show. We have a number of MAAC members that are Shriners so I hope you can attend.

### Immanuel Newport House Car Show – June 16, 2023

Immanuel Newport House at 6798 N. 67<sup>th</sup> Plaza is holding a car show on Friday, June 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. More information in the June Steering Wheel.

### June Driving Tour

More information on the June driving tour will be in next month's Steering Wheel.

## MEMBER NEWS

**April Driving Tour** - We had a great time at the April driving tour at the Hedegaard's house for food and seeing Ed's car collection. Ed has always something new in his car collection to show us and the food was outstanding. Unfortunately, I don't have the attendance list with me but we had a great turnout. My brother, Scot, won the split-pot winning \$24. I hope everyone enjoyed the tour.

**Monte and Marj Frost** - I received some information from Monte and Marj Frost's daughter, Marilee Lieber. Monte and Marj's house was totally destroyed and they are currently staying with a granddaughter. I am sure that Monte and Marj could use our help with food, clothing etc. Monte's cell phone number is 402-659-7685 and Marj's cell phone number is 402-350-7623. Please call them to find out what they need and how you can help support them.

## **Choosing the right fuel will protect your classic**

**Rob Siegel 13 August 2018**

### **Hagerty Insurance**

Is it better to buy high-octane fuel with some ethanol or lower-octane fuel with none? What percentage of ethanol is too much for my old cars? — George Malone, Azalia, Michigan

Ethanol and octane are separate issues. Let's deal with ethanol first. From an automotive standpoint, there is nothing good about E10, the blend of gasoline with 10-percent ethanol sold at most pumps around the country. Ethanol is hygroscopic—it absorbs water. One could argue that the ability of gas to absorb a small amount of water is a good thing. If water is present and isn't absorbed, it sinks to the bottom of the tank, where the pickup tube sucks it into the engine. But there's a limit to the amount of water that can be absorbed before separation occurs, so when E10 sits in a humid environment, a corrosive mixture of water and ethanol can accumulate at the bottom of the tank.

These problems are exacerbated in lightly driven vintage cars that often have metal fuel tanks that might be poorly sealed due to degraded or missing emissions systems. This allows moist air into the tank, which gets absorbed by the ethanol in the gas, separates out as water, accumulates at the bottom of the tank, and causes running problems and rust in the tank. Ethanol also ruins rubber fuel lines, gaskets, and plastic and rubber fuel-system parts.

Fuel stabilizer used in vintage cars that sit for months, as I understand it, only prevents gas from going "sour." It doesn't alter ethanol's hygroscopic properties or cause water that has already formed to magically dissolve.

If you can buy ethanol-free gas at a reasonable price, do it. Availability varies state to state. Websites like [Pure-Gas.org](http://Pure-Gas.org) and [BuyRealGas.com](http://BuyRealGas.com) make it easy to find ethanol-free fuel.

Now let's move to octane. I always use the recommended octane for the car I'm driving—no more, no less. A modern car has a digital engine-management system with a calibrated spark-advance profile for a certain amount of octane in the fuel. In addition, most modern cars have a knock sensor, so if the engine is under load (low rpm, open throttle) and it begins knocking, the system should retard the ignition timing until the knocking stops.

In a vintage car without a knock sensor, especially one with a mechanically advanced distributor, regardless of what fuel is in the tank, if the car knocks under load, back off the throttle! Knocking (or pinging, as it's sometimes called) is terrible for your engine and can blow holes in the pistons in short order. Especially in a vintage performance car with high-compression pistons, running on fuel with the recommended octane, with a distributor timed perfectly to spec, it's still possible for the engine to knock under load. Try rotating the distributor to retard the timing. If it still knocks under reasonable loads, try switching to higher-octane gas, if you're not already at the max. I set up my vintage cars for a tiny amount of pinging in a load situation (for example, uphill, wide-open throttle, one gear higher than I'd normally be in) but zero pinging otherwise.

In short, buy ethanol-free gas if you can, and buy gas with sufficient octane that your car doesn't knock. If you're forced to choose, take the higher octane to prevent knocking. But if the car doesn't knock, go with the ethanol-free gas.





**MIDWEST ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB**  
**AN INDEPENDENT GROUP OF COLLECTIBLE VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS**