



Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE February 2013



Not a bad Winter so far! Some cold, some wind, some snow, but all in all, not bad. I'm looking forward to Spring this year. I have a few new cars to sport around and they should be fun to have and take to the local car shows.

Some car activities coming up will help Spring come quicker---(in my mind)! February 9th there will be a new activity in Minot. A Swap Meet. It will be at the Holiday Inn. Saturday-- AND what will make this a success is the fact that it is the only thing going on. No car show, no band, no racing, just a swap meet. First attempt at this venture, so let's see how it goes.

Tables are in-expensive and it could be a fun day to get rid of those old parts that have been kicking around the garage or shop for a long time. Heck, I have items that have been around for a lot of years. I just keep justifying keeping them because: "I might just use this someday"!!

By the time you get this, the Cabin Fever Car Show will be over, except those who get it electronically. It is in Bismarck/Mandan at Morritz Sport & Marine and Riverwood RV. Friday afternoon and Saturday. Most all proceeds go to charity and it is very inexpensive. Might just be a good way to spend Saturday afternoon, the 25th of Jan.

Many of you know that I and Jerry Black work together at my business. He works 3 days a week and I work 7! Doesn't hardly seem fair, does it? But what I wanted to share with you is the fact that working together brings new tools to my shop, new ideas and we learn neat things together from people bringing ideas to the shop. I also read some interesting tips in magazines --- when Jerry lets me. Here's a few tips I have picked up when restoring a car:

NOTE HERE: Some of these have come from HEMMINGS CLASSIC CAR magazine—March 2013 issue, so I am plagiarizing some of their ideas. Here goes!

- 1) When painting bolt heads, clean them up well but get a used air filter from a newer type car, (usually about 6" by 9") and just stick them down into the grooves. Paint away!!!
- 2) If you want to spend the money powder coating a chassis, you are welcome to do that, but a restored car would not have had a powder coated finish. Blast the chassis and then just paint it with Rust Oleum spray can paint. I actually did this on the last 56 Chevy that I did, and I would presume it will stay that way for many years to come.
- 3) Gaskets: If you make your own gaskets, take the old one, or even hold the part over your new gasket material, and spray paint. The outline and hole arrangement will be there for cutting out.
- 4) And lastly, this article mentions disconnecting the "Negative" battery cable when working on anything electrical. This is not only a good idea on older restorations, but also when working on the newer cars. This could prevent voltage 'spikes' or shorts when working or troubleshooting. They say it is not necessary to disconnect both cables, but with the positive cable hooked (normally) to the starter, I would be careful because there is direct voltage from that starter terminal from the battery. Be Safe on this issue.

Then the article goes on to say "join a club that has the type cars you are restoring. Those people have similar interests so you can learn from them. Well, I must say, after going to Hardees every Wed evening for the last 18 or so years and the Vegas, and wherever else we went or go, I have learned a lot about many of the "Marques" around this fine club. We have similar interests that flow over to each others'.

Well, I've rambled on a bit, but all-in-all, we have a fun group and great, long-lasting friendships have developed from within the Dakota Cruisers.

Happy Motoring,

George

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KILLER OLD SCHOOL GASSER ACTION FROM BEAVER SPRINGS DRAGWAY

By Brian Wagner, posted on Jan 11, 2013 in News

In the early days of drag racing there weren't many factory built performance cars. If you wanted to go fast, you had to use what was available and make it work. Many of the old race cars you see are business sedans and other passenger cars, and some of the first and most popular race cars were what are famously



known as "Gassers". The name Gasser is derived for their use of regular gasoline versus another type of fuel. Gassers were the original pump gas race car class.

Your standard issue Gasser from the 1950's through the 1970's was a passenger car that had been lightened in any way possible. The fenders would be removed, fiberglass parts used, and plexi-glass windows would be installed. Another big change, perhaps the most signature modification of them all, would be the addition of a raised straight axle in the front. Early race pioneers raised the front ride height with these straight axles to help with weight transfer to the rear. The downside to making these changes would be the cars very difficult to drive at times with that higher center of gravity.

Gassers were separated into different classes based on their weight and motor combination. You could go to the track and see cars sporting a mildly build motor, all the way up to a big block with a gnarly roots supercharger.

The classic Gasser, of course, is the 1930's and 1940's Willys. It was not uncommon to turn just about anything into a Gasser, including '55-57 Chevys, Corvettes, Nova's, and even Henry Js. Just about any of these cars would be capable of putting it on the bumper and doing it with a wild period correct paint scheme.

This video from www.maziracing.com shows some great Gasser racing action that took place at Beaver Springs Dragway's annual Gasser Reunion which brings together a collection of period-correct, retro Gassers that's as impressive as you'll find anywhere.

THREE MEAN CARS TO BURN THE STREETS

By Suvi Nadakuzhackal

Human beings came a long way from their primitive days engaged in walking in the forests, to later days of riding animals, to the current one where they drive motor vehicles to all parts of the globe and even beyond it at extremely high speeds. Cars play a significant part in helping them travel to various destinations of their life that they are required to travel on a regular basis. Most people in the developed world prefer to drive their own vehicles to travel to their work places, places of worship, shopping arcades, vacation trips, children's schools, sporting games, craft shows, annual fairs etc. Having a car of their own helps those to save a significant portion of their time otherwise would have been wasted on waiting for public transportation of taxi cabs to fetch them to their prospective destinations.

Not everyone among the general populace look at their vehicles as a means of transportation alone. For many people, their vehicles are a powerful part of their lives, and they love it for the performance aspect of these

powerful machines. Avid car lovers like Jay Leno, the famous comedian and host of 'the Late Night Show', love their power packed machines for the sheer horsepower associated with them as well as the ease of maneuvering them on the busy streets, even at extremely high speeds. Of course, the responsible and sensible ones among them would never let these high horse power vehicles show its true ability in busy streets and risk their own lives and that of other people who share the same roads with them at the same time.

Here, let us take a look at the top three vehicles for their performance capabilities.

Dodge Viper

When it comes to performance, the Dodge Viper is one of the meanest power houses out there in the market. Dodge is not a car maker known for their sophistication of their vehicles. At the same time, Dodge users are not looking for highly sophisticated vehicles to be driven around either. Hence, this model is a performance car that is known for the sheer amount of horse power it possesses. At 640 horse power, the V10 engine that is powering this monster can let you scorch the streets with its raw power. Obviously, this is not a car for someone who is not sure behind the steering wheel. If you go full throttle and do not control the vehicle properly, you are likely to reach your grave within hardly anytime at all. You could reach 60 mph in around three seconds mark. In expert hands, the Viper could hit this speed around two seconds mark. At \$ 120,000 this is definitely a performance car that ranks as the best among its class!

Ferrari F355 F1

Various sports cars from Ferrari brand have been the favorite ones among car aficionados for a long time now. The Ferrari F355 F1 Berlinetta is one of the meanest machines from their stable. When it comes to its performance levels, it is in a class of its own. At 375 horse power, the car can provide you sufficient power to reach any destination in a very short period of time. In able hands, the Berlinetta can reach 60 mph in less than 5 seconds of time. Of course, you must try this only if you are sure about your driving skills. If you are in your beginning stages of mastering a high performance vehicle, be extremely careful in trying your driving skills on this one!

Shelby Series 1

Carroll Shelby is known for the vehicles designed and created at his watch and the impressive performance provided by these powerful machines. Shelby Series 1 is a 320 horse power car created by him for Shelby American and has been a rage among car lovers for some time now. Unlike the bunch of other cars reengineered by Shelby, this particular model is completely a baby of the car maker. He designed the car on paper and built it from scratch and came out with a very powerful and aesthetically crafted performance car.

What aspect of a performance car like Porsche is likely to make it in to a darling of the masses? The power of the car is responsible for playing one of the most important parts in this. But, the horse power in itself is not the key aspect. The horse power in relation to the car's weight determines the efficiency of the car. As a heavy car needs a lot of power to accelerate it than a lighter car, the power to weight ratio of a car can play a very important part in its efficiency levels. Among the three cars discussed above, the Dodge Viper has the highest power to weight ratio and this helps it to stay on top of the other two in performance.



Laughing is the best medicine.

Unless you're laughing for no reason...then you need medicine.

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Next General Meetings at the
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Feb 6 & Mar 6, 2012