The Steering Wheel
November 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 want to thank everyone for another great year of driving our old cars to new and interesting locations. Without your participation, our group would fade away. I especially want to thank our Board for all their support in making our group a success. Without our active board members, we would not be able to meet each month and drive our cars to new locations.

We will be holding our first indoor event on November 15th at New Cassell Retirement Center. **We will need to enter the main front door on the east side of the center.** We are not able to use the north entrance as that is permanently closed to visitors.

We will be having an end-of-year Holiday banquet the Pizza King in Council Bluffs on Saturday, December 12th at 4.30 p.m. You will find a reservation form attached to the Steering Wheel. We would appreciate your quick return so we can determine how many people will be attending.

John and Karen Thurber

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November Indoor Tour – November 15

We are planning to hold our first indoor meeting on **Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 p.m. at New Cassell Retirement Center – 900 N. 90th Street, Omaha**. **Please enter New Cassell at the Main entrance on the east side. We cannot enter at the lower north entrance this year.** Ed will have food for lunch. Please bring a salad or dessert. Members, if you want something other than water to drink, please bring your own drink.

December Christmas Party – December 12

We are planning to hold our traditional end-of-year Christmas Party at the **Pizza King in Council Bluffs on Saturday, December 12th at 4:30 p.m**. Paid reservations required ON OR BEFORE Wednesday, December 2nd. REMINDER: There is NO newsletter or indoor meeting for this month. See the attached Reservation Form.

Next Indoor Meeting – January 17

Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 17th. More information in the January Steering Wheel.

MEMBER NEWS

MEMBER NEWS

October Driving Tour – I hope you enjoyed our tour to Fontanelle Orchard in Fontanelle, Nebraska. We had a nice turnout of members for our last driving tour of the year. As usual, the pie and ice cream was great and the weather was nice for a country drive. Attendees include John and Karen Thurber – 47 Chevy, Bob and Jerry Thurber - 47 Chevy Convertible, Michael Thurber – 66 Olds Toronado, Max and Jane Meier – Modern, Tom and Gloria Kanaas – 41 Buick, Ed and Janet Hedegaard, Lance and Aleta Sulentic, Cliff Ellis – 67 Mustang, Dick and Pat Zuber, Chevy Nomad, Leon Zaiger & Jeanie Oles.

Tech 101: Detonation Check
By Jeff Smith Hemmings Motor News



Reading spark plugs is as much an art form as it is a science. One way a budding tuner can easily check on engine condition is by looking for telltale small black specs on the white spark plug insulator. The black specs that look like black pepper are really the result of detonation in the combustion chamber. Detonation is where excess spark timing, high compression, low octane fuel, or some combination of these conditions creates a pressure spike in the combustion chamber that sounds like rocks bouncing around inside a Folgers coffee can.

Watch Hemmings videos without ads here.

While often audible, detonation can occur so quickly that it may not be auditory. But yanking a spark plug and looking for those little black specs is an accurate indication of engine trouble. The spark plug photo included here reveals a classic indication of detonation but also that the engine might be running a bit lean as well. The only way to tell for sure is to cut the threads off the plug and inspect the insulator down at its base to look for a combustion color ring.

But more importantly, if you see black specs on just one spark plug, it's time to either pull the ignition timing back slightly or switch to a higher-octane fuel. Your engine will thank you.

December 12th – Saturday – Midwest Antique Auto Club Christmas Party
Pizza King Restaurant – 1101 North Broadway, Council Bluffs, Iowa
4:30 P.M.– Social (Cash Bar) – 5:00 P.M. Dinner



Gift Exchange at Club Christmas Banquet. If you care to participate, bring a wrapped gift, marked for either "Man" or "Woman". Gift can be either a "gag" gift or practical, but limit the amount to $15.00. If you do NOT wish to participate, it is okay, but if you don't bring a gift, don't take a gift.

Paid reservations required on or before Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026. Send these reservations, with your check, payable to Midwest Antique Auto Club, to our Treasurers, Jim or Cheryl Cushman 1901 N. 59th Street, Omaha NE – 68104

NOTE: Make your reservations early as there is an absolute room limit of 110 people. NO EXCEPTIONS

RESERVATION FORM
MIDWEST ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 – 4:30 P.M.

12 oz Club Steak …….Number_____@ $28.00 ea=$_____

Two Baked Chicken Breasts ...……Number_____@ $21.00 ea=$_____

Veal Parmesan ...……..Number_____@ $21.00 ea=$_____

Lasagna ...……...……..Number_____@ $21.00 ea=$_____

Includes tax, tip, salad with special house dressing,
Baked Potato, vegetable, bread & butter, coffee or tea.

Christmas Banquet Total …….$_____

2027 Membership Dues - $25.00 ……$_____
(One check covers all)



Total Enclosed ……...……...$_____

****Names of those attending

_____

_____

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MIDWEST ANTIQUE AUTO CLUB

AN INDEPENDENT GROUP OF COLLECTIBLE VEHICLE ENTHUSIASTS