



The Steering Wheel

February 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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| <u>Presidents</u> | <u>John & Karen Thurber</u> | <u>Ph. (402)-496-7701</u> |
| <u>Vice President</u> | <u>Clif Ellis</u> | <u>Ph. (402)-397-4279</u> |
| <u>Secretaries</u> | <u>Gloria & Tom Kannas</u> | <u>Ph. (402)-681-5897</u> |
| <u>Treasurers</u> | <u>Jim & Cheryl Cushman</u> | <u>Ph. (402)-558-0150</u> |
| <u>Tour Committees</u> | <u>Ed & Janet Hedegaard</u> | <u>Ph. (402)-490-5909</u> |
| <u>Tour Committees</u> | <u>Lance & Aleta Sulentic</u> | <u>Ph. (402)-706-7366</u> |
| <u>Web Page Editors</u> | <u>Tom & Linda Beiriger</u> | <u>Ph. (402)-498-0598</u> |
| <u>Historian</u> | <u>Clif Ellis</u> | <u>Ph. (402)-397-4279</u> |

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,

Thank you to everyone that joined Tom LaHood’s soup and chili feed in January. Tom is a long-time Chrysler enthusiast. I know the weather has been extremely cold but it was nice that Tom hosted a car event inside a warm building. It was good to meet up other car clubs and have conversations with other car enthusiasts. It is great to see what others are doing with their antique cars.

I hope you spend some time getting your cars ready for our monthly tours. We have a couple of interesting tours planned in 2026 including Ed hosting a car tour in July. More to come on Ed’s tour in a future Steering Wheel.

We hope to see you for bingo at our February meeting at New Cassel.

John and Karen Thurber

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 15th Indoor Tour

This is the second official indoor meeting of the season. Please join us at New Cassel (900 N. 90th Street) on February 15th 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 if you are not feeling well, please stay home. Also, if you want something other than water to drink, please bring your own drink.

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

March 8, 2026 LINCOLN, NE — 51st Annual Rocky Manginelli Memorial Swap Meet,

Sandhills Global 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 6-8, 2026 World of Wheels – CHI Center, Omaha.

The 71st annual Omaha World of Wheels at the CHI Health Center, showcasing America's Finest Hot Rods, Custom Cars, Trucks & Motorcycles. March 6-8, 2026. The Classic Chevy Club may have a couple of cars entered into the event. I hear the Ed Hedegaard may enter a couple of cars in the show.

March 15th 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

Tom LaHood's Event - We had a great time meeting with Tom LaHood and other old car enthusiasts at Tom's chili and soup feed. A big thank you to Tom and the others for the food and hospitality. Since this was not an official MAAC event, I didn't keep track of the members that attended.

January 18th Indoor Meeting - We had our second indoor tour at New Cassel Retirement Center on January 18th. The members that attended include Tom & Gloria Kannas, Lance & Aleta Sulentic, Clif Ellis, Max & Jane Meier, Delmar, Roger & Nate Bunch, John & Karen Thurber, Ed & Janet Hedegaard, Ed Anderson, Marg Frost, Katie Hedegaard Moreno, Jim & Cheryl Cushman, Skyla Hedegaard. I appreciated Ed's great food for lunch and the members that attended the meeting. Again, thank you for everyone that showed up.

Our Favorite Automotive Feelings

From Hagerty Driver's Club – February 7, 2026

We play with cars to feel good. To challenge ourselves, and to have fun. Yeah, it's not all checkered flags and lifelong bonds formed over an open hood, but we're all still here because the good outweighs the bad (usually by a long shot). Here are some of our team's favorite feelings that keep us coming back.

Solitude on the Road



When you've untangled yourself from the city, escaped the go-stop-go of the suburbs, and are out in some good roads, with no car in sight, a delightful sense of solitude sinks in. You can let other thoughts drift away and simply be present for the car, the road, the moment. When you're free to just drive—fast, slow, whatever—time slows down. Heck, the roads don't even have to be “good.” Kyle put his finger on it in his [ramblin'](#)

[Goldwing road-trip story](#): Few feelings are more luxurious. —*Grace Jarvis*

Lateral Grip



The joy at a project's completion is hard to beat, but if I had to pick one feeling overall, it'd be the physical sensation of lateral grip. Building up to the edge then nudging the tires past their adhesion and bringing it back makes my eyes and my grin about as wide as they get. —*Eddy Eckart*

Repairs Under the Gun



I've got to go with one that's all too familiar to me, but good nonetheless: When you successfully complete a fix on the car you need for actual day-to-day transportation. The fight-or-flight response that triggers when you realize your only means of transportation is down and it's up to you to get it fixed, maybe on a tight timeline, is not enjoyable. But the satisfaction that comes from actually knuckling up and getting the repair done—that's incredibly gratifying, even if it's something we hope to experience only a few times in our lives. I've probably had more than my share of these experiences, and I'd bet I'll face one again someday. So it goes. —*Nate Petroelje*

A Car's Bouquet



I sure hope a smell can also be a feeling, because for me, it's the way the smell of a car hits me when I open the door. That smell begins the contextual references to an automobile interior, and it takes me back to a specific time in history. Or, conversely, if it has "new car smell," it makes me feel a little giddy to be driving something that very few others have experienced. —*Sajeev Mehta*



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