



The Steering Wheel

January 2026

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,

It was great seeing everyone at our end-of-year Holiday banquet at Pizza King. It was nice seeing our old-time members and our new members attend the dinner. A big thank you to your board members that helped put this event on (the Cushmans, Clif Ellis, Kannas and Hedegaards). It takes time and effort to make sure we can enjoy the Christmas Party each year. A special thank you to my wife, Karen, for all she does to support the MAAC club and me.

We will having our regular indoor meeting on January 18th at New Cassel. Additionally, we have been invited by Tom LaHood to a Chrysler Club event at Tom's storage garage at 2115 Military Avenue on Saturday, January 17th. Please see more information on the following page. I am planning to attend and I hope you will join me in seeing Tom's nice car collection and collaborating with other antique car collectors.

John and Karen Thurber

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January Indoor Tour – January 18

We are planning to hold our second indoor meeting on **Sunday, January 18th at 2:00 p.m. at New Cassell Retirement Center – 900 N. 90th Street, Omaha.** Please enter New Cassell in the lower North entrance. Ed is planning to prepare chili for lunch. Please bring a salad, garlic toast or dessert for the meal. Members, if you want something other than water to drink, please bring your own drink.

January Special Event – Saturday, January 17th

We have been invited to the Chrysler Club 27th Annual Chili and Soup Feed on Saturday, January 17th at Tom LaHood's storage unit at 2115 Military Avenue. The meeting starts at noon with the chili and soup starting at 1:00 p.m. You are welcome to bring chili, salad or dessert.

2026 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

Next Indoor Meeting – February 15, 2026

Our next indoor meeting will be Sunday, February 15th. More information in the February Steering Wheel.

MEMBER NEWS

November 16th Indoor Meeting - We had our first indoor tour at New Cassell Retirement Center on November 16th. We had a short meeting where we discussed 2026 upcoming events and elected MAAC Board members. All of the existing Board members ran again and were re-elected. We also added Lance and Aleta Sulentic as support for Ed and Janet on the Tour Committee. Thank you Lance and Aleta for joining the Board. I appreciated Ed's great food for lunch and the members that attended the meeting. Again, thank you for everyone that showed up.

December Holiday Party - We had a great time meeting on December 13th at the Pizza King. We had over 35 members and friends attend the party. Thank you to the Cushmans, Kannas' and Hedegaards for making the event a success. And thank you to everyone that came to the party. We are planning to have next year's Holiday Party at the Pizza King. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and stayed healthy.

Fascinating Classic Car Museums in the United States You Didn't Know Existed

By Tara Hurlin December 29, 2025, Hemmings Classics

The United States is home to countless classic car museums, from the famous Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, to the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, to The Henry Ford in Michigan. But beyond these well-known institutions lie hidden gems that offer unique perspectives on automotive history and engineering marvels you rarely see elsewhere. These often-overlooked destinations are perfect for car enthusiasts seeking their next great road trip adventure to discover fascinating car museums and their extraordinary, unique collections.

Here are some of America's most intriguing, under-the-radar automotive museums:

Lane Motor Museum

If you're an automotive museum buff, you've likely heard of this gem, but we couldn't leave it off the list. Located in a former Sunbeam Bakery in Nashville, Tennessee, the Lane Motor Museum stands out for its eclectic focus on unusual and rare European vehicles, microcars, and prototypes. The collection features vehicles not typically seen in the U.S., including amphibious cars, three-wheelers, and even a propeller-driven Helicron. The museum's mission is to preserve automotive diversity, making it a delightful and surprising visit for families and enthusiasts alike. Visit the official Lane Motor Museum website for more information.

Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum

Dedicated to the "Spirit of Competition," the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, houses over 75 historically significant racing sports cars, including a rare Shelby Cobra Daytona coupe. What makes this museum truly unique are its twice-monthly "Demonstration Days," where cars from the collection are taken outside and driven, allowing visitors to hear the engines roar and see them in action. This dynamic approach connects performance on the track with innovation in the industry.

Auburn Cord Duesenberg Automobile Museum

Housed in the original, stunning Art Deco factory building where Auburn, Cord, and Duesenberg automobiles were once hand-produced in Auburn, Indiana, this museum is a National Historic Landmark in its own right. It displays more than 100 classic vehicles from these luxury brands, valued in the seven figures today. The setting itself, with preserved offices and showrooms from the 1930s, offers an immersive journey into an era of unparalleled elegance and American luxury car craftsmanship. Learn more on the Auburn Cord Duesenberg website.

National Packard Museum

For fans of specific marques, the National Packard Museum commemorates the legacy of the Packard Motor Car Company, a luxury automaker that produced high-class cars for over 50 years before shutting down in 1956. Located in Warren, Ohio, the nonprofit organization is dedicated to preserving Packard's history, showcasing vehicles dating back to 1900. Visitors can interact with some exhibits, including sitting inside a genuine Packard vehicle from 1949.

Gilmore Car Museum

While recognized as North America's largest automobile museum by acreage, its rural Michigan location makes it a fascinating "hidden gem" compared to urban giants. The Gilmore Car Museum is a sprawling 90-acre campus with multiple vintage buildings, including historic barns, a restored 1941 diner, and a recreated 1930s Shell station. A single admission grants access to nearly a dozen partner museums located on the grounds, such as the Classic Car Club of America Museum and the Model A Ford Museum. These specialized museums offer unique and compelling experiences that go beyond static displays of typical classic cars. They highlight niche areas of automotive history and preserve stories that might otherwise be forgotten.

Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum

The Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum in Birmingham, Alabama, holds the Guinness World Record for the world's largest motorcycle collection, featuring over 1,800 vintage and modern bikes from 200+ manufacturers, plus an extensive Lotus car collection, all displayed in a multi-story facility within the larger Barber Motorsports Park, known for its breathtaking engineering and stunning exhibits. It's a premier destination for motorsports enthusiasts, offering a deep dive into automotive and motorcycle history with meticulous restorations and educational programs.

Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum

Michigan's Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum (YAHM) celebrates the region's rich auto history, housed in a historic 1932 Hudson dealership, featuring local brands like Hudson, Kaiser-Frazer, and Tucker, plus GM's Willow Run plant contributions, with notable displays including a Hudson Hornet race car (inspiration for Disney's Cars Doc

Hudson) and vintage vehicles, offering a unique glimpse into American automotive innovation.

Volo Auto Museum

The Volo Auto Museum in Volo, Illinois, is a massive, family-owned destination featuring classic, antique, and movie cars, plus unique attractions like animatronic dinosaurs, Titanic artifacts, a vintage arcade, and an antique mall, offering an interactive, nostalgic experience beyond just cars with its extensive collection of Hollywood vehicles (KITT, Ecto-1, Fast & Furious cars) and themed exhibits appealing to all ages.

Studebaker National Museum

The Studebaker National Museum in South Bend, Indiana, preserves the history of the Studebaker Corporation, showcasing its evolution from horse-drawn wagons (including presidential carriages like Lincoln's) to iconic automobiles and military vehicles. Housed in a modern, three-story facility, it features over 80 vehicles, design prototypes, military hardware, and exhibits on American innovation, highlighting Studebaker's role in transportation history, including electric vehicles and record-breakers like the Avanti.

Midwest MicroCar Museum

The Midwest MicroCar Museum in Mazomanie, Wisconsin, is a charming, privately-run collection of unique, mostly post-WWII European microcars, scooters, and mopeds, founded by Ingrid and Carlo Krause who wanted to share their passion for these tiny, ingenious vehicles. It's a free, donation-based museum located in historic buildings, known for its quirky, beautifully restored vehicles that offer a nostalgic, fun look at economical post-war transport, often described as "goofy-looking" but full of character.



MIDWEST ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB

AN INDEPENDENT GROUP OF COLLECTIBLE VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS