



The Steering Wheel

July 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,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer by driving your old cars to our area's car shows. I had a chance to drive to the Good Guys Heartland Car Show in Des Moines over the 4th of July with my wife, son, two brothers and two nephews. I took a couple of pictures of our cars at the event (see next page). It was great to see over 4,000 cars at the Iowa State Fairground. We were lucky that it didn't rain during the event (like last year).

We plan to have a true driving tour in July with a picnic at a park in Fort Calhoun. I hope you can join us and enjoy a short drive with your old car.

We hope to see everyone in July.

John and Karen Thurber



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June Driving Tour – Driving Tour to Fort Calhoun - Sunday, July 19, 2026

We are planning our fourth driving tour on Sunday, July 19 with a scenic drive to West Market Square Park in Fort Calhoun, NE. We will have a picnic lunch in the park. **We will meet on July 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the Target Store parking lot at approximately 72nd Street & Sorensen Parkway.** We will leave at 1:30 p.m. for a scenic drive in the hills above Highway 75 to Fort Calhoun. For those members with last names starting with A-M, please bring a salad, for those members with last names starting N-Z, please bring a dessert. Please bring lawn chairs if you have them.

August Driving Tour

We will have our fifth driving tour of the year will be in August (we are still finalizing the date). More information on the tour starting point and time in next month's Steering Wheel.

MEMBER NEWS

July Driving Tour – The weather slightly impacted our July tour but we still enjoyed visiting the Samuel Bak Museum in Aksarben Village. Attendees included John & Karen Thurber – 47 Chevy., Michael Thurber - 66 Olds Toronado, Jim & Cheryl Cushman – 39 Buick, Ed and Janet Hedegaard – Chevy Suburban, Lance Sulentic, Cliff Ellis – modern, Tom and Gloria Kannas -71 Volkswagen, Ed Anderson - modern, Max Meier – modern, Dave & Esther Miller – Modern.

2026 – 68th HCCA Midwest Regional Tour July 26 – July 30, 2026 – Ed and Janet Hedegaard is holding the Horseless Carriage Club of America tour at the Americinn in Council Bluffs, IA. Please call Ed at 402-490-5909 if you are interested in attending – you do not need a car from the 1910-30s to participate.

Vintage Wheels at the Fort - I am pleased to announce that Vintage Wheels at Fort Omaha is returning in 2026. It is the annual classic car show hosted by the Meadowlark Model A Ford Club and the Douglas County Historical Society at Fort Omaha. The event is currently scheduled for August 9, 2026. More information to come in a future Steering Wheel newsletter.

Tech 101: Testing And Replacing Your Brake Fluid

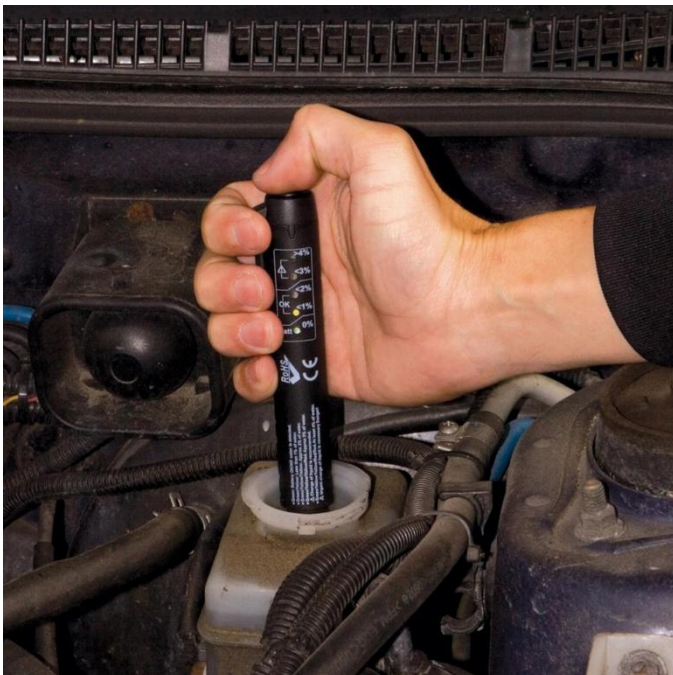
By [Jeff Smith](#) Hemmings Motor News June 14, 2026



When was the last time you flushed the brake fluid in your hot rod? If you only drive your muscle car a few times a year and live in an area of the country with high humidity, hydraulic brake fluid has a natural tendency to absorb water out of the air into the fluid. This is called the hygroscopic effect where the brake fluid can absorb water through those flexible rubber hoses. There are different types of brake fluid but the standard for most road cars with either disc or drum brakes is DOT 3 fluid. The recommendation is that the fluid should be changed every 2 or 3 years or 30,000 miles. With limited use

muscle cars, the real issue is the combination of time and humidity levels.

If the fluid looks dark or muddy, that's a clear sign it has been compromised and should be changed immediately. Frankly, if you can't remember the last time the fluid was changed, then it's probably time to flush the system. We use a large turkey baster to pull the old fluid out of the master. Don't use brake fluid that has been opened and then allowed to sit exposed to the air for longer than a few hours as this fluid is already compromised.



Use a fresh bottle of DOT 3 fluid and refill the master. One easy way to flush the system is to open all the bleed screws and allow the fluid to gravity bleed. To avoid damaging the paint, you can affix a rubber hose over the bleed screw to allow the fluid to drip into a container. Monitor the fluid level in the master cylinder and don't allow it to empty during this process. You will know when this purge is complete when the drained fluid is clean. Then the bleed screws can be closed and the pedal effort checked. Of course, you can also manually pressure bleed each corner with the two-person process.

If you are unsure of the brake fluid's condition, there are inexpensive test strips that you dip into the fluid or Summit Racing offers a cool electronic tool that measures the amount of water in the brake fluid. This tool indicates that anything more than 2% water, which requires changing the fluid.



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