MARCH 2019

Crusin’ Happenings
End of an Era
Lancaster Nostalgia Race
Spring Swap Meets

Autorama at Canalside 2018

Lockport Presbyterian Car Show

cover photos by Tom Gunshor & Gary Swiatowy

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After a dismal, and exceptionally long winter, we are all ready to get out and do something, anything auto-related just to get out! Swap meets are perfect for that.

Frontier Fire Hall in Niagara Falls has had a successful Fall Swap Meet in early November for a few years now. For 2018 they tried to see if a Spring Swap would work as well. Not a huge turnout, but I did find things to buy, maybe this one will catch on.

The Rod and Customs Car Club moved their Rose Garden Swap meet to the Sanborn Farm Museum a few years ago. The last few years though, the weather has not been very cooperative. For 2018 we had decent weather, and a decent turn out of vendors and customers. I did alright as a vendor, and a buyer. This venue has a much better and larger grounds so there is plenty of room for expansion. And the spectator parking is infinitely better than it was at the Rose Garden. No vendor fee either, just make a donation to the Sanborn Farm Museum. The Farm Museum has food for sale which helps support the Museum. Always a good day here.

The Dunkirk 50th Anniversary Swap Meet turned out to be a bit on the wet side on Saturday with periods of rain. Maybe not as many vendors as last year, but I saw several new vendors, and plenty of returning veterans. For me, as usual it was worth the ride to Dunkirk on my usual parts quest. I’ve never left Dunkirk empty handed.
Spring is Swap Meet Time!

Frontier Fire Hall
Swap Meet
Spring is Swap Meet Time!

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(MORE ON PAGE 11)
It’s winter, it’s cold and cabin fever may have set in. The mind wanders from practical matters to philosophical meanderings. I’m thinking about all the project cars under construction in shops and garages is across the Niagara Frontier. I have a ’64 Lemans GTO that has been under construction for three seasons now and I’ve seen and/or been involved with at least half a dozen more. Each one of these builds are without a doubt a reflection of their owner’s view, be it restoration, personalization or customization.

Of course we all have a view of what’s right and what’s not. If you reach out and seek another’s opinion, without fail, they will be happy to chime in lots of advice. One piece I’ve heard and sometimes given is; don’t restore it. You will end up with more money in it then it is worth. That piece of knowledge applies pretty much across the board, whether you’re an AACA stalwart or radical customizer.

I often wonder if similar situations occur outside the antique/vintage car hobby. How about you’re hanging with your friends and you mentioned that you want to take up fishing. Taking a page from the influential advisor above, the first response would be, “Don’t do it. Your costs will far exceed the value of the fish you catch.” After all there are rods and reels to buy, outdoor all-weather gear to wear, license and bait fees, the purchase of a boat and trailer, etc. The value of all those things drops to much less than invested once they leave the shelf.

Here’s my take, it’s a hobby! For as long as I’ve been a motorhead, about six decades now, it’s just that, a hobby! Hobbies benefit not only the person involved, but the people around them. Think of all you have to offer and share with friends and family. It’s not solely about the end result. It’s about the journey, the friendships, and the comraderie, the pride in craftsmanship and most of all, the memories.

Should we even try to quantify the enrichment received in having a hobby? Does it matter that over three years of work and many thousands of dollars, my car will never give me a positive return on investment? How do you put a price on the satisfaction gotten from years of restoring, maintaining, and cleaning our pride and joy, taking it to shows and cruises, constantly looking to make it look better and drive more satisfactory?

In fact, as we’re raising a glass with great friends at the end of a fun day at the local field day car show, our spirits are raised as well. Personally, the pursuit of any hobby isn’t worthwhile if the only goal is to make money.

The side argument to all this is should I restore my ’57 Chevy to original? Should I hot rod my ’31 Model A? Is it a sacrilege to chop my ’50 Merc or am I merely paying homage to some of the greatest automotive artists of the past? I found a sorry rusted out ’64 Pontiac Lemans. Not only do I consider it a very stylish automobile, it is the platform on which the GTO evolved. It is my intention to do some mild customizing and install the “accessory package” that made the car a GTO. A 389 tri-power, four speed tranny and limited slip rear end will make this nifty little “A” body GM car into the quintessential muscle car. Even the most knowledgeable aficionado couldn’t tell the difference without interpreting the VIN number.

Now it’s not my intention to mislead anyone. The VIN tag remains the correct one but the car will be every bit as stylish and powerful as the real deal. The difference is about ten or twelve thousand dollars. I don’t care if some restorer gets his shorts in a knot. This is my project and I am enjoying every bit of the build. I can only imagine my joy when my “Tribute GTO” hits the road with me behind the wheel, shifting through the gears, and listening to the throaty growl that only a 389 tri-power can produce. Will I ever get a positive return on my investment? Damn right I will! There are few better feelings than tooling down the road in your favorite ride. C’mon spring! We’re waiting for you!

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Rods and Customs of Buffalo Swap Meet

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Collector Car Appreciation Day

SEMA Action Network announced that the next Collector Car Appreciation Day will be celebrated on July 12th, 2019. The date will mark the 10th consecutive commemoration in what is now an annual event to raise awareness of the vital role automotive restoration and collection plays in American society.

Intended to celebrate the classics of the past and the future, the U.S. Congress helped launch CCAD by passing Resolutions each year of the SEMA supported Congressional Automotive Performance and Motorsports Caucus. These Congressional leaders are strong advocates for the automotive hobby in Washington, D.C. and recognize the integral role collector cars have played in fostering our nation’s appreciation for the automobiles unique historical place in our history.

In preparation for the 10th celebration of the nation’s automotive heritage, enthusiasts and related businesses are already planning open houses, car cruises, club gatherings and educational events to commemorate the day. SAN will continue to publicize a list of the scheduled events. Individuals, car clubs, and business owners interested in publicizing events can submit details to SAN Director Colby Martin at (909) 978-6721. They will also give you an address to submit any photos from your event that they will publish at a later date.

Legislative Updates

SAN is very active in learning of new proposals that affect the automobile and takes action on the negative legislation. New York has been pretty quiet as of late but here are a few monumental proposals from other states, that although right now don’t affect New Yorkers, but could filter through if passed in other states.

In California legislation was introduced to require a transition to fully electric vehicles by the year 2040. Due to an outpouring of negative response to the proposal, the bill was never considered by its committee and was pulled by the sponsor. Probably proposed by the same person that wants to do away with farting cows.

On the brighter side, Idaho and Louisiana have passed bills allowing the registration of vehicles built for the U.S. Armed Forces and to allow them to be driven on highways. In fact Idaho further stated that such vehicles do not have to meet federal motor vehicle standards. Many military surplus vehicles were not built to meet those standards.

In South Carolina, Governor Henry McMaster signed a bill easing the way to build new motorsports complexes in the state. The bill recognizes the importance of economic and civic value that additional motorsports can provide. A motorsports tourism incentive fund will be created to award grants or loans to attract and expand tourism and hospitality projects related to events at such complexes. The new law exempts certain building materials for a complex from sales tax and to provide the process by which a qualified company may claim the exemption. See economic growth with a progressive governor.
Spring is Swap Meet Time!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

Dunkirk Swap Meet
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Dunkirk Swap Meet
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Nostalgia Cars at Lancaster

By Andy Sackett
Photos by Tom Gunsher

Lancaster, NY

Probably the final Nostalgia Race at Lancaster Speedway was held last June. Here are a few of the cars that were there.
Lockport Presbyterian Home Car Cruise

BY GARY SWIATOWY

LOCKPORT, NY

Just happened to run across a local one-off cruise near where I live. The Lockport Presbyterian Home had a cruise night on a Tuesday in August so I thought I would stop in and see what was going on. Nice venue with cars parking on grass and a lot of shade, which was especially good given this long hot summer.

Cruisers and residents were treated to ice cream, and for entertainment there were line dancers. Not a bad turn out for this.
Lockport Presbyterian Home Car Cruise
Lockport Presbyterian Home Car Cruise
Is It An End of an Era?

BY ANDY SACKETT
PHOTOS BY ANDY SACKETT & GARY SWIATOWY
LANCASTER, NY

In the past 30 plus years we have been serving the car hobbyist with *Show and Cruise News Magazine* and the Cavalcade of Cars car show we have seen many changes. For the most part it has been an expansion of the hobby and a continued excitement by the next generation.

This generation has also mixed in the tuner cars and now the most popular are the restro-rods, but many are following in the footsteps of their parents and restoring or buying the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s cars.

We have seen a few of the popular car shows close, a few race tracks close, and now one of the most popular flea markets on the East Coast for nearly 30 years about to close its doors.

The Niagara Flea Market which was held at the Niagara County Fairgrounds just outside of Lockport, NY, for nearly 30 years, was sold two years ago to the Lancaster Motorsports Park as the owners, Al and Tony felt it was time for them to retire. And who could blame them. It was no small feat to put on this huge outdoor event bringing in vendors from all over the country as well as locals, coordinate food, parking, set-up, site layout and then be at the mercy of the weather. We at *Show and Cruise News Magazine* set up there at least 15 to 18 years and we were totally rained out twice, and semi rained out at least another 5 times, so running this event was not a piece of cake.

Lancaster Motorsports Park ran the event for two years and as we all know the future of the track is still up in the air. But in all reality, even if the track was to re-open in 2019 or 2020, the chance of getting the flea market off the ground is very slim as many of the out-of-town vendors have their schedules set and would not be able to return. So for all intents and purpose, this is the end of an era for the Niagara Flea Market.

A great big thanks go out to Al and Tony for bringing this great event to WNY and keeping it going even through the bad times (mostly weather), and supporting the hobbyist in their quest to keep the sport going. If someone has the drive to keep a multi day flea market going, I know there is plenty of room at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY, otherwise this will be an end of an era.

Here are some photos from last year’s event.
Is It An End of an Era?
The “Autorama at Canalside” was held in August 2018. It was a gorgeous day held at Canalside. Being held by the water was an extra bonus.

According to the Clutch Artists they will no longer have the car show at Canalside but will have the 2019 event at Riverworks called “Rods on the River” on July 7th, 2019. When we have more information, we’ll let you know or you can check it out on the Clutch Artists’ website: www.clutchartists.com
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 1-3 - DETROIT AUTORAMA - Detroit, MI. INFO: https://autorama.com


Mar 15-17 - IX PISTON POWERED AUTORAMA - IX Center, Cleveland, OH. INFO: www.pistonpowershow.com SEE PAGE 13


Mar 29-31 - BUFFALO MOTORAMA - Buffalo Convention Center, Buffalo, NY INFO: www.buffalomotorama.com

April 7 - BUFF CON 36 - Justin & Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Rd. at William, Cheektowaga, NY. Reg. Opens 9am. Admission $7, under 12 free. INFO: www.ipmsniagarafrontier.com

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