



Willmar Car Club

The Polishing Rag

October 2023

Prez Sez...



"I'm Happy Your Happy"

The title of this month's Prez Sez was my response to my brother's four-year-old grandson's comment about six weeks ago when we were hosts to a family gathering. Halfway through the picnic meal of chicken, salads, and other good food, the little guy got out of his chair and came to me to say, "Uncle Bob, I am so happy I like your potato chips."

Were the last chips he had some kind of flavored kind he didn't care for, or were the Old Dutch Ripple his favorite? I'm not sure.

Again, my response was, "I'm happy your happy".

The dictionary defines happy as, feeling good or showing pleasure or contentment, also having a sense of confidence or satisfaction.

I have to say, "I was happy to be part of Willmar Car Club this past month". Beginning with Car Buff's Breakfast at McMillian's Restaurant on September 2nd. Traditionally, this is a month when attendance tends to be about twenty or so, however we filled the back dining area with about thirty members. Our club also had a good showing at the Trolls Sunburg Show on Labor Day. We must have had a dozen or more members cars there with four of them receiving award plaques.

On the 12th, we did a visit to Bethesda Northpoint near New London. Part of this has independent senior living units, along with assisted living and memory care. We were part of the 2:30 afternoon social time with sixteen collector/special interest vehicles. Coffee and treats were offered by Northpoint and think everyone was happy with the apple strudel, since the serving was empty when we were about to leave after some nice conversations with residents who remembered many of the variety of the cars and trucks we had in the line up near the back patio. From there, Jay led us a cruise ending at Dick and Carol Johnson's on Lake Koronis. I think all who participated were more than happy with our time there. A big thanks to the Johnsons.

Another happy event was our 6th annual Root Beer and Rides Cruise Night at Country Stop A&W. About 50-60 cars/trucks were present, I don't know the exact number, since some leave early and others arrive a bit later. But that is kind of what cruise nights are all about. A thank you is in order here to Greg and Neil Christenson and their entire Country Stop crew. They also took care of the good live music.

Sometimes when trying something new, you may be happy with the results, or of course, it could be disappointing. Jakes Pizza was a new try for our September Meeting, and once more, I was happy to see twenty-seven members and one guest attend. We decided this would work again for the October 19th meeting.

I think all of the September events met the definition of happy, and even though the season to get our special cars out is winding down, October still has some good offerings. Check out the details for the Wally Kill Classic Collection visit near Morris on the 3rd. The Car Buffs Breakfast at the Paynesville American Legion on the 7th with our annual Leaf Tour Cruise to follow. Mike Hartman will be leading us on some great roads near and north of Avon. Details of supper and other stops along the way are being determined as of this writing.

Wishing you happy times behind the steering wheel, or just riding along.

Bob

GREASING SKIDS FOR CLASSIC CARS

Minnesota Policies make it easy for auto enthusiasts to enjoy their hobby.



THAT TOUCH OF CLASS

Linda Gustafson bought a sunset coral 1956 Ford Thunderbird convertible in 2002 to feel connected to her husband's car hobby. This year, the car really had its moment.

No matter where she and her husband Paul drove it, heads turned. "Every stoplight, every stop sign, people are just yelling out," Linda said.

" 'It's a Barbie car!' " Paul chimed in, as we talked last week at the Buck Hill ski resort in Burnsville, which opens every Wednesday in summer to owners of collector cars, muscle cars, customs and specialty trucks and motorcycles.

The Eden Prairie couple regularly show up with Linda's T-Bird — which has eyelashes on the headlights, pink tulle across the windshield and an American flag on the antenna.

Minnesota has a reputation as a car collectors' paradise. It's got a surprisingly robust buyer market and a deep bench of talent to do the mechanical and engineering work on them.

Of the state's 2.4 million registered vehicles, 274,000 are at least 20 years old, qualifying for the state's "collector" license plate. About 24,000 of those were built before 1950, the Department of Public Safety says.

State policies make it easy and affordable to register and operate old cars. Hagerty Inc., the Michigan-based insurer and provider of market information about the specialty car trade, a couple of years ago ranked Minnesota as the most friendly state for classic cars.

The Back to the 50s Weekend car show at the State Fairgrounds every June attracts more than 10,000 owners of vehicles that are at least 60 years old.

Last week's car meet at Buck Hill was the final official gathering for this year, and there was a wistfulness in the conversations.

"We'll be putting it away soon and that's always sad," Linda said. "And then in the spring, it's always fun to get it out. We try to have it out for Easter."

A young couple walked up to her car and the boyfriend took a picture of his girlfriend beside it.

Linda offered them feather boas, hats and other pink accessories to doll up the moment.

"This happens all the time," Paul said.

In the coming weeks across the state and much of the Midwest, collectors of historic and customized cars will get out for their last drives of the year.

Then, they'll store them in garages and sheds for winter.

In the Twin Cities suburbs, "car condos" became a new real estate venture in recent years. These are garages on steroids, sometimes outfitted with lounges and offices that serve as getaways for their owners.

Throughout the state, "barn finds" occasionally pop up — cars and trucks that were stored away decades ago and forgotten by owners or their descendants.

"My dad was always a mechanic," Ellingson told me on a recent visit. "He painted cars, rebuilt motors. He got more thrills out of buying a \$500 grain truck from some old farmer out in North Dakota than he did a 1960 Caddy convertible."

About 20 years ago, Ellingson and his father began selling some cars. After his father's death, Ellingson and a new partner turned the business into a full-time dealership. But people who just want to pop in for a look are welcome; Ellingson charges a \$10 fee. The oldest car in his inventory is from 1929. The newest is a 2023 Corvette Stingray. The most beautiful? In my opinion, it's a 1934 Packard Twelve convertible sedan, painted in two shades of green that may not be its original color — but may be — and is priced at \$350,000.

Some of Ellingson's shoppers are investors looking for a place to, literally, park their money. Others are hunters, seeking a car model or brand that was special to them at an earlier time in life. Ellingson said he mainly buys cars from widows or surviving children of owners.

At Buck Hill, car collector John Tretten of Edina brought a 1964 Chevy wagon that he has painted in an explosion of colors and patterns inspired by that era's customizers. He said the roof has more than 180 coats of paint on it.

Dick Pearson, a retired finance executive in Bloomington, about 10 years ago became transfixed by Packards. "I just wanted a nice-looking car that was a good driver," he said at a Rotary Club car show in Edina on Saturday.

He bought a 1940 Model 120 touring sedan, which he called the "working man's Packard," from a man in Little Falls for less than \$20,000. He said he's spent far more on its upkeep.

Under the hood, a badge says the car was originally sold in 1940 in Los Angeles by Earle C. Anthony, California's original Packard dealer. Pearson, whose father served in World War II, said he likes the idea that the car was on the streets before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Just a few weeks ago, Paul Gustafson bought a beat-up old car, a 1946 Ford convertible. Over winter, he'll fix it up and, next spring, sell it. He's done that for the past 22 years.

"I've always made money on them," Gustafson said. "There's not many things where you can burn rubber and make money."

Linda Gustafson was standing a few feet on other side of the T-Bird when she heard him say that. "His classic line is 'Don't fall in love with a car,'" she said. "And I'm in love with this."

Evan Ramstad • 612-673-4241 Replica of the Star Tribune

(submitted by Cliff and JoAnn Gesellchen)

Sunburg Trolls Labor Day Car Show

September 4, 2023



These three members displaying plaques placed in the top twenty-five at the Trolls Car Show.

Left: Dave McFarland with the red 1960 Ford Thunderbird.

Middle: Bud Bloomquist with his 1952 Buick (car not pictured).

Right: Dick Lindahl with the green 1951 Lincoln.

At the right, Gary Nielsen was awarded first place in the stock 1959 and older class with his yellow 1950 Ford Convertible.





BETHESDA NORTH POINTE



**A&W Night
in
New London**

September 20, 2023

(Photos by Jay Mork)





**A&W Night
in
New London**

September 16, 2023

(Photos by Greg Gjerdingen)





October 4—Trip to Wally Kill Classic Collection

**8:15 a.m. Leave from the corner of Hwy 7 and 71 (Harry's Corner/Mel's) to go to Benson

**8:30 a.m. Leave from the New London A&W to go to Benson

**9:15 Leave Benson from the John Deere Dealership to travel to Wally Kill in Morris

You may choose to meet at any of the locations to travel together with others that are going on the trip - or you may drive directly to Benson to join the entire group there to travel to Morris. Lunch will be in Morris.

Please call Gary Hotovec at 612-202-5090 if you are going, so no one is left behind from the Benson location.

October 7—Car Buff's Breakfast

Paynesville American Legion—Fall Color Cruise to follow, led by Mike Hartman—weather permitting

October 7—Atwater Octoberfest Car Show

11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. See flyer in this newsletter for more details.

October 19—Car Club Meeting

Jake's Pizza, downtown Willmar.



Happy Fall, Y'all!!



2023 Summer

Car Buff's Breakfast

All car and truck enthusiasts are



October 7 – Paynesville American Legion

770 Diekmann Dr.— Paynesville



Color Cruise to follow,

led by Mike Hartman through the Avon, MN area



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

www.willmarcarclub.com

PO Box 428 • Willmar MN 56201

November 4

McMillian's Restaurant

2620 1st Street S. - Willmar

October Car Club Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Jake's Pizza

316 Litchfield Ave SW, Willmar, MN 56201 (Downtown Willmar)

Arrive between 5:45 and 6:00 p.m. to eat. Menu includes soup, salads, sandwiches, and pizza.

Meeting: 6:45 p.m. approximately

ATWATER
Car Club
EST. 2023



Oktoberfest Car Show

**Saturday October 7th
11:00am - 3:00pm**

Centennial Park, Atwater MN

Judging at 1:00 - Prizes at 2:30

Show Car Entry Fee \$5.00

For Any Questions Contact Hayden at 320-828-0396

Free Spectator Admission

Willmar Car Club

September 21, 2023

28 members present.

Meeting called to order by President Bob Barr

Care and Share: Cards sent to Gary and Holly, Trolls Car Club, Bosch Family, Gene and Sandy Frank

No Treasurers Report

Announcements: Wendy Barr will fill in as secretary club meeting: Chip talked about the two car shows on Saturday and Sunday. First at the Legion in Litchfield and next at St. Ann's church in Hutchinson.

Old Business

September Events Review

- Satisfaction with McMillians and ordering off the menu instead of a buffet.
- The Northpoint/Cruise/Potluck supper was well attended and suggested the club make this a regular event.
- The Root Beer and Rides had 50-60 cars and had \$103.00 donated to the club's scholarship fund.

October Events

- October 7 Breakfast at the Paynesville Legion, cruise to follow, weather permitting.
- October 3 Wally Kill collection near Morris. Be in Benson at 9:15 and please let Gary know if you are planning on attending. He will also give you instructions to meet to cruise to Morris. Gary's phone number is: 612-202-5090
- October 19 next regular meeting will be held again at Jakes in downtown Willmar

New Business

- Membership letter is being worked on. Old membership books passed to those who wanted one.
- The Christmas and Annual meetings were talked about. The motion was made and passed to have both meetings at the historical society building. The December meeting will be a potluck and will be held on December 9, 2023.
- The annual meeting will be also held at the Historical Society on Sunday, January 14, 2024 with this meeting be catered with a co-pay of \$10.00 for members and the club will cover the remainder of the cost. Members are asked to bring desserts to share.
- Leftover vests will be brought to the next breakfast and those that would like a vest can help themselves. The Trolls club said they would take what is left.

Motion to adjourn passed.

Respectfully submitted.

Linda Mork, Secretary

Newsletter Reminders:

- Deadline: the 27th of each month. If later than that your article may or may not be published in the current issue.
- Public Pictures: - Notify Greg Gjerdingen if you do not want your photo to be published in the newsletters. We are so grateful for all the amazing photos Greg takes for us, but we also want to respect your wishes regarding publication in the *Polishing Rag*.
- Have a notice about an event that did not make it into the Polishing Rag—you can share it by going to the last issue, choose "reply all", insert your message and send it.
- There is an on-going issue with some e-mails not transmitting, particularly if your address ends with tds.net, lakedalelink.net or en-tel.net. Those servers seem to think there is "scam content" in the e-mails.

Sorry To See You Go

What was the very final year of manufacture and in some cases before any merger with other companies?

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Hudson | A.1948 B.1954 C.1958 |
| 2. Henry J | A.1950 B.1954 C.1956 |
| 3. Pontiac | A.2010 B.2012 C. 2017 |
| 4. Plymouth | A.1997 B.2001 C. 2007 |
| 5. Studebaker | A.1962 B.1964 C.1966 |
| 6. Edsel | A.1959 B.1960 C.1961 |
| 7. Desoto | A.1955 B.1957 C.1961 |
| 8. Tucker | A.1946 B.1948 C.1950 |
| 9. Crosley | A.1942 B.1948 C.1952 |
| 10. Oldsmobile | A. 2004 B.2008 C.2011 |
| 11. Mercury | A.2008 B.2011 C.2015 |
| 12. Hupmobile | A.1930 B.1936 C,1941 |



Answers 1.B 2.B 3.A 4.B 5.C 6.B 7.C 8.B 9.C 10.A 11.B 12.C

For Sale

I am trying to clear out parts I have and would like them to go to a good home. Would welcome offers but just do not want them to go to the landfill. I have attached pictures of a lot of distributors and rotor. Also have heater control valve for ford passenger 57-58 and choke thermostat that fits Chevy and Pontiac 75-76 with 350 engine and door striker plates for Ford 47-48, Oh and old license plates. Thanks. Gary Nielsen

Cell phone:320-894-8685





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

www.willmarcarclub.com

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