



The Steering Wheel

February 2024

Newsletter of the Midwest Antique Auto Club

Not affiliated with any national club.

An independent group of collectible vehicle enthusiasts.

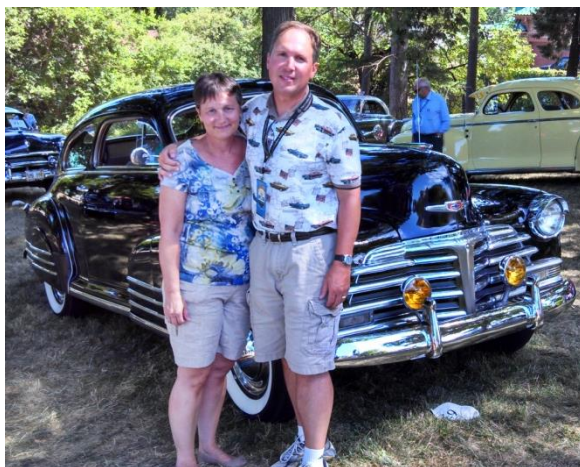
Dedicated to the preservation of the antique/collectible automobile.

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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. 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 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 survived the cold weather and snow we had in January. As I am writing this in February, most of the snow has melted and the weather outside today was 50 degrees. What a difference a few weeks make!

This is the time of year to fix any problems with your cars so they are ready for our first tour in April. I ended up replacing the center console in my Fiero (thanks to my son Michael) and greasing the undercarriage of the 47 Chevy. There are always a few jobs to complete during the winter. I am anxious to see if my cars start after their winter nap.

I hope to see you at our indoor meeting in February.

John and Karen Thurber

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February Indoor Tour

This is the second official indoor meeting of the season. Please join us at New Cassel (900 N. 90th Street) on February 18th at 2 p.m. to celebrate a late Valentine's Day! **Please bring a red desert or salad. **We will be having BINGO at this meeting.** Please remember to enter using the lower north entrance to the facility and please bring masks while entering and exiting the facility. Also, if you want something other than water to drink, please bring your own drink.

2024 MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE -They are still \$25.00. If you didn't pay you membership dues as part of the Holiday Banquet registration form, please send payment to Jim Cushman at 1901 No. 59th Street Omaha, NE 68104

March 3, 2024 LINCOLN, NE — 50th Annual Rocky Manginelli Memorial Swap Meet,

Lancaster Event Center, 4100 N. 84th St. Doors open at 7:00 a.m. “The first and largest swap meet of the year held in Nebraska!” www.enwicc.com

March 8-10, 2024 World of Wheels – CHI Center, Omaha.

The 69th annual Omaha World of Wheels at the CHI Health Center, showcasing America's Finest Hot Rods, Custom Cars, Trucks & Motorcycles. Mar 8 - 10, 2024. Ed Hedegaard may have a couple of cars entered into the event.

March 17th Indoor Tour

March MAAC Meeting, New Cassel, 2:00 p.m. Plan to join us to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Corned Beef and Cabbage (and potatoes). Please bring a dessert or salad.– see the March Steering Wheel for more information.

MEMBER NEWS

January Indoor Meeting - We had a great time at the January meeting talking about our cars how we got into the old car hobby. We had almost 25 members attend the meeting. Thank you to Ed Hedegaard for the great chili and the rest of the members for the desserts. I am sorry but I did not take attendance at the meeting. Again, thank you for everyone that showed up.

Linda Baker indicated that if you would like to see Daryl Baker's funeral service it is available at <https://heafeyheafey.com>

The Case of a Rough-Running 1955 Chevrolet, a Clairvoyant, and Old Mechanic Tricks

Jim Richardson – Hemmings Motor News



The Big 60 Buick—one of five new Chevrolet station wagons for 1955



EVERYTHING'S NEW! New ride, new performance, new styling. New Sweep-Sight windshield and four-fender visibility—new suspension front and rear—new High-Level ventilation—tubeless tires at no extra cost. All power helpers available as extra-cost options on most models. See your Chevrolet dealer... Chevrolet Division of General Motors, Detroit 2, Michigan.

SO HANDSOME and handy! Rear seat cushion and back rest fold flat with floor to provide nearly 11 inches more cargo space. Choice of 2-door or 4-door. New V-8 two new 6's, Powerglide or Overdrive (extra-cost options), or a new standard transmission.



The motoramic
Chevrolet

More than a new car... a new **concept** of low-cost motoring

For years we've been using OBD II scanners to help us diagnose what's wrong with an engine, drivetrain, and other complex systems built into our modern vehicles. It's an amazing tool that we can then decode using laptops, but then it needs to be. My 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air station wagon requires something different, though.

The Chevy's engine had been idling a bit rough, and I couldn't figure it out using the computer behind my forehead with which I was blessed. I did the usual thing: Twiddled with the carburetor and adjusted the idle a half turn, which helped it a little. I then checked the timing, cleaned, and gapped the sparkplugs, and adjusted the points, but to no avail.

Later, I was at a neighborhood barbeque and met a woman who claimed to be clairvoyant and a witch, and I - being the smart ass I am - said, "Well then, maybe you can tell me what's wrong with my old car." She said "Sure," so we went out to the street, I opened the hood, and then started the car. She listened for a minute, reached over and blipped the throttle, and offered, "Sticky exhaust

valve."

I was jolted with surprise. I said, "Hey, you may be right," to which she replied, "I know I'm right. My father is Chet, from Chet's Auto Parts nearby. You know, the grumpy old guy that sits at the end of the counter? I grew up around this stuff. Oh, by the way, a tall good-looking young woman will come into your life soon." This concerned me a bit because my wife and I had just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary, but she was right. Our granddaughter came the next weekend for a visit.

Soon after the clairvoyant's diagnosis, a friend told me about A.I., or Artificial Intelligence. Everyone is talking about it, so I found a new app that challenged me to try it for free. I thought perhaps a great way of testing it would be to inquire as to how to check for sticky valves in a 1955 Chevrolet equipped with a 265-cu.in. V-8. The app proceeded to make up some story about cruising in the Fifties, how much fun it was, and how we hung fuzzy dice on our rearview mirrors.

It was then I realized what I needed was not AI, but AIC, Artificial Common Sense. However, there are no apps for that yet, so I decided to fall back on tricks an old mechanic taught me years ago. One was to pull the spark plug wires one by one to see what effect it had on an engine's idle. If the engine ran worse, a cylinder was okay, but if it kept running the same, that would indicate where the problem was. This test proved inconclusive on my V-8, though.

Next, I selected my biggest screwdriver, started the engine, and put the tool against the block at each cylinder and listened with my ear close to the handle. And I found it. The number five cylinder was making a faint ticking sound. I went to the exhaust outlet and listened some more. There was a faint but regular 'chuff' coming from the driver's side pipe.

So, what did I do? I went to Chet's Auto Parts and purchased a new oil filter, five quarts of Delo motor oil for diesel engines (because it has a lot of detergent in it), and a can of Marvel Mystery Oil, another tactic from the automotive Jurassic period. Sure enough, after a spirited drive down the coast highway the engine smoothed

right out.

The story doesn't end there. Just last weekend I ran into the clairvoyant at a block party. I told her she was correct about the valves, as well as the visit from the beautiful young woman. I then asked her what she thought I would be doing five years in the future. She pondered it for a few seconds and said, "The same thing you are doing right now. Fiddling with old cars and hanging with other old silverbacks. And that will be \$80 dollars. I don't make predictions for nothing."

I learned two things from the encounter: First, if you aren't sure what is wrong with your classic, ask an expert. And second, there is no such thing as Artificial Common Sense. I'm also sure my clairvoyant neighbor is right, because I have been hanging out with car guys since I was a kid; that is most likely what I'll be doing five years from now, too.



MIDWEST ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB

AN INDEPENDENT GROUP OF COLLECTIBLE VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS