

# KALAMAZOO ANTIQUE



*Arc and Spark*



1903 Kalamazoo  
by Michigan Buggy  
Logo Designed by Norm Knight

## AUTO RESTORERS CLUB

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*VOLUME LI; NO. 5*

*May 16, 2017*

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***Larry Urban's 1937 Ford Sedan***

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*Visit us at [www.kaarc.org](http://www.kaarc.org)*

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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.

## CLUB NOTES

We've been informed by Bob Anderson that the October meeting for the KAARC has been arranged at the Auto Tech Center in Lawrence MI

Any questions--call Bob Anderson at 269-375-9619

ON THE COVER: 1937 Ford Two Door Sedan

Larry Urban's 1937 Ford came about as a result of hand-me-down story from a friend of a friend who eventually came through with the needed information to put Larry in touch with the owner in the heart of the Windy City over forty years ago. The entertaining narrative can be found on page 5.

The busy car show season is already in full swing and before we know it, the Red Barn Spectacular will be upon us. Jim Holland and his committees are already hard at work ironing out the details. Events like this happen only when members step up and take on the responsibility of doing their part to ensure that everything works like a well-oiled machine. The next meeting is May 18th at 5:30 at Erbelli's on Stadium Drive, west of DeNooyer's.

**WESTNEDGE RIDGE AND KRAMER (FEDERATED) OFFERS A  
10% DISCOUNT TO KAARC MEMBERS.**

# MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2017 KAARC MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Jim Holland at the Mt. Zion church at 7:05pm Tuesday, April 18, 2017.

**GUESTS:** Mike Duggan was a guest of Richard Craven and announced a Veteran's golf event sponsored by the Potawatami Tribe on June 2, at 9:00am at the Binder Park Golf Course in Battle Creek. A motorcycle and car drive-by is schedule at the start. Old cars are wanted. Jose Martinez, our KVCC Scholarship recipient was also in attendance.

**MINUTES** of the March 21, 2017 meeting as published in the April issue of the Arc and Spark were approved with corrections of the dates for the Color Tour to October 21, and the Father's Day Charlton Park show to June. And, to Dr. La Penna's garage it is the old "City" bus garage (old Smith Auto Body) at 503 and 513 Pitcher Street.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Reporting included the the March Winds expenses and were approved. A thank you note was received from the Kalamazoo Nature Center for the club's donation in memory of Martha Parfet.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Red Barns has selected recognition of the Seat Belt as our dash plaque motif. Volunteer T-Shirt orders to be taken at the June Picnic. Golf carts were ordered. The next meeting is May 18th, 5:30pm at Erbelli's on Stadium drive west of DeNooyer's.

**NEW BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Great Race will be coming through the Gilmore Car Museum on June 29th . Club cars should be on the grounds by 10am for the 11:30am arrival of the race participant cars. Admission to the museum is free for that day.

**May 13, 9am,** a trailer cleaning and maintenance "party" will be held at Hometown Auto. Help is requested. Then off to Dr. LaPenna's. at noon.

**May 17** Winchell School car show ~6pm

**May 20** Pre-WW II cars show and tour at the Gilmore Car Museum

**June 20** Club Picnic at the Gilmore Car Museum, 6pm. Bring a dish to pass..

## DOES THIS CAR LOOK FAMILIAR?

*During the 1977-80 era the Skybird, Redbird and Yellowbird Express packages, were limited to lady buyers. Pontiac ads featured the cars with exclusively female models. (Courtesy Stan Rakowski)*

*The final Express appearance package was WJ Yellowbird. It flew into the Firebird coupe in the mid '80s. (Courtesy Stan Rakowski)*

*Yellowbird had the pizzazz folks wanted, with a Formula-style steering wheel and Tron Am's Disco Danc! (Courtesy Stan Rakowski)*

*The Yellowbird came with absolute vinyl interior, or the pricier leather interior seating. This car had the top 480i 289 V8, but the fly types could fly on base 231 V6 or 286i 265 V8 power. (Courtesy Stan Rakowski)*

*Yellowbird's yellow thraxles were unique to this model. Yellow code 55 for the main exterior color, and code 37 for accents. Today, male and female Firebird fans enjoy Skybird, Redbird and Yellowbird! (Courtesy Stan Rakowski)*

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# ANNUAL GARAGE HOP VISITS BURR OAK TOOL COMPANY AND GLEN OAKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*by Frank Southwell*

David Hayes and Jim Holland planned a great garage hop for us this year. We met in the park at Schoolcraft at 7:30am to get directions and a map. From there we traveled south and east on back roads through Centerville to Sturgis. Along the way we saw lots of flowering trees and shrubs.

Our destination was the Burr Oak Tool Company in Sturgis. It is a third-generation company that designs and produces high quality fin dies, fin lines, tube expanders, tube cutoff machines, tube bending equipment and coil forming units for companies in more than 75 countries.. All of their products are made to extreme accuracy – ten-thousands and one-hundred thousandths of an inch. The building is kept at the same temperature plus or minus a half a degree and the humidity is always between 40% and 50%. They purchase the best tooling , which comes from all over the world. The raw materials they use are steel, copper, aluminum, etc., which also come from all over the world.

Our guide for the day was Newell Franks, who is the president and CEO of the company. His grandfather started the company about 70 years ago. The company pictures in the office showed the growth from 20 people to 400. He gave us a great tour, letting us get close to the machines. We were very impressed by the size of the company and the quality of their products.

In our group was Jim Deroshia, a former employee, who now teaches in the automotive department at Glen Oaks Community College. He helped Mr. Franks with the tour and then took us to his house and garage for a tour. We saw a variety of projects in process, including several cars, snowmobiles, motorcycles and small engines. He built this business from scratch and now it is his part time job as two years ago he began working with the community college. After seeing Jim's' garage, we



went to a nearby tavern for lunch. The food was good and the price was great. After lunch we all went to Glen Oaks Community College where he is a full-time instructor. He and his assistant Tim showed us the auto lab. They had several cars in the shop being worked on. . brakes, exhaust, engine swap, etc The collection also include a race car and a street rod. Looks like they have a good program.

We had a cookie, a good look around and headed home. All and all it was a good day. Thanks to Dave Hayes Jim and all who made this tour possible.

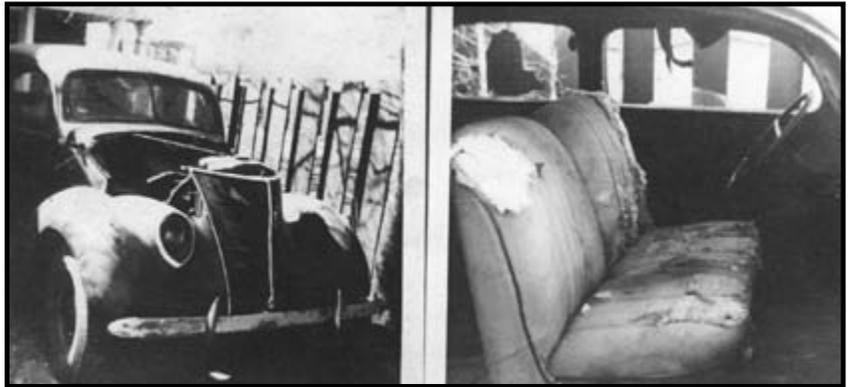
## ON THE COVER

# CALL IT "URBAN RENEWAL," IF YOU WILL

by Larry Urban

So, it is spring 1975 and I am working on my '48 Ford convertible in the driveway. A friend who is not a "car guy," stops by for a visit. In the course of conversation, he says that he heard through a friend of his of an old car for sale. I said that I would like to find out more about it. Well, this is one of those "a guy who knows a guy who knows a guy, etc." deals. Months go by, and after several contacts with my friend, I begin to doubt that this old car even exists, and it is just a story, an urban legend so to speak.

Now, it's a year later, spring 1976. My friend drops by and says, "Hey, I have a phone number for the man who has the old car that I told you about last year." He explains the chain of people involved to actually get to the number with all the back and forths. He says, "When you call, tell him Jake gave you his number. I call the man, and, yes, he has a 1937 Ford. He agrees to let me come look at it at its location, in the center of a Chicago neighborhood. We set a time for a Saturday. I call another friend who has a tow truck and fill him in. We agree to go together with money, and his tow truck "just in case."



Saturday arrives, and we knock on the man's door. An older gentleman answers and says to meet him in the alley at the garage. We drive around to the wood frame garage that looks to be ready to collapse. The one piece wood swinging overhead door opens. WOW! The garage is packed with "stuff," lumber, boxes, bushel baskets, etc., etc., but the front of the car is at least visible.

"Before we go any further," says the owner, "you don't have plans to strip this down and drag race it?" I assured him that if I ended up buying it, after seeing it better, I would fix it up and drive it. We move some stuff to get a better look. After moving a bunch of stuff, getting covered in dirt, we get that better look. Rough inside and out, but completely original. Years of neglect, and rodents. I said that I would like to buy it. We settle on a price of \$700.00 and I then ask if there is a title. The owner says to start digging it out while he goes in the house to find the title.

We have the car out of the garage and in the alley when he reappears with an envelope which he hands to me as I hand him the cash. There are two titles in the envelope. As I am looking at the titles, he says, "When are you coming back for the other one?" "Other one?" He says, yes, and I ask where it is. "Right there, under all that crap. It's in there, you just can't see it." I assure him we will be back for the other car.

After we pulled the first home, and dropped it, we went back for the second one. We dug it out. It had no sheet metal from the cowl forward, but the damaged nose parts were against the back wall. The story goes that he bought the damaged car in the late 50's and the second car in the early 60's with intentions of restoring them into at least one car. They sat for over 25 years and they got older, and in worse shape, just like the owner, prompting him to sell them.



A true inner city barn find, to say the least. The car took three years to get up and running, and it still has the lacquer paint I applied and the interior that was put in the car 37 years ago. My wife and I enjoy it as much today as we did back then.

# THE AVAILABLE TRUCK COMPANY

*By John McLellan*

The truck you see pictured on this page was built by the Available Truck Company, Chicago, Illinois. It is a 1949 Available C602, powered by a Hall-Scott 480 engine, rated at 265 horsepower derived from 935 cubic inches of displacement. The six-cylinder powerplant features a dual ignition, dual spark plugs, hemispherical combustion chambers and an overhead cam.



The Available Truck Company only built about forty to fifty trucks a year, and many were customized to the needs of the heavy construction industry. I have been familiar with this particular rig since my childhood. Owned by the Rooney Contracting Company in my hometown of Bad Axe, this truck served the company for many years with a lowboy equipment trailer out back. Red tagged in the 1970's because the DOT said lowboy tractors had to have tandem axles, the truck was relegated to yard duty and eventually parked. Every time I visited my hometown, I would check on the status of this rugged old beast. About fifteen years ago, I drove by the Rooney shop and the truck was gone. Fearing that it had been crushed, I stopped to talk to Gilbert "Gib" Rooney, the owner of the company and a long time friend of my father. He assured me that the truck was still in existence, but had been moved out to his farm. With his permission, I went to his farm and found the truck sitting with both doors wide open and one windshield broken out. The raccoons had been using it as their lavatory and it was a foul mess overall. I had some penetrating oil with me and after a liberal soaking of the hinges and latches, both doors closed tightly. I scared up a piece of plexiglass and some duct tape and secured the windshield. Weather and animals could not get in now.

Returning to Mr. Rooney's office, I asked if he was interested in selling it. I told him of my efforts at making it weather and varmint proof, hoping to score some brownie points. He wasn't interested in selling it. In fact, a few weeks later, he moved it back to his shop with plans to at least do a cosmetic restoration so he could park it out front of his business. Before I left him the day of my visit, I gave him a business card and told him to call if he ever changed his mind. He never called, but his son did. It seems that Mr. Rooney died suddenly after suffering a bad fall. His son had no interest in the truck, except for its scrap value. Fortunately he found my card in his dad's desk and gave me a call to ask if I was still interested. He told me what he could get for scrapping it and told me I could have it for the same dollar amount. I asked him about the spare engine his dad had for it. He knew nothing of it and said I could take it with the truck. The spare engine was a Hudson Invader 168, just like the one in Jack Miller's collection in Ypsilanti. The Invader was the military version of the Hall-Scott which was farmed out to the Hudson Motor Company during World War II. I later sold the Invader for just a bit less than I paid for the entire truck. I hauled them both home, the engine on a trailer and the semi hanging from my handy portable wrecker set up hooked to the fifth-wheel plate on my Mack B-61.



I can still remember the feel of the ground shaking as this old monster labored up the hill by my house on its way home after a hard day of pulling. I hope to once again hear that roar through its 5-inch exhaust pipe.

One drawback of the name, Available? Type it in Google and see what comes up!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MAY

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

## JUNE

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, 2016 -  
16<sup>th</sup> 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 9AM-4PM (269) 657-3134

June 11, 2017 - 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Chrysler Employee Motorsport Association Charity Car Show - Benefitting Leader  
Dogs for The Blind - Walter P. Chrysler Museum - 1 Chrysler Drive, Auburn Hills...www.cemaclub.org

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

June 20, 2017 - Annual KAARC Picnic at Gilmore Car Museum

## JULY

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

June 24, 2017 - Ultimate Antique Truck Show, Gilmore Car Museum

## AUGUST

August 5, 2017 - Red Barn Spectacular at Gilmore Car Museum

# SELL AND SWAP

**FOR SALE:** 1964 Corvette coupe 4-speed, side pipes, PS 4WPDB, 1965 upgrades. \$46,000,  
2004 Corvette black coupe auto 44,000 miles \$20,000. Both in excellent condition.  
Tim Bridgeman 269 3721667

**FOR SALE:** 1960 Austin Healy 3000, 1952 Chrysler New Yorker Conv., 1930 Chevy 2 dr. sedan,  
1982 Avanti, 350 V8 T.W. Lane 344-5555

**FOR SALE:** FOR SALE: 1927 Model T Sedan, 269 377-7756

**FOR SALE:** 1931 Chevy, 2 dr. sedan, bery solid, new wood and interior kits, lots of spare parts.  
Project Car Ken Maxam 269 330-5362

**FOR SALE:** 2003 Trailblazer LTZ, loaded, lots of hiway miles, \$2,700. 269 352-2072

**WANTED:** Chevy powerglide transmission set up, to hook up to Chevy 235 six cylinder engine '55 to  
'62. Doug McFarlen 1-269-345-5667.

**FOR SALE:** 1978 Corvette Mike Duggan, 269 207-5587

**FOR SALE:** 1967 C-10 long box pickup, From Texas, but has been in Michigan for a few years.  
\$2,300. Very good project truck. Dave Hayes, 269 365-1628

**FOR SALE:** 1926-7 Model T chassis, complete with engine and wire wheels. \$1500.00 Al Rohrstaff,  
269 207-7239

**WANTED:** Windshield regulator for 1939 Ford Tudor, Deluxe, James Larson, 269 204-6046

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

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