



The Steering Wheel

April 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 am sorry that we ended up cancelling the March indoor tour. Unfortunately, a number of Board members were not going to be available in March. It’s time for our first outdoor driving tour of the year. We will be meeting on Sunday, April 21st at 1 p.m. at the Pizza King in Council Bluffs and then drive to the Hedegaard’s home for a late lunch and a chance to view Ed’s cars. I hope you can join us.

We have a special tour in May. We have been asked by the preservation group PreserveOmaha to participate in a car show at the Joslyn Castle on Sunday, May 19 from noon to 5 p.m.

This will be similar to the car show that Jerry Vincentini put on in that we will park in the grass around Joslyn Castle. More information will be forthcoming in the May 2024 Steering Wheel.

We hope to see you at our first driving tour in April.

John and Karen Thurber

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

First Driving Tour – April 21, 2024

This is our first driving tour of the year. Our driving tour will be on Sunday, April 21st to the Hedegaard's home in Underwood Iowa. We will meet at the Pizza King at 1101 N. Broadway Council Bluffs at 1:00 p.m. and leave for the tour at 1:30 p.m. Weather permitting, we are planning to have food and kite flying – please bring a kite if you have one. Members with the last name beginning with A-M, please bring a salad, members with the last name ending with N-Z please bring a dessert. Ed will be having his famous corned beef, potatoes and cabbage.

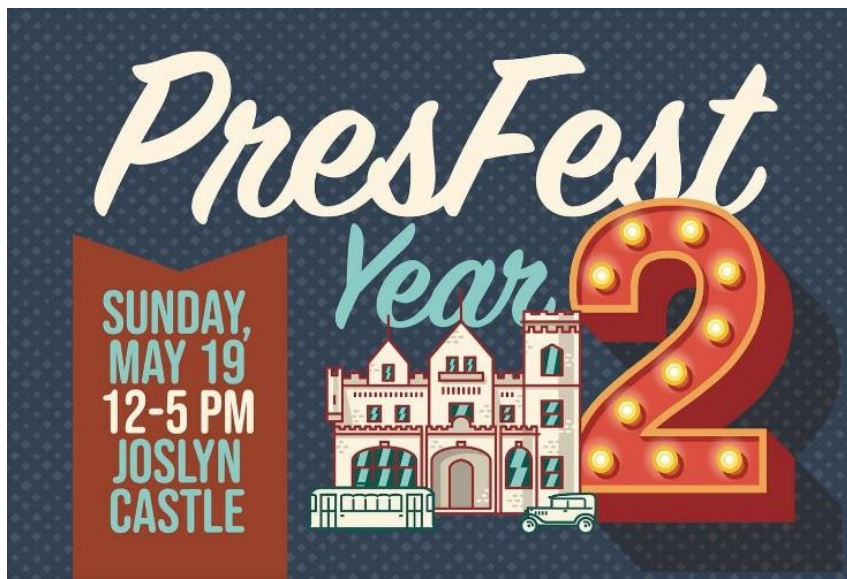
Swap Meet Wahoo NE - April 14, 2024

The Wahoo Swap Meet Spring 2024 will be held on April 14th at the Saunders County Fairgrounds, 635 E 1st St, Wahoo, NE 68066 (1 Mile East on 1st Street from the Junction of Hwy. 77 & 92) - Rain or Shine - Gates Open by 7:00 AM

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

May 19th Tour – Joslyn Castle Car Show

We have a special tour in May. We have been asked by the preservation group PreserveOmaha to participate in the PresFest car show at the Joslyn Castle on Sunday, May 19 from noon to 5 p.m. There will be food trucks, live music, walking tours, trolley tours, and of course amazing cars. Last year's car show had over 5,000 attendees. This will be similar to the car show that Jerry Vincentini put on in that we will park in the grass around Joslyn Castle. More information on PreserveOmaha is found at <https://preserveomaha.org/>. More information on the car show will be in next month's Steering Wheel.



5 steps to bring your car out of storage

Kyle Smith - Hagerty

26 March 2020

The snow mounds are receding and the mercury is beginning to rise for much of the U.S., which means that many gearheads are eyeballing their currently tucked-away vintage rides. If you are giddy with anticipation about driving that long-stored vehicle, here are five steps to follow to get your next driving season started off smoothly.

Even if you put the car away properly, and kept an eye on it over winter, the first thing you should do is go over it with a keen eye. Bumper to bumper and roofline to contact patch, grab your favorite flashlight (everyone has a favorite flashlight, right?) and examine each nook and cranny of your car.

Keep an eye out for cracks, evidence of leaks, worn-out bushings, or wiring that needs attention. Despite your best efforts, you might have to evict a rodent. Now is the time, however, before you tear off on the first, triumphant drive and a nest dislodges and causes even more damage. Meticulously taking stock of the car each year is a great way to ensure that deteriorating parts do not cause additional damage.

The most important system to inspect right now is the brakes. I start with a hard/harder test at the pedal. Sit in the driver's seat and press the brake pedal as if you were coming to a normal stop and hold the pedal down for 10 seconds or so after the pedal stops moving. Now press even harder on the pedal—more akin to a panic stop—and hold pressure again. The pedal should stay rock solid, not slowly move towards the floor. After this test, inspect the brake system once more, looking for leaks or signs of fluid escaping the system. This is a pass-or-fail exam, and now is the time to find any issues, not on the open street.

Even in storage, dirt and grime accumulate on your beloved ride. Take the time to remove all this damaging debris from both painted and soft surfaces. We have talked about good detailing technique before, and we will always recommend keeping both the interior and exterior of your ride clean.

You can perform this step at the same time as the inspection, but I prefer to keep the tasks separate so I don't lose my mechanically-oriented concentration amid a mist of quick detailer. Treat rubber weather stripping to keep the sealing intact, therefore allowing less dust inside the interior (unless you prefer to go topless.) Interior fabrics should get a protectant to start the season off right and make for easier cleaning later on, when you would rather be driving or showing than detailing.

- Prepare to start
 - clean dirty engine bay
 - test your belt tension
 - check radiator cap
 - check your battery

That's right, we're slicing this process pretty thin. However, even when properly stored, a dormant engine can benefit from a slow awakening. Ensuring components are ready to move again will go a long way to ensuring your engine has not only a good driving season but a healthy extended life.

Engines drain oil from top to bottom, and after sitting all season there is likely very little—if any—oil at the top end of the engine. If you have the ability and confidence to spin the oil pump before cranking the engine with the start, do that. If not, grab an oil can and remove the valve covers and oil the top end. This won't get the main bearings, but it is better than nothing.

Hopefully, your inspection told you that the fuel lines were in good shape (if they weren't, replace and then come back to this step) so it's time to get fuel pressure in the system. Be prepared for anything at this point, especially if you stored the car filled with fuel that has ethanol blended into it. An electric fuel pump is great for these situations, since you can pressurize the system rather than cranking the engine for a bit.

If you don't have an electric pump, disconnect the ignition by pulling the coil wire to the distributor and crank the engine till you see oil and fuel pressures. You'll know that fuel pressure is adequate on a carbureted engine if the accelerator pump squirts fuel into the intake when the throttle is opened by hand. Replace the coil wire once this process is complete.

Now the fun part. While it pales in comparison to starting a rebuilt engine for the first time, starting your vintage car for the first time of the season is the pick-me-up most of us could use right now.

A few pumps of the accelerator on a carbureted engine will get some raw fuel in the intake manifold to make starting a bit easier. Fuel-injected engines will only need a turn of the key. Once running, let the engine idle for a few minutes as you look around the engine compartment for any leaks and listen for strange noises. Diagnose anything you find right away.

You finally made it to the part you have been waiting for this whole time. Put the car in gear and start slowly—a trip around the block or down the street, for example. Pay attention to any noises or vibrations that seem out of the ordinary. Investigate accordingly.

Just like that, you are on the path to another great season of driving. Keep up on the maintenance on your classic and you will be rewarded with miles of enjoyment. For now, though, get out in the garage and get your car ready to cruise at a moment's notice.



MIDWEST ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB
AN INDEPENDENT GROUP OF COLLECTIBLE VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS