

KALAMAZOO ANTIQUE



Arc and Spark



1903 Kalamazoo
by Michigan Buggy
Logo Designed by Norm Knight

AUTO RESTORERS CLUB

VOLUME LI; NO. 3

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Gilmore Car Museum Garage Works 1935 Packard 120

Visit us at www.kaarc.org

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- 2016 -

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THE KAARC MEETS AT 7:00 PM THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 2122 BRONSON BLVD., KALAMAZOO, MI except for the JUNE meeting/club picnic which is held at the Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI.

MARCH WINDS TOUR – SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

The bus will be loading at 6:50 AM and leaving at 7:00 AM from the Target parking lot near the intersection of West Main and 131.

Eat a hearty breakfast at home as we will not be stopping for breakfast. Lunch will be at around 1:30 PM.

First Stop – The Sloan Museum, Flint, MI. Your admission will be paid for by the club.

Second Stop – The Buick Automotive Gallery. (Walking distance from Sloan.) Your admission will be paid for by the club.

Third Stop – Bavarian Inn Restaurant, (Austrian Room), Frankenmuth, MI. The club will cover the cost of your chicken dinner. German beers and wines are available at members expense. If you prefer a vegetarian meal please let us know.

Fourth Stop – Bronner's Christmas Wonderland. Return to Kalamazoo around 7:30 p.m.

DUES ARE DUE. NEW MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR REMINDS ALL MEMBERS THAT CLUB DUES MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 1, 2017. THEY CAN BE MAILED TO KAREN AT 39463 C.R. 653, PAW PAW, MI 49079.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2017 KAARC MEETING

A MOMENT OF SILENCE for Jamie Konig and also the club will dedicate a brick at the Gilmore Car Museum in his honor.

GUESTS: Jeff and Denise Muck were guests at the meeting. Jeff is a mentor at Garage Works. They have a 1928 Chrysler Model 72. They filled out a membership application and are new members. Welcome to the club!

CORRESPONDENCES: Each month members are allowed to come up to the head table to look over local correspondences

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Approved by general membership

TREASURER'S REPORT: General expenses for WSM and RBS. Other expenses include printing of the A&S, banquet hall, prizes, and Detroit Auto Show. Income from WSM, dues, and Detroit Auto Show.

OLD BUSINESS: Thanks to:

- Winter Banquet – Richard & Brenda Rakow
- Wonderful turn out - Great Food and prizes
- 50 yr club award to Doug and Joan McFarlen
- John Bright Award – Steve and Carol Turner
- Hard Luck Award – Gary Willoughby
- Norm Knight Award – Red McFadden
- Bailey Award – Larry and Karen Tutt
- Murray Award – Fred Bierlein

NEW BUSINESS New GCM director Chris Shires and his wife attended

- o RBS meeting
- o Judge classes & pricing worked
- o Flyer laid out and Boats at the Barns is back, we hope in a big way
- o Next meeting March 2 6:00 TGIF
- o Auto Show Bus Tour – Fred
- o Great turn out
- o No major hiccups
- o Thanks to Fred for getting nonmembers to participate in the event.
- Winter Swap Meet – Stan
- o Great turn out for members to help volunteer for the WSM.
- o Less attendance than last year.
- o New changes next year
- o Having a meeting sometime soon
- Kalamazoo Celery Plates – Steve Turner
- o Polisher has done the first round of plates
- o Second set starting soon
- There will be a Board Meeting set up shortly – No date yet. Will inform board members
- Kim Maxam is handling our Facebook pages.
- o WSM , RBS, KAARC
- o Thanks for helping out with the FB pages. We are getting a lot more hits now

- Ryan Hawkins is now handling the KAARC Website
- o All the Arc and Sparks are up to date
- o Thanks for stepping up to the plate Ryan for helping out with the website.

PAST ACTIVITIES

- Pugsley's went to St Louis to the moto exotica dealership. Lots of cars, great selection, and great deals for the average guy.
- Willoughby's went to Arizona to the Death Valley Auto Parts and also Sliver Classic auto auction.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February
- o Autorama – Sat 2/25/2017 – Fred 24 pass Bus \$55. Still have seats available. Contact Fred Beirlein for more information

• March

o DUES ARE DUE. PAY YOUR DUES. OVER 100 PEOPLE HAVEN'T PAID THEIR DUES.

- o March Winds – Fred Bierlein is hosting the event. It will be March 25th Last Sat. Meet at the Target Parking Lot on West Main St. Heading to the Sloan in Flint – Buick Gallery and Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth and Heading to BronnesChristmas Store.

• April

- o I've reached out to Dr. LaPenna - Rumor has it that we will be invited to his garage for food, and friendship.
- o Garage Hop is vacant this year so far. If you have any garages that we can visit, please bring it up at the March Meeting.

• May

- o Mendon Dust off does anyone want to head this up? Let us know at the next meeting.
- o GCM – Don Gilmore Classic

• June

- o Great Race Starts on the 24th and at the GCM noon on the 29th
- o KAARC Picnic at the GCM 6:00 – Board Hosting the meal please bring a dish to pass

• July

- o Drive-in theater – Do we want to do a diner and a movie night. Many people are interested in this event, more info to come.

AUGUST RBS 8/5/17

- September
- o Overnighter Saturday/ Sunday 9/16/17/17
- Color Tour
- o Color Tour John Hansen 10/21/17

...AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WUZ

by Dale Wells

During the Depression years of the 1930's, the traffic on the streets and highways was mostly two-door sedans painted black. Perhaps black was the preferred color as a subconscious reflection of the sad depression years. Rarely to be seen in the Midwest and Northern states were every boy's dream car - a bright colored convertible. Not only was that my dream, but like all my car-crazy friends, we could hardly wait until we were old enough to get our driver's license.

During World War II, youths could get a license at age 14 because so many men were in the military that transportation was a problem for women who had never learned to drive. With gasoline rationed, and car pooling necessary for many workers in the defence plants, teen aged drivers were somewhat in demand on the home front. There were no driver license schools in those days, and like many boys living on farms, my brothers and I learned to drive cars and tractors when harvesting garden crops and hay for cattle. The day I turned, I asked my father to take me to get my license, as he had seen me driving and practicing around the farm and was comfortable with my skills. I passed both the written and the road test the first time and received an unrestricted license. Dad had a 1940 Buick and my oldest brother had a 1937 Ford. I was allowed to run my shopping errands in those cars, and when the war ended, Dad bought a 1947 Buick Roadmaster. The old Buick was available most anytime I wanted to go anywhere, and on special occasions, I was even allowed to drive the 1947 Roadmaster.

After high school graduation, I worked part time in Dad's factory, and two years later I bought a 1946 Buick. I didn't drive it long before the Korean War heated up and I joined the Air Force. My younger brother bought the 1946 from me and I didn't have a car for a few years until I was stationed on Bentwaters Air Base in England and bought a Morris Minor from another GI who was returning to the states and wanted to sell it before he left. I still had that dream to get a nice convertible some day.

I worked in the Air Base Group Headquarters and got to know many servicemen and officers. One day a major was talking with our adjutant and I overheard him say he wanted to sell his Buick convertible before returning to the states so that he could buy a new Jaguar and ship it back on his government allowance. I excused myself for interrupting the conversation, but asked if he would sell me the Buick. He said he wanted \$800.00 and I could have it. My sergeant's pay was about \$150.00 a month, and after three years in England, I had saved over a thousand dollars. The major took a new Jaguar home, and I brought back the 1950 Buick Super Convertible. I enrolled at Michigan State University, and was allowed to have a car on campus because I was a veteran. Otherwise, only Juniors and Seniors could have cars at MSU, so I had lots of passengers and hitchhikers around East Lansing any time I went anywhere. It was pretty cool on those warm fall and spring days with the top down. The convertible tops were made of a canvas type material, and they tended to wear thin where they stretched over the top bows. One summer evening back in Three Rivers, I was driving to Kalamazoo with a friend and the top started to rip along the bow. Then, with one big blast of air, the canvas ripped open the full width of the top, plus up both sides to the windshield. I put the top down so the canvas would quit flapping over our heads!

We went on into Kalamazoo and took in a movie. When we came out, it started to sprinkle rain. As we drove out of town on to US 131, toward Three Rivers, the rain became heavier. We found that when we got up to highway speed, the wind over the top of the windshield was able to carry most of the rain past our heads, toward the back of the car. We got home almost dry, and I parked the car under a tree and threw an old tarp over the open seats. A few days later, I had an appointment at the old Daleiden Body Shop in Portage and bought a new top.

GM convertibles in the late 40's and early 50's offered hydraulic operated tops and windows. They were leak prone which could then allow the spring loaded side windows to drop open for lack of fluid. I started having trouble with some of the windows and began to lose my love affair with the Buick. Then one cold winter night I was driving home in a heavy, wet snow and was only a few miles.

GARAGE WORKS PACKARD AND THE GREAT AMERICAN RACE

Article And Photos By Doug McFarlen

What you see on this month's cover is a 1935 Packard 120 two-door sedan. The car was donated to the Gilmore Car Museum in 2006 by Beatrice Dinger of Grandville, Michigan. The car was under restoration at the time of Mr. Dinger's death. In 2010, Michael Spezia, museum director, requested that the car be removed from storage and turned over to the Garage Works volunteers to see if it could be resurrected and made usable. The car had been an amateur restoration project.

The first order of business was to get it to run and stop. The gas tank was removed and cleaned at Central Michigan Stripping. KAARC member, Gary Willoughby, donated enough tank sealer to get it safe to use. The brakes were disassembled, and found to be wanting big time. The students rebuilt the wheel cylinders, but the master cylinder was too badly pitted to accept a kit and work properly. The master cylinder was sent off to White Post Restorations. They liked what we were doing with the students and did the master cylinder and returned it to us at no charge. Really nice people!

We started to get the engine running, and a compression check showed most of the cylinders were not "compressing." The cylinder head was removed. It appeared that the engine had been overhauled with new pistons, rings, etc. After further checking we found six intake valves that were bent. New valves were purchased at Northwestern Auto in Grand Rapids and installed. The engine did start and it ran quite well. Keep in mind we were using the car as a teaching tool, working on wiring, making parts we could not locate (floor boards, battery cover and carburetor linkage), fitting fenders, and other body work.

This fall session, it was decided to enter the car in the "Great Race" in June of 2017. The crew was reorganized, and the car moved to the maintenance side to finish body work and paint. The Garage Works painter, Tom Summers, was diagnosed with cancer and had to take leave in order to have aggressive treatment. (As of March 1, 2017, he is doing very well.) The painting was handled by Art Kollen. It should be ready for shakedown runs in late March. It would be advantageous to get about 500 to 1,500 miles on it before it is sent to Florida for the start of the race.

The driving crew will be four mentors and six student navigators (five young men and one young lady) plus Brittany Williams, Collections Registrar. She is going as a chaperone and will be doing all social media connected with the event (Facebook.com/GilmoreCarMuseum and Twitter.com@GilmoreMuseum). One student who is going, Gavin O'Dell from Delton, has been on the Packard crew for the last five years and he is now a Jr. mentor. The balance of the crew graduated in the last two years: Tyler Herbert, Russ Gray and Andrew McFarlen. These guys are now in trade school or the Armed Forces.

...And That's The Way It Wuz, continued

were leak prone which could then allow the spring loaded side windows to drop open for lack of fluid. I started having trouble with some of the windows and began to lose my love affair with the Buick. Then one cold winter night I was driving home in a heavy, wet snow and was only a few miles

from home when I rounded a curve and plowed into a foot deep snow drift. While rocking the car out of the drift, I damaged the Dynaflo transmission. Rebuilding it cost \$375, causing me to think about trading the Buick on something else.

The Loewy designed Studebakers were beginning to attract my attention, and one day I spotted a bright yellow coupe on the Lansing dealer's used car lot. It was two years old, showing about 35,000 miles, and passed my driving inspection. I traded the Buick and became a Studebaker fan. This led to a succession of more Studebakers in my garage, until the went out of business. I have had serious mechanical problems with the Studebakers, but Michigan's salted roads were too much for the sheet metal. Rust was a big problem for all cars, but more so for the Studebaker.

A parade of one Ford, one Plymouth, two Dodges, one Opel, a Jaguar, one Chevy, one AMC, and more Buicks followed, plus two Suburbans for towing. But those, and my antiques, are stories for another time. Sometimes, I still wish I could get another Buick Convertible.

JIM HOLLAND'S TAKE ON THE 2017 DETROIT AUTORAMA

Photos by Jim Holland



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1, 2017 - Mendon Dust-Off

May 1, 2017 - Bearing Burners Auto Club Swap Meet & Used Car Corral - K of C Picnic Grounds, Shelby Twp
11541 21 Mile Road - 9am - 4pm... Info.: Car Corral - Franko (586) 293-1035, Swap Meet - Jim
(586) 770-5635..... BBAC Web

May 22, 2017 - Baker College of Flint 7th Annual Car and Motorcycle Show-

May 27-28, 2017 - 28th Annual Lane Automotive Car Show, Watervliet, MI

June 3, 2017 - Free Grand Prix Day - Belle Isle - Detroit (313) 748-1800

June 3-4, 2017 - Celebrating 25 Years! Mt. Clemens Cruise - Downtown Mt. Clemens

June 4-5, 2017 - Detroit Grand Prix - Belle Isle - Detroit (313) 748-1800

June 4, 2017 - St. Joseph County Grange Fair Summer Kick Off Cruise, 316 E Charlotte St., Centerville, MI
3PM... (269) 467-8935

June 4, 2017 - 11th Charity Car Show - Westland Shopping Center, Westland, MI Noon-3pm

June 4, 2017 - 16th Annual South Haven Festival of Cars - Kruisin for Kylie - Downtown South Haven
starts at 8am, website (269) 214-0981

June 4, 2017 - Annual Mustang Show - Tapper Ford, 816 S Kalamazoo St, Paw Paw, MI 9-PM (269) 657-3134

June 11, 2017 - 27th Annual Chrysler Employee Motorsport Association Charity Car Show - Benefitting
Leader Dogs for The Blind - Walter P. Chrysler Museum - 1 Chrysler Drive, Auburn Hills
Featuring the 50th Anniversary of the Dodge Challenger www.cemaclub.org

June 19, 2017 - Eyes on Design Car Show - Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

July 19, 2017 - 35th Annual Fathers Day Car Show - Charlton Park 8am - 4.... (269) 580-2240

June 23 - 25, 2017 - St. Ignace Car Show Weekend, St. Ignace, MI.... www.stignacecarshow.com

SELL AND SWAP

FOR SALE: FOUR (4) GM aluminum wheels, will fit 2009 Impala. Jim Holland 269 377-7756

FOR SALE: Dodge 318 V8 out of '94 Dodge Ram 1500, 50,000 miles on rebuild, \$300. John McLellan
269 580-2770

FOR SALE: 1970'S Chrysler engine and transmission out of Winnebago motor home with 36,000
miles. \$200. Greg Wells, 269 375-4844

FOR SALE: 1985 Olds Delta 88 Royale Brougham, 307 Olds V8, all options, nice driver. \$4,995.
Ken Maxam, 269 330-5362

FOR SALE: 1952 Chrysler New Yorker conv., solid, nice driver. T.W. Lane 269 624-5038

FOR SALE: 1982 Avanti II, Fiberglass, 350 V8, air, nice original, T.W. Lane 269 624-5038

FOR SALE: 1986 Jeep Cherokee, 4dr, V6 5-speed, new tires, frakes, clutch and hydraulic system.
West coast car, NO RUST. Call Doug McFarlen, 269 345-5667

FOR SALE: 1962 Chevy 283, 195 h.p., with 2-spd Powerglide, \$375, 1955 Chevy 265, complete, \$300.
Ken Maxam 269 330-5362

FOR SALE: 272 c.i. Ford engine, \$300. Stan Rakowski 375-3669

FOR SALE: POR-15 Business for sale! Yes, we're retiring (again!). All products and materials will be
included (E-Z Up, tables, etc. Call me for details Gary Willoughby, 269 323-9532

FOR SALE: 28/29 Model A cowl or 26/27 Model T cowl. Doug, 269 345-5667

FOR SALE: Looking for trailer to haul a truck or car. Needs to be in good condition with ramps.
(Looking for a low riding trailer, since my vehicles are lower to the ground.
Dave Hayes 269 365-1628

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