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GEAR-HEAD GAZETTE

A special Supplement to The Maple Lake Messenger • Saturday, August 19, 2017

Welcome to the 7th Annual Gear-Head Get Together!

We hope you enjoy the second edition of the Gear-Head Gazette, a publication meant to inform and guide you through this year's event.

In its seven-year history, Maple Lake's famous Gear-Head Get Together has grown far beyond its origins of a few friends getting together by the Old Creamery to admire each other's motors, machines and contraptions.

Last year an estimated 300 cars and 50-plus motorcycles were showcased at the event that took over much of the town and featured motorcycle stunt riders and a celebrity guest. This year organizers were looking to get back to their roots.

"The whole concept in the beginning was to have no plaques, no trophies, just a bunch of gear-heads hanging out studying each other's

machines. Over the years we've added music and other stuff gear-heads enjoy, but this year we wanted to go back to the basics; just a bunch of gear-heads checking out machines," founder Scott Chantland said.

There is still live music, a Gear-Head swap meet throughout the day, and plenty of food to go around, but the focus of the event is more on the mechanical side of things.

"People are used to going to car shows or motorcycle shows or tractor shows. The idea here is to bring everything together. If you're a gear-head, you can appreciate it all, from a souped-up lawn mower to a classic car," Chantland said.

Like always, this year's Get-Together is free to the public and there is no registration to enter.

If you love it, bring it and show it and the more creative it is, the better; that is the Gear-Head philosophy.

"We're about seeing something you don't see every day," Chantland said.

For instance, the 1939 motorcycle that periodically shows up with its frame made out of Ford Model T parts and a Chevy engine isn't something you can see at just any car show.

Other oddities include the vintage radial aircraft engine that sometimes shows up and revs up to the delight

of the crowd.

The event was intended to create a nostalgic atmosphere where mechanical-minded folk could show off some of their creations.

It is a spin-off from Maple Lake's Days of Old celebration which included a car show.

Days of Old in turn evolved from an informal gathering of gear-head guys and gals in the parking lot of the Old Creamery, which Chantland owns.

Chantland had the idea for that first organized event then teamed up with local auto enthusiast John Rivers to make it a reality.

"We both used our strengths to

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- Continued from page 1 -

form a phenomenal committee," Chantland said.

Committee members meet throughout the year to lift the Get Together off the ground each summer. More volunteers are needed the big day, but there never seems to be a shortage.

After doubling in size its first

three years, the Get Together has continued to grow each year since, drawing people from throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

In addition to the oddball items, there are plenty of shiny hot rods and collector cars, too, enough to practically take over the entire town. Streets are closed for the event to accommodate the 600 to 700 vehi-

cles, and then there is the swap meet.

The popularity of the swap meet had the Gear-Head crew move it to Bolduan Park and the parking lot of Irish Stadium to accommodate its size. Only gear-head items are sold at this meet and there are plenty of them. With more than 100 vendors, enthusiasts can find everything from car, motorcycle and snowmobile parts to entire cars and full motorcycles for sale. There are also lots of petroleum related items including vintage signs.

"There will be no sunglasses, compression socks or Tupperware sold at this swap meet, it's all gear-head items," Chantland said.

Set-up starts at 7 a.m. with the swap meet beginning at 8 a.m., rain

or shine.

For those seeking a rest and some entertainment while browsing, Pull-start Diesel Band plays on the Main Stage from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and at 2:30 p.m. the old-time style country western band, Darlene and the Boys, takes over until 5 p.m.

Food and beverages are available all day long with several local restaurants and organizations participating.

Chantland emphasized that the Gear-Head Get Together's success, both past and future, is due to the diligent work of many capable hands.

"What makes it all possible is a very dedicated group of Gear-Head volunteers and an incredible group of sponsors."



Maple Lake's annual Gear-Head Get Together celebrates its seventh year of food, fun, and most importantly scintillating sights for the mechanical minded. After doubling in size its first three years, the Get Together has continued to grow each year since, drawing people from throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa.

(Photo from Messenger archives)

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Meet the gear-heads behind the Get Together

There is no other show quite like the Gear-Head Get Together. It is a unique venue where people of a mechanical mind can gather together to see and marvel over the contraptions and conveyances of like-minded folk. But the show couldn't go on if not for the equally unique and creative crew that puts it all together.

Scott Chantland

Scott Chantland is the visionary and the instigator behind the Get Together. It was his dream of an unusual getting together of gear-heads that began it all seven years ago. With his leadership, it grew from a simple car show during Maple Lake's Days of Old celebration to the enormous success it is today.

"The reason I started the event was because the opportunity was there to create something different while at the same time benefiting the Maple Lake community," he said.

Chantland has been a gear-head since he was a kid.

"My father use to drag race twin engine triumph motorcycles in the late '60s and early '70s, and later in life I got into collecting antique motorcycles, so you could say I have been around mechanical things my whole life. Especially things with two wheels and a motor."

His first love is motorcycles, but extends to classic cars as well.



Members of Gear-Head Get Together Committee are, front, from left, Beckah Pipenhagen, John Rivers, Scott Chantland in the driver's seat, and Tricia Manuel. Second row, from left, Hans Melgaard, David Rivers, Linda Rasset, Dan Albrecht, Larry Greene, Don Ramstad. Back row, from left, Tom Hanson, Mary James, Mike Zieska, Roger James. Not pictured, Becky Hance and Pete Miessen.

(Photo by Brenda Erdahl)

"I think if you are into mechanical things whether it be cars, bikes, tractors, aircraft, etc., you really cannot help yourself. If you have a mechanical mind (gear-head) you are automatically attracted to mechanical things," he said.

Currently, Chantland enjoys finding anything in an original paint motorcycle, scooter, plus home-built contraptions.

John Rivers

John Rivers is another founding member of the Gear-Head Get Together. He has been a gear-head nearly all his life.

"I acquired my first car, a 1931 Model A Ford, when I was 13 years old. My grandfather bought it for twenty-five dollars and gave it to me," he said.

River's father was a farm implement

dealer with a shop in New Auburn, Minnesota.

"He let me do anything I wanted to do in the shop. I could completely disassemble and reassemble a Model A or T Ford engine when I was thirteen," he said.

At 16 Rivers acquired a 1920 Model T

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Ford truck that he enjoyed buffing up and driving, he said. In May of 1957 he bought a 1926 Model T Ford Roadster for \$15 and still has the car in his collection. Later that summer he bought a 1931 Model A Ford Coupe from a junk yard in Hutchinson and turned it into a rod. "The picture on this year's Gear-Head tee shirt is me with that rod in August 1957," he said.

As the years went by Rivers acquired more collector cars. He has been a member of AACA, Antique Automobile Club of America, since 1963.

"I can say I have always loved the hobby because mechanics is in my DNA," he said.

As for the Gear-Head Committee, he enjoys hosting meetings and working on ways to promote the event.

At the moment, he is not working on any major projects. The last one was rebuilding the entire engine and drive train on son, David Rivers, 1910 Buick.

"However, I am doing some minor work buffing up a 1947 International KB 2 pickup. My dad sold these when they were new and I can still recall the smell inside the cab of a new one. This truck is one that should not be restored because it is complete down to the fine details. In recent years there has been a greater interest in preserving original features."

Larry Greene

Larry Greene got involved about five years ago with Gear-head.

"I have been a car enthusiast all my life starting with a '50 Oldsmobile in school."

Since then many classics and muscle cars such as Corvettes, GTOs, etc., have come his way.

He and his wife, Vicki, both enjoy cars so it was natural for them to be involved in the Get Together. The two also serve as a Grand sponsor of the event.

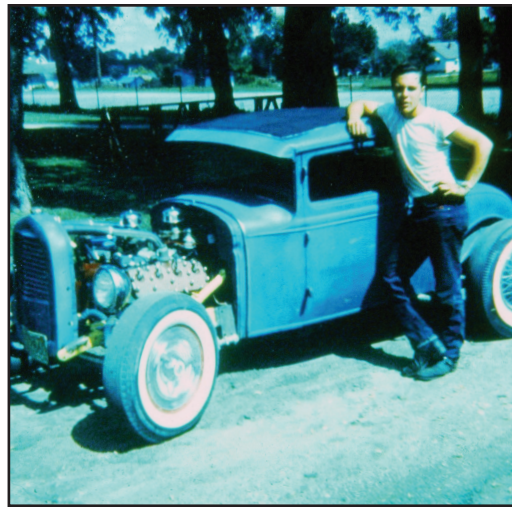
Don Ramstad

Don Ramstad has been a gear-head since he was a kid when his dad started bringing him to car shows.

"I enjoy the cars and trucks from the 1950s the most," he said. "I like the unique body lines and character they have."

He joined the Gear-Head crew three years ago because he enjoys the show and wants to help ensure that it continues.

One of his favorite projects is a 1955 Chevrolet pickup that was in pieces when he bought it.



The 1931 Model A Ford Coupe John Rivers, pictured in 1957, turned into a rod.

"I spent several years working on it and now drive it almost daily in the summer," he said.

David Rivers

David Rivers has been interested in antiques and collectables his whole life. Adding a few cars to his collection was a natural fit which put him into the category of gear-head.

Although he wasn't part of Gear-Head in its early years - back when it was just an impromptu gathering one August day - when it evolved into more and a committee developed to more formally plan, he was recruited and joined.

"My largest contribution to the Gear-Head Committee is attending our monthly meetings where I listen, make a few comments, point my finger and enjoy the other members doing all the 'hard work.' It is a really great team," he said. "I also, along with Roger James, organize the Gear-Head Swap-Meet which is the primary event of the show. We have a small but dedicated team of volunteers that direct the vendors to their spot to sell in the Swap Area."

"As a committee, we are all looking forward to the big show, welcoming our guests and promoting Maple Lake as the Great Community it already is," he said.

Becky Hance

Becky Hance developed her love of machines from her dad who is a mechanic. As a child, she spent all her spare time hanging around his shop.

"I've just always loved cars, the body lines, the smell of burnt rubber and diesel,"

she said.

She joined the Gear-Head Committee



Don Ramstad's 1955 Chevy truck.

four years ago and now has the important job of organizing the food vendors for the day. It is her way of promoting a "great" event, she said.

"My parents have always been huge volunteers in my home town and I thought this was a good way to help out with a great event," she said.

As far as her own gear-head projects, she hasn't tackled any big ones lately, but has finally got her Grand Wagoneer "running just right."

"Of course, my husband always has a project or two that he needs help on," she added.

Tom Hanson

Tom Hanson has been a member of the Gear-Head board for the last five years. He loves anything vintage and enjoys volunteering and being with others involved in the car hobby.

His dad inspired his love of machines by taking him to car shows and working

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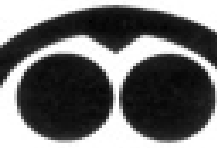
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on projects together.

"I enjoy anything vintage from old cars to oil cans, gas pumps and memorabilia," Hanson said.

As a Gear-Head Committee member, he enjoys helping with the marketing of the event, and volunteering in various other ways.

As far as his own gear-head endeavors, he is currently working on a 1.5 HP 1930 Hit and Miss as well as a 1946 Kohler Generator.

Roger James

Roger James got his start in the old car hobby when a friend told him about a 1936 Chevrolet pickup that his brother wanted to sell.

"Once I saw it I could picture how nice it would look fixed up, so I bought it and restored it to new condition," he said.

"I love returning old vehicles to the way they looked and operated when they were new. When taking part in car shows around the country I have made friends



Becky Hance's Wagoneer.

from all over the U.S. When we attend these events, it is like a family reunion," he said.

He and his wife, Mary, (also a member of the Gear-Head Committee) provided the featured vehicle, a 1959 Chevrolet Station Wagon for a Days of Old event, and that is how they both became involved in Gear-Head.

The James' bought the wagon years ago from the Maple Lake Fire Department who had bought it new. The couple restored it in time for the Maple Lake Centennial Celebration.

The last project James worked on was just finished this summer in time to take it to Wisconsin for a Buick Club of America National Meet. It is a 1967 Buick GS400 convertible with a 4-speed transmission that he bought from a salvage yard in South Dakota in about 1982.

Mary James

Mary James remembers the day her husband told her about the 1936 pickup he wanted to buy from their friend's brother.

"When asked what he was going to do with that, he responded 'fix it up' and so began my involvement with the old car hobby," she said.

That was 1971, and old cars were easy to buy for very little money. Soon more showed up at their place in the country, and always Chevrolets for many years. The couple became involved with the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America, traveled to car shows and swap meets (flea markets with

only car-related merchandise) all over the midwest and met "great people."

"It was our annual vacation for five or six days in the summer," she said.

"I fell in love with the hobby because it preserves history, feeds my curiosity on how things work and go together, and gives me the opportunities to experience new things, new places and meet new people."

Mary and Roger both became involved with the Gear-Head Committee in 2011 after being asked by John Rivers, "a hard guy to say no to," she said.

"Being that I was retired, it gave me an opportunity to stay involved with the community of Maple Lake, my hometown and place of employment for 37 years. I enjoy working with details, organization, and looking at the big picture," she said.

As for a favorite gear-head project, "whatever we are showing, driving or working on is always my favorite until I move to the next," she said.

"Folks in Maple Lake particularly enjoy seeing the 1959 Chevrolet Kingswood station wagon we own that was purchased new by the Maple Lake Fire Department in 1959, used first as an ambulance, then as the first vehicle on the scene of the fire with firemen arriving prior to the first trucks, and then as a fire chief car before being replaced with newer equipment. When the department decided to sell the wagon, they requested sealed bids to be submitted and we were fortunate to have

the highest bid," she said.

"The vehicle became ours and required quite a lot of restoration. It was completed for the 1990 Maple Lake Centennial."

Mike Zieska

Mike Zieska was 12 or 13 when he put a three-color paint scheme on his family's boat. That was the start of his passion for



Roger and Mary James' 1967 Buick.

body and paint work. His family moved to Annandale at the start of his junior year of high school. There he ran into his good friend Pete Miessen who loved to "mess around with cars." Miessen was the mechanic and Zieska made the vehicles look good.

"He (Miessen) was the instigator. He got me hooked," Zieska said.

After a few years at St. Cloud Technical School he opened Mike's Custom Paint where he custom painted new cars and trucks and did collision repair. Eventually

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- Continued from page 5 -

that business turned into what is now known as MCP Collision and Glass in Annandale.

Over the years, Zieska has restored many older vehicles that have gone on to win trophies. One of those was a Porsche that the owner then took to a car show in California where it won Best of Show and Best of Class.

A couple of Zieska's biggest projects include the old Bronco II that he restored every inch of, and then there was the '67 Camaro he restored back when he was still a student in tech school.

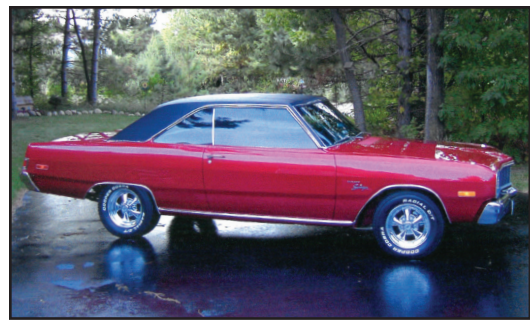
"It's enjoyable taking something and making it new again," he said.

Zieska joined the Gear-Head crew back when it was still just a car show during Maple Lake's Days of Old celebration.

"The passion and the skill these people have is amazing," he said. "It's nice to be part of a group that has that much passion."

Pete Miessen

Pete Miessen is another passionate gear-head who has had an interest in everything



The 1975 Dodge Dart custom painted by Mike Zieska.

mechanical all his life.

"I was born into it," he said. "That's all I've known all my life. When I was little I would take anything apart to see how it works."

Miessen joined the group when Gear-Head was in its second year. He specializes in doing promotional work, managing the volunteers, setting up entertainment and finding new features to attract more people.

When not working on the Get Together, he is involved in off-road jeeps and motorcycles and numerous other projects.

"I was asked by the committee to join their ranks, and I thought it was a great way to support the town since I have lived in the area all my life," he added.

Linda Rassat

Although she claims to not be a gear-head at all, Linda Rassat has been helping with the event since it was still a part of the Days of Old celebration in Maple Lake.

"John Rivers was looking for some volunteers to help register cards on the day of the event and I wasn't busy that day so I showed up to help. I have been a part of the fun ever since," she said.

Hans Melgaard

Hans Melgaard, owner of Melgaard Services, joined the committee a few years ago. His enthusiasm, willingness to go the extra mile as well as his humor and wit make him a valued member.

Dan Albrecht

Dan Albrecht has been with the group

since the early years. He is the "go to" food guy and idea man.

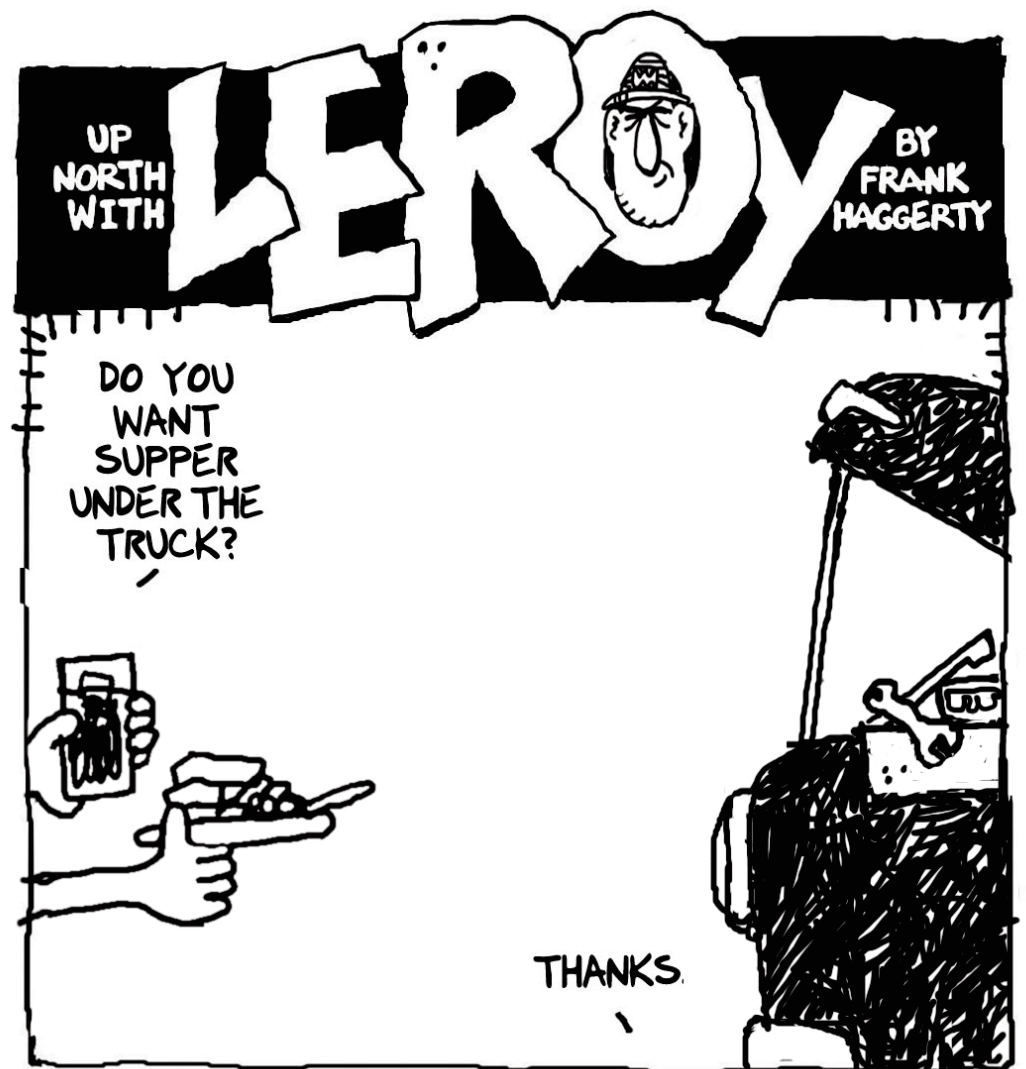
Tricia Manuel

Tricia Manuel is the clothing merchandise specialist. She has Gear-Head items embroidered and sells them at the Costume Shoppe.

Gear-Head works under the umbrella of the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce with Kathy Hennen serving as treasurer.



Pete Miessen's shop where he works on his numerous projects.





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Old stuff, new leather

By Bob Zimmerman

Take a look at the awards section of award winning leather artist Mike Bray's website (brayleatherstudio.com) and you will find that he is a master artisan. Take a walk with him in his shop and back yard and you will find that he is a gear-head, first class. Talk with him and you will find how these attributes combine to inspire and create his unique artwork.

Bray specializes in adding tooled leather to antiques to make one-of-a-kind pieces and is often commissioned to create pieces that tell a special story, honor a loved one or represent a certain lifestyle. His work reflects both his clients' wishes and his dedication to melding something old with something new to create something beautiful.

The gear-head side of Bray: He likes the style and sound of old outboard motors and estimates he has "about 70 of them." One is an old three-horse Johnson clamped to the stern of the 1949 Larson fishing boat tied to his dock and used regularly. Another, a 35 hp Johnson, powers his 1955 18-foot Larson Cabin Special Cedar Strip boat that is used for special occasions. Bray admits he likes to watch heads turn as he mo-

tors by in his classic craft. Asking about his favorite outboard leads to an introduction to his recently acquired 1917 Evinrude detachable row boat motor.

Restoring rare, 100-year-old mechanical devices is not one of Bray's many skills and he hopes to eventually find someone with the knowledge to do the job right.

The Artist side of Bray: He has always collected old stuff and enjoys going to the vintage car shows to see what he can find. He goes to Gear-Head every year and says, "it is one of the better shows for variety." He tries to "get there early and spend the day because there is plenty to do." His schedule for this year's event is pretty tight because he has to be in Alexandria to help a friend with a concert, so he plans to get to Gear-Head early and stay as long as possible, which won't be long enough. He will be looking for anything that fires a creative spark for a new project. Past inspirations include customizing the seat of a 1950 Chevy pickup with leather upholstery featuring a bronc rider in the middle panel. Vehicle door frames have become windows for his hand-tooled leather works of art, grandpa's old wooden tool box



Besides his artwork, Mike Bray enjoys collecting outboard motors.

morphs into a unique storage container when personalized with embossed leather on the top and sides, and using the bow of a 1958 Alumacraft boat to frame two colorful anglers landing a fish with the caption "Memories made at the lake last a lifetime" creates a display suitable for the finest lake home or any cabin up north.

The inside door panel from a Woody station wagon will serve to display a new creation when Bray's imagination determines what leather work to merge it with.

The Master Artisan side of Bray: Crafting exquisite presentation saddles takes up some of Bray's time.

- Continued on page 8 -



Mike Bray turned the bow of this 1958 Alumacraft boat into a piece of art suitable for the finest lake home or any cabin up north. (Photos by Bob Zimmerman)

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INTERSTATE BATTERIES ACDelco ASE

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His "Tribute to the Troops" won awards from the Veterans' Administration. The "Saddle of Hope" touches the hearts of all whose lives have been challenged and changed by cancer. His newest creation "Honor the Badge" is a salute to law enforcement and features a sheriff's department badge from each of Minnesota's 87 counties. Bray credits and thanks Wright County Sheriff Joe Hagerty for all the help to

make this saddle a reality. "Honor the Badge" will make its public debut at the Minnesota State Fair, where Bray will have a booth at the Coliseum. KSTP - Channel 5 will also be featuring the saddle from their booth at the fair. Stop by Bray's booth to view the saddle and other works, talk about leather working or just reminisce about that old five-and-a-half Johnson Sea Horse you grew up with fishing with your Dad.



Mike Bray, of rural Monticello, collects odds and ends to make one-of-a-kind works of art. His collection includes this 1917 Evinrude Detachable Row Boat Motor.
(Photo by Bob Zimmerman)

Cars, music and memories

By Bob Zimmerman

KRWC will start the music for the Gear-Head Get Together at 7:30 a.m. Folks setting up their displays will be serenaded with old time rock and roll and a lot of car tunes. From 10 to 11 a.m. Speedtalk on 1360 will air with their coverage of central Minnesota racing news. Gear-heads can check out www.speedtalkon1360.com for full information about the show. Event announcements will be made as needed during the day and the D.J. will be active when Pullstart Diesel

and Darlene and the Boys are not on stage.

Dave Larcom Jr. won't be working at the Get Together this year due to a scheduling conflict with some affair having to do with graduating from high school a few years ago. He plans to bring his 1,200 plus audio collection to next year's event when he will spin disks from the days of old. You might hear about that Hot Rod Lincoln, a Little Deuce Coupe or even a Rocket 88. He will play

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Above is some of Dave Larcom Jr.'s memorabilia from the days of old at his shop, DL's Radiator and Exhaust in Buffalo.
(Photo by Bob Zimmerman)

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some radio commercials and TV show theme songs that will make some laugh and others cringe as they remember the classic "My Mother the Car." Larcom excels at recreating an era when cruising after dark with the radio on was just what you did.

Larcom knows cars and machines, having been in the radiator repair/custom exhaust business since 1998. He also knows the music, having been in the radio business for 40 years. Stepping into the reception room of DL's Radiator and Exhaust in Buffalo punches your ticket for a ride on the Way-Back Machine to the '40s, '50s and '60s. Every nook, cranny and crevice is filled with memorabilia of things taken for granted then and fondly remembered now. Doing "The Stroll" in his shop reveals a slightly chaotic collection of stuff and such from the middle of the last century. Larcom loves the old cars and the old music and admits to "being in heaven" when he gets to blend the two together as a disc jockey.

Talking cars and music history with Larcom is a free-wheeling experience with overdrive. In the early 1930s, a company combined motor vehicles and Victrola to rebrand themselves as Motorola when they created the first commercially successful car radio. Car crash songs like "Deadman's Curve" and "Tell Laura I Love Her" were banned by the BBC because they were too intense for their listeners. Are you drivin' a stick? Three in the Tree or Four on the Floor? From 1956 to 1958 you could buy a Chrysler with a Highway Hi-Fi record player and Larcom says his wasn't very good. The Wonder Bar radio allowed hands-free station selection; you had to use your foot on the pedal next to the dimmer switch. Wolf Whistles for your hot rod's tail pipe were supposed to impress the ladies. The one Larcom has is still in the original packaging and is going to stay there.

You might have to "Take a Ralph" or "Hang a Louie" at the next intersection on Memory Lane to get to Drag City. Be sure to give a wave to the Little Old Lady. Go ahead and take that Detour; You've got No Particular Place To Go. Enjoy the Gear-Head Get Together, enjoy the music and enjoy the memories.

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Dave Larcom mixes a love of machines with a love of music. Every nook and cranny in his Buffalo shop is filled with memorabilia both mechanical and musical, which is fitting for the mechanic/disc jockey. (Photos by Bob Zimmerman)



Couple drives Challenger 1,000 miles for Epilepsy

By Brenda Erdahl

Looking sharp with its racing stickers, Janel and Greg Rosine's bright red, 2009 Dodge Challenger growled at the starting line of the 1,000 Mile Crown Rally Adventure, Friday, June 9. Around it, revving their engines as well, were some of the greats: Lamborghinis, Corvettes, and modern-day muscle cars.

It was a car enthusiast's dream, and the Maple Lake couple was right in the middle of it.

Minutes later they were off on their cross-country adventure from Landmark Center in St. Paul to Chicago, Ill., racing for fun and a bigger cause; to raise money for the Epilepsy Foundation and Kars4Kids.

"It was very fun," said Janel whose employer, Diversified Plastics Inc.,

helped her and her husband raise \$2,000 for charity, earning them the No. 4 spot at the starting line.

More than 120 vehicles of all types, new and classic, took part in the two-day event. There were seven check-points that first day on a route that took them through rural Wisconsin and into Iowa.

"At the start they handed us a white card with coordinates on it. We had to look it up on a GPS or map and find the fastest route. They gave us a clue, too, like this is the best place for sailing and it would be a marina," Janel said.

At each stop, they were given a time, a new set of coordinates and another clue. If a participant arrived at a check-point too fast, they were disqualified from the race. This encouraged adherence to speed limits and safety.

The route took the drivers – Greg drove and Janel navigated - through hilly and curvy countryside that tested the Challenger's maneuverability.

"These cars really handle well, so it was fun to really use the car," she said.

It also tested the navigator's GPS connectivity. The couple lost time when their cell phones failed near Wild Mountain in Wisconsin.

"We got lost. There was no cell phone service and no maps. We had intended to get a paper map, but we forgot," Janel said. "We struggled to find our way out, but we learned a couple things for next year's race."

The unintended detour delayed their arrival at the final check point of the day, Friday, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where the city closed the Third Street Bridge for

rally members to display their cars for the public.

The Rosine's, who were driving for the fun of it, said the real winner of the race is the Epilepsy Foundation, weren't too disappointed at arriving late. In fact, the car enthusiasts were much too delighted to see all the cars lined up to be upset.

"There were Lamborghinis and Porches and a '57 Chevy it took the owner six years to restore. It was a lot of fun," Janel said.

The group set off again the next day with a stopover at a racetrack in Iowa where Rally drivers had the chance to test their vehicles mettle on the ¼ mile track.

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Greg took the wheel to see what Janel's Challenger could do.

"That was a fun opportunity," Janel said.

The rally ended Saturday night in Chicago at the warehouse where NBC's "Chicago Fire" is filmed.

"The cars were parked in the warehouse that night and the party was in the middle with cars all around. There was fog and some of the guys turned on their lights and revved their engines. It was the first chance we really got to look at all the vehicles. That many exotic cars in one place was fun to see," Janel said.

Car people

Janel wasn't a "car person" until she met her husband, Greg.

"Greg has always loved cars," she said, admitting she is always impressed when her husband sees a car and knows everything about it, down to the type of engine it has in it.

Janel first fell in love with Challengers at the Gear-Head Get Together a few years ago. It was a bright, lime green one that drew her attention, and she knew she wanted one.

She told her husband I like that car and he said, of course you do, it's expensive.

In 2015 the couple found and purchased their own 2009 Dodge Challenger (red, not green) from a collector who kept it stored in a shed.

"It was like brand new, not a scratch on it," Janel said.

Although it has a vintage look, it's a modern car, minus some of the latest electronics.

"It's fun to drive, handles well and has the most comfortable seats."

Janel uses it to commute to work in Brooklyn Park and back to Maple Lake where she and Greg have lived for the last 17 years.

When Greg saw the Crown Rally Adventure on facebook he thought the Challenger would make the perfect entrant. Greg talked to a friend who contacted event organizers and finagled an invitation.

The rest is history.



Greg and Janel Rosine and their 2009 Dodge Challenger participated in the 1,000 Mile Crown Rally Adventure.



Above, the Rosine's rev their engine at the start of the journey that took them on a cross country trek from Landmark Center in St. Paul to Chicago, Ill. More than 120 vehicles of all types took part in the two-day event. Below, the Rosine's 2009 Dodge Challenger looks sharp in its racing stickers. (Photos submitted)



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