



The Autograf.

A Publication of the Mississippi Valley Region of the AACA



www.mvr.aaca.com

May 2020

President's Message

Bah Humbug Month 2

What an ordeal this pandemic has become. It doesn't appear that it will be over anytime soon. Per Mr. Brewer, there were 10 vehicles and 19 people that needed to get out of the house and take a drive last weekend. I guess I'm not ready to emerge from my hibernation yet so I hope all enjoyed. My dog and I are doing fine. In the meantime, I am cleaning, organizing, and finding treasures that I have forgotten I had. As of this writing I would be looking forward to Auburn, our joint tour with the Cedar Rapids Region, and the Indianapolis 500. Auburn was cancelled, the Cedar Rapids Region Tour has been rescheduled for October 17th, and The Indianapolis 500 is rescheduled to August.

On the National level, they are in hopes that our events will start again in June 12th - 14th with the new Charlotte Auto Fair and Show dates. Although most National events are on the east coast, it will be a miracle if they happen.

I'm ready for this to be over and hope to see you at Cars and Ice Cream. Watch your email for updates, if you don't have email and wish to be called with updates, please let me know so that we can set up a calling tree.



May Events.

The May joint event with the Cedar Rapids Region of the AACA is CANCELED due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cars and Ice Cream!



The Mississippi Valley Region has a new sponsor. Country Style Ice Cream is partnering with our club for a "Cars & Ice Cream" event on the last Sunday of every Summer month through October. The first monthly event will take place on May 31st at the 5264 Utica Ridge Road Location and begin at approximately 3:30. Sounds like a good way to top off a ride in an old car!

Soft Serve-Hard Serve and Smoothies!

MVR AACA "Shelter In Your Car Drive"

Shelter in Your Car Drive Report

We had 10 member vehicles show up in Milan on Sat the 2nd and it was good to see everyone as we kept our distances. We headed down river thru Loud Thunder under partly cloudy skies and at Illinois City got back on 92. Crossed at Muscatine and took a leg stretch break at Weed Park that overlooks the river. Getting back on 22 we headed back up-river arriving at Centennial Park and another leg stretch and then heading home. It was a great little drive and brought lots of smiles to people we passed along the way.

Hope to plan more and if anyone wants to plan a short drive and or needs any help let me know they are quite easy. Just pick the lesser traveled roads along with a stretch break and maybe a rest room spot. If you know of anyone without E-mail, please let them know about these E-mail messages. John

“Shelter In Your Car” Drive Pictures



"My First Car" a monthly feature

by **Michael Birmingham**

I was severely burned over 60% of my body in a bon fire when I was five years old. I spent two years in Mercy Hospital, and there wasn't much to do but lay in bed and look out the window. Somehow I got a lift out of seeing the cars go by and being able to identify each one. In those days you could still do that! Such was the beginning of my interest in cars and all things mechanical. My dad kept me supplied with model kits to build; ships, boats, airplanes, and cars and trucks of all kinds.

At twelve I have nearly ridden my Schwinn into the ground. AMT model cars are still fascinating, but there's a yearning to move forward. A kind of gnawing, persistent craving that can only be assuaged by the intense satisfaction gained from sitting behind the wheel of something low and sleek, hearing the thunder of an unmuffled V8 pumping adrenaline into a young boy's veins. And yes, a gear shift poking from the floor where it belongs! In order to still my restlessness and the constant questions of "how *does* this work, why *can't* I do this or that" and the ever popular "I've read the book and looked at the pictures, what's next?", My enterprising and patient Dad set about his fatherly duty of introducing his son to the American "right of passage to manhood". He came home one spring evening after work saying he had found a project for me to work on, and hopefully learn some more mechanical skills. I knew immediately I was destined for "something different". My Grandpa's legacy of "something different" was about to continue!

A few days later Dad brought home (towed would be a better description) an intact '53 Lowe coupe (Studebaker to those not initiated) having only thirty five thousand miles on the odometer (second time around) and in need of minimal (MY estimate) repair! That summer and fall I learned mechanics, body and fender skills, practical tool safety, and *advanced* first aid. If you're not bleeding, you're not working! Though not old enough to drive legally by myself, I still felt the intense pleasure and pride of knowing I could resurrect a castoff clunker and turn it into a thing of beauty and speed. At least that was my impression of what the Studebaker coupe portended to be. Though the Studebaker was quite acceptable to me, Dad had started us both along the eternal path of progressive excess. The little 233 cubic inch V8 with the funny Bendix WW carburetor that I had coaxed back into operating condition fired my dreams and transported me through the wonders of my imagination. It also killed most of the mosquitoes in the neighborhood due to a burned piston and failed rings! Though the neighbors really liked not being eaten alive nightly by the blood sucking creatures of the Iowa summer night, they just could not tolerate the smoke and straight pipes. Something had to change. A complete rebuild was beyond any reasonable budget I could afford, even with my part time jobs and lawn mowing income. Along the way, the older boys across the street got into stock car racing and I got to help in the pits. And that's the story of my first real car and my life long interest in all things mechanical. A short time later the Studebaker was sold and replaced by a magnificent 55 Packard 400. But that's a story for another time. Keep motoring, because that's what they are for. Adventure is what you make it!



The response to the monthly feature "My First Car" has been very positive. It seems club members have stories to tell! Several of you also asked for a "My first Restoration/First Antique Vehicle" feature. Well, I heard you and here is the first in the series.

Please send the stories of your first car and your first restoration in for publication. Mark

My First Antique Vehicle. -A Monthly Feature

My first antique vehicle was a 1952 Dodge Power Wagon. I was working 30 hours a week at Geifman food store and also just started full time at Douglas Machine and had seen this old Dodge 4 wheel drive parked not far from Douglas by Oscar Mayer and also by a house not far from my parents. One day I stopped at the owner's house and inquired about this odd looking truck that turned out to be a 47. The owner said he would never sell it and turned out he was cousins with the owner of Douglas. We got to be good friends and I just had to have one of these trucks. I was reading the classifieds, when we used to have them in the paper, and came across a 52 Power Wagon for sale. I called immediately and went to see it. It turned out the owner had just bought it from an auction that the city had, and it was the city bus barn who had had it since new. They used it to winch buses out of ditches and with a draw tube and someone steering the bus, would pull the big busses back to be fixed. I bought it and brought it home after discovering about double clutching. My mom was not impressed but my dad told me he knew what it was since in the army he had become familiar with them. Not long after getting it I saw an ad for 4 wheel drive truck pulls at the fairgrounds in Davenport. I entered the old truck with the bed ready to fall off and had no clue what to do. I let the big 8 ply tires down some and just put it in low on transfer case and granny low on the transmission. After hooking up and the flag was lowered, I let out the clutch and floored the 92 HP flat head 6. I could have slowly walked faster than it was going! I looked in the mirror and saw most everyone with a look of "that old junker won't go far" but it kept going toward the 300' finish line that all the newer trucks had stopped way before and crossed taking first place. Not long after I decided to try to completely disassemble and restore it and it then returned to truck pulling in both 5000 and 6000# stock class. Still have it along with finally acquiring the 47 that originally got me interested.

-John Brewer



**20 Years Ago in the
MVR**

Our History

brought to you by
Gary Gleason

May 2000

Officers:

Pres Scott Lohman
V. Pres Craig Beek
Past Pres Jim Scott
Treas Cy Galley
Sec Dick Perry
Autograf Dick & Sandy
Perry

Board;

Calvin Frels
Roger Smith
Richard Pianca
Brian Flaherty
Mike Radford

Mike Fielder

Committee Chairs

Membership Chuck Hoaglund
Sunshine Bernice Amundsen
Historian Gary Gleason
Roster Ron Phillips

155 members

May events were a car display at Geneseo Motors and a "Show & Dine" at Ryan's Steakhouse in Moline. Catherine Butterworth's 1949 Cadillac owned by Harlan Wiss, a 1946 Cadillac owned by Otto Patting and a 1940 Packard owned by Dick & Sandy Perry were parked in the garage for the Blossoms at Butterworth Festival.

Plans were well underway for the 2001 AACA Grand National August 17-18 chaired by Craig Beek.

A report was given on the 2nd annual Ladies Night Out catered dinner at the Deere Wiman Carriage House. 62 people enjoyed a buffet and a presentation by Detective Rick Ryckeghem of the Moline Police Department. He gave tips for being safe in your car while shopping and at home.

Summer's End. Dedicated to our member's that have passed.

Kenny Bush April 5, 2020

J.P. Johnston March 23 2020

**thanks for the suggestion Sandy*

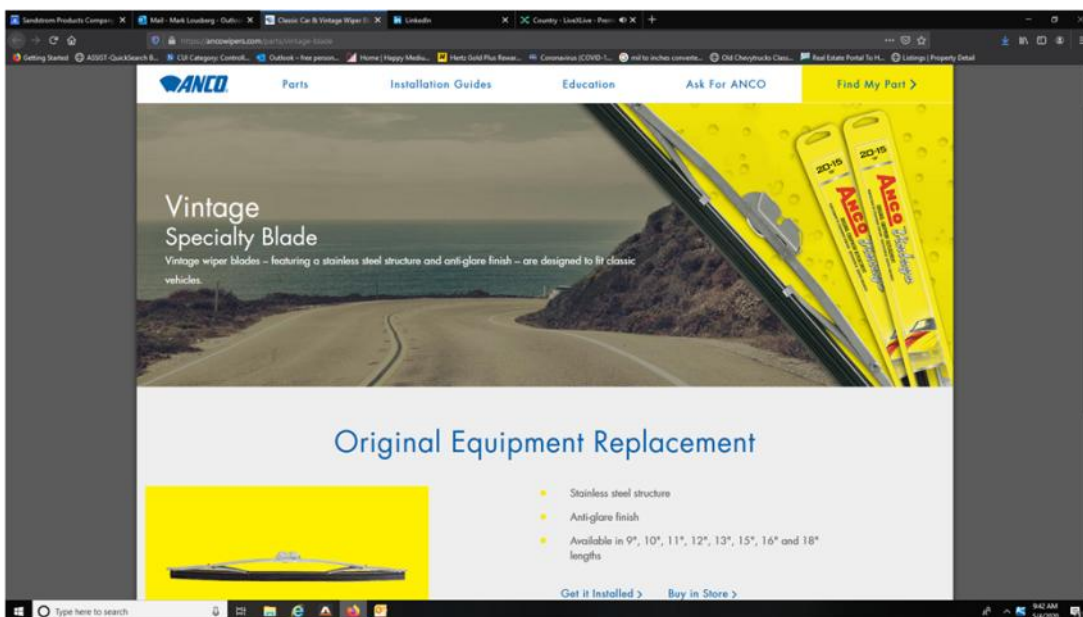
Website Changes!

Our Webmaster, Dwayne Cederblom is doing some behind the scenes changes to our club website. One big project is a page showing every member's car. **He needs your photographs.**

Dwayne asks that you email him a picture of your car that is 1 mb or less. This is optimal for our website system.

Send your car photo along with the car's description (year, make & model) to dwaynec48@gmail.com

A discovery worth sharing. Stainless steel wiper structure replacements are available from ANCO. They have an anti-glare coating like the originals.



Upcoming Events

MVR

June 21 –Annual Father’s Day Breakfast –West Lake Park, Dav.8:00 –11:00 a.m. (Board members, host)
July 10 –National Collector Car Day –meet at UTHS Auto Restoration Garage, E. Moline (no tour)
July 18 –Driving Tour & picnic –Scott County –(Gary Gleason, host)
August ? –Garage Tour –Date and locations TBD (John Brewer, host)
September 12 –Geneseo Planes, Trains and Automobiles show & lunch –(Scott Johnson, host)
September 20 –Butterworth Center Porch Party/Car Display –Moline
October 17–Fall Tour –Mark Lousberg host
November 14 –Year End Banquet –Riverfront Grill –Rock Island
Last Sunday of Every Month 3:30 P.M. , Cars & Ice Cream @ Country Style in Utica Ridge Road, Davenport, IA.

OTHER:

UTHS Scholarship Application still being written

INFORMATION ON NEARBY OR MIDWEST CAR EVENTS

May 16 –Little Hershey Swap Meet & Cruise In –Boone County Fairgrounds –Belvidere, IL.
May 16 –Veterans Car Club of the QCA –Cruise-in 3 –7 p.m.-Davenport Public Schools Lot, 35th St & Brady, Davenport, IA.
May 23 –Hot Rods for a Cure Car & Bike Show, 10 a.m. –3p.m. –King Pin, Fulton, IL.
May 24 –Mt. Carroll May fest 20th Annual Car Show –9:00 –3:00, W. Carroll Athletic Field, Mt. Carroll, IL.
May 25 –Poopy’s 5th Annual Car Show –1030 Viaduct Rd., Savanna, IL.
June 19-20 –Plymouth Owners Club National Meet in Springfield, Illinois. Located at the Hilton Garden Inn. CANCELLED
June Nova Reunion, CANCELLED



John Brewer was the first (and *Only*) member to identify the part. He emailed it is a friction type shock absorber that mechanically dampens shock impulses thru friction. Additionally the type shown can have the friction pressure adjusted which varies the heat produced and the dampening effect.

MVR BOARD

JIM CONRAD

Nova1975In@mchsi.com

3513 – 49th St.

Moline, IL 61265

(309) 797-5750

ALAN FORD

alanford@mchsi.com

633 – 33RD Ave.

Moline, IL 61265

(309) 517-1453

CLAIR PEARSON

nspsc103@aol.com

8522 - 55th St.

Coal Valley, IL 61240

(309) 737-0581

FRED BARTEMEYER

fbartemeyerjr@q.com

2210 Hickory Grove,

Davenport, IA 52804

(563) 340-5897

MARK LOUSBERG

mploousberg@hotmail.com

5101 11th Avenue A

Moline, IL 61265

GARY SMITH

2612 East Lombard St

Davenport, IA 52803

MVR OFFICERS

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PRESIDENT - MARY BARTEMEYER
2904 Cambridge Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722
(563) 332-7326 cell (563) 340-3266
mbartemeyer@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT - JOHN BREWER
800 Idaho Ave, Davenport, IA 52804
(563)-370-6902

jwbrew15@aol.com

PAST PRESIDENT - DICK PERRY

724 43rd Street, Moline, IL 61265

309-762-6563

rwppack@aol.com

-

TREASURER - GARY GLEASON

123 Short St.

Bettendorf, IA 52722

(563) 386-4649

ggleason@aol.com



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

SHARON HOAGLUND — SUNSHINE

3641 8TH St. Court

East Moline, IL 61244

309-755-4906

GARY GLEASON — HISTORIAN

ggleason@aol.com

123 Short St

Bettendorf, IA 52722

(563) 386-4649

Dwayne Cederblom - WEBMASTER

Dwaynec48@gmail.com

563-210-1956

<http://mvr.aaca.com/>

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