



# *The Polishing Rag*

October 2022

Willmar Car Club

## *Prez Sez....*

### **Keep On Keeping On**

In the 1970's, a phrase that was around and on many bumper stickers was "Keep On Truckin". I did a google search of the three words and Wiktionary defines it as, to continue or persist regardless of circumstances or setbacks; to keep trying or striving.

Willmar Car Club has many members who "Keep On Truckin" with projects. Sometimes it is a ten-minute change or repair that somehow turns into a half-day job. It could also be a total frame off restoration that covers many years. Be sure to check out Bud Bloomquist's project in this month's Polishing Rag, it is exactly what I am thinking. I have seen several member restorations back on the road. I do think if a partially finished project is sold and moves on to someone else is also a way to "Keep On Truckin". In my own case, a 1941 Chevy pick-up was not completed by me. However, it did free up funds and garage space for a collector car that I could drive as soon as I took ownership. The new owner of the bowtie truck has the satisfaction of to "Keep On Truckin" with his visions and I "Keep On Truckin" to events and continue to make smaller repairs and replacements on my purchase.

We have kept on truckin as a club in September. Twenty-two members were present at the 9/3 breakfast. Jay brought a page of the West Central Tribune showing the 1991 Car Show results. There were some familiar names which since have become friends of the club. We had 45 or so cars/ trucks/ a special interest motorhome at our fifth annual Root Beer and Rides. There was no designated parking, however, six Ford Thunderbirds, each representing a different body style generation were parked in a row next to each other. Pretty neat. A thank you to Country Stop A&W for hosting the event and providing music.

Willmar Car Club welcomes new members, Randy and Michelle Suter. If you have been at any of the Country Stop Cruise Nights in the last few years, you have probably seen their car "Sweet Pea". An extremely nice Nash Metropolitan. They also own a second Metropolitan which is equally show worthy. Both cars were admired at the Sunburg Trolls Show because they were awarded 1st place in the special interest class.

A belated welcome to Dave Mc Farland of Spicer. Among Dave's cars, is a very nice red 1960 Ford Thunderbird.

So, if you remember the cartoon character, put your best foot forward and "Keep On Truckin".

**Bob**

*Editor's Note: The October edition of the "Prairie Senior Perspective" features an article on Bud Bloomquist, titled "Restoring the classics."*

## October 8th Breakfast Leaf and History Cruise

On behalf of the Willmar Car Club, I would like to thank Gary Hotovec for putting together this year's annual fall leaf cruise. Much of the drive will be in Renville County and it will include several histories stops. Although the county is largely agricultural land, I think we should experience good leaf color in the Minnesota River Valley. The cruise will depart from our Oct. 8th breakfast at the Litchfield Eagles Club and drive south with the first stop at the 1871 Harkin Store. It is only open on Sundays, but perhaps we can walk around the grounds a bit.

A rest stop / snack break is planned in Fairfax on our way to Morton. In Morton we will visit two 1894 Historical Monuments. It is a half mile (?) of gravel road (bit rough in places) up the hill. If you would prefer to not drive your collector car on the road, I am thinking there may be some driving modern and maybe carpool from near the city park. Near Morton is the Birch Coulee Battlefield/ Cemetery with a self-guided prairie trail. There are covered picnic tables if you feel the walk is too much and rest rooms are available here.

It is not far to Beaver Falls County Park. Very wooded, however we have some gravel on the loop through the park. Second carpool? We end up at Dave's Cafe in Renville for an early supper. The approximate number of miles is 120 from Litchfield to Renville.



## Willmar Car Buff's October Breakfast



October 8 – 9 a.m.

Litchfield Eagles

*Fall Color Cruise to follow with an early supper at Dave's Place in Renville.*

*Dave's Place opens at 3:30 p.m. if you just want to meet the group there for supper.*



## Upcoming Events

Regular October Club Meeting

**Friday, October 21**

7:00 p.m.

Willmar Municipal Building



## *"Just Another Day in the Shop"*

Here is what "Keep On Truckin" is all about. Bud Bloomquist was parts hunting at the local auto salvage yard five or so years ago and he spotted a '97 Ford long bed F-150 pick-up that was bumped, bruised, and for most people, it looked like it had reached its final resting place. Then Bud sees a short box Ford box. Gearhead wheels begin to turn and soon a driver's door is located from another truck in the yard and a fourth F-150 has a good passenger door. A bundle deal is made, and many parts are delivered to Bud's restoration/recreation shop. A good long box frame is shortened to accommodate the short box and a Lincoln Navigator Intech 5.4 liter, 32 valve engine is fit into place. A transmission off the parts shelf found a new home in the project. The engine is opened up and new chains, sprockets, guides, gaskets, and more are installed. Bud keeps on keeping on with the truck's computer challenge, I think many people would have thrown the towel here. A new dual exhaust system with converters, Porter mufflers, and 4" echo cans exit through a customized bumper. The truck has had its emblems removed and many, many hours of body and paint work followed, all done by Bud. A good interior was rescued from another donor truck, and from behind the wheel you can control air conditioning, cruise control, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, and radio, all of that runs through the Lincoln computer system. Other projects have also been worked on since the black F-150 came along, however it is nearing completion. "Just another day in the shop." says Bud.



Other members, who have completed their truck restoration are Cliff Willhite with a 1932 International. The not running truck was for sale alongside the road near Grove City many years ago. Cliff bought the truck, completely disassembled it, did all of the mechanical work, fabrication, and wood bed himself. It looks like new and has been on the road for a number of years.



John Magnuson has a 1969 Ford F-250, it was bought new in Oklahoma in July of '69. The pretty turquoise pick-up has also gone through a complete restoration, with the original 360 engine rebuilt. The truck was used for camping for a number of years in its younger days. It looks like it just rolled off the showroom floor.

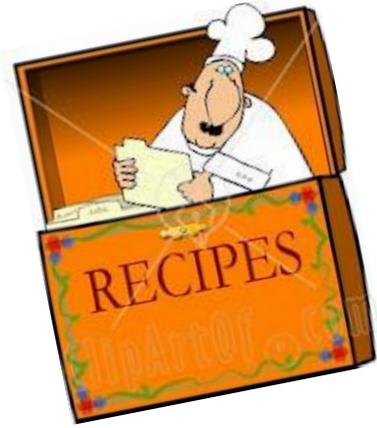


Cliff Gesellchen restored his dad's 1946 Ford pick-up truck. Another member who did much of the work himself. A five project on a truck that has been in the family since the 1950's. This one also has a new appearance.



Here is a link to more photos of Willmar Car Club trucks – taken by Greg Gjerdingen.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/greggjerdingen/sets/72177720302232687/>



## Recipe Corner

### Chocolate / Caramel Pretzels

12 oz chocolate chips  
11 oz Kraft caramel bits  
8 oz (1/2) bag mini pretzel rings  
Sea Salt

Melt 8 oz chocolate chips and spread on parchment paper. Spread pretzels on the chocolate. Melt caramels with 2 tbsp water. Pour this over pretzels. Melt remaining 4 oz chocolate and drizzle over the caramel. Sprinkle with sea salt.

*Submitted by Holly Hotovec*

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## Wanted: Articles, photos, etc. for the newsletter!

Please email items to [berdellej@gmail.com](mailto:berdellej@gmail.com)

*Deadline to submit: 25<sup>th</sup> day of each month – easy to remember!!*

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## St. Peter Car Show

September 18<sup>th</sup>

*Photos submitted by Jay Mork*



**Willmar Car Club  
September 16, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Barr.

Care and Share report: card sent to Mary Haugen and Card sent to family of John Bohmer

Secretary's report was read and approved with one correction. The hats can be purchased from Greg, not Nate.

Treasurers Report read and approved with subject to audit

Correspondence was set out for people to read.

**Old Business**

Upcoming shows in the area.

Talk and discussion on our Root Beer and rides show tomorrow, September 17.

Litchfield breakfast and fall car cruise. Breakfast will be at the Eagles in Litchfield and followed by the car cruise we will end up at Dave's Place in Renville for an early supper.

**New Business**

A membership letter will go out in late October, early November and will be put together by Greg. This letter will include donations for Ridgewater college scholarship and toys for tots.

Winter breakfast schedule. Talked about the first two being at McMillians in Willmar due to the winter conditions.

Christmas celebration at the Historical Building and also the January annual meeting at the Historical Building. Greg will get the room reserved for December 10 and January 15th .

Discussion on the possibility of skipping the February meeting due to weather conditions.

Kelly said she would check on the Ridgewater scholarships

Respectively submitted

Linda Mork, Secretary



*Links to Club Event Photos  
taken by Greg Gjerdingen*

**Sunburg Car Show – Labor Day**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/greggjerdingen/52340087667/>

**A&W Cruise Nite Finale**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/greggjerdingen/52377439715/>

**Root Beer & Rides**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/greggjerdingen/sets/72177720302172182/>

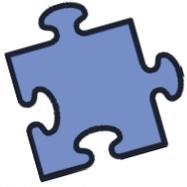
**Car Buffs Breakfast - September**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/greggjerdingen/sets/72177720301825358/>



**A&W Cruise Nite Finale**





# October Car Talk Puzzler

## The Elusive Vacuum Leak

**RAY:** A few months or weeks ago, one of my guys was under the hood of an old Chevy pickup truck, trying to find a vacuum leak. The way you find vacuum leaks is, we use a little wand that shoots propane. When the vacuum leak and the propane meet, you'll suck the propane in and the engine will begin to run smoothly, because now you're making the fuel-air mixture correct. And as soon as you take the propane wand away, all of a sudden, you've got far more air compared to the fuel than you're supposed to have, and it runs lousy again.

So, there he is under the hood with the wand, and he's having lousy luck. A few minutes later, I see him doing something very interesting. He's pulling off the spark-plug wires and he's putting them back on, but on the wrong plugs. Two minutes later, I hear him on the phone ordering the part that he needs to correct the vacuum leak.

How did he do it?

### September Car Talk Puzzler & Answer

#### Seize the Truck

**RAY:** I'm driving down the highway and I see way up ahead one of those diesel tractor trailers spewing from its smoke stacks the vilest, blackest, thickest, most acrid smoke imaginable. And as luck would have it, I'm closing in on the guy and I realize that after a minute or so that he's pulled over to the side of the road, and the thing is running and the smoke is just pouring out.

So I pull up next to him and I put down my passenger side window and I say, "Hey, knucklehead. You're killing everyone behind you. Why don't you shut this thing off?" And he says, "I did. I turned it off, but it won't shut off."

And I say to him, "Well, obviously something's wrong. Why don't you stall it out?" He says, "I can't. It has an automatic transmission. But don't worry. In a couple of minutes, the engine will be seized."

I say, "Really?" And I look at an emblem affixed to the side of his truck and in an instant, I know why.

So the question has two parts: Part One is, what did that emblem say? And Part B is, what was going on?

**RAY:** What did that emblem say? It says, "Turbocharged." And the reason he can't shut the thing off is that the turbocharger has failed and it is sucking the crankcase oil out of the engine.

(We should mention that the way that you shut off a regular car is when you turn the key to the off position, you're stopping the spark from occurring.)

And the way you turn off a diesel is you shut off the fuel. So, you close a valve which prevents fuel from getting from the tank to the injectors, and the engine obviously shuts down, but now with the turbo failed, it doesn't need the fuel in the tank anymore, it's using the motor oil as a fuel. And that's why the smoke is thick and black and ugly and vile and nasty.

**TOM:** And when the oil is gone, then it's --



Organized in 1980 to promote the preservation  
and enjoyment of collector vehicles.

[www.willmarcarclub.com](http://www.willmarcarclub.com)

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