

# The Rotunda Times



Volume 1 No. 8

The Official Monthly Publication of the Ford and Mercury Restorer's Club of America.


August 2012

## CLUB OUTING Gilmore Car Museum August 4th

**GILMORE CAR MUSEUM**

EVENTS

Date: 4th August 2012 Time: 9am to 5pm



**32nd Annual  
Red Barns Spectacular**

West Michigan's "Grand Daddy" of antique, classic and special interest car shows, swap meets and car corral. Hundreds of cars displayed and for sale. Great family fun with food, vendors, antiques, swap meet, antique car rides and more.

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## CLUB PICNIC and Hines Park Cruise August 26th



It was a GREAT day for a picnic



The bus left shortly after 8am from  
St. Mary's Cultural Center



Many club members brought  
their cars and trucks

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# Rotunda Times



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## Newsletter Staff

### **Interim Editor**

Beth Marschner 248.231.4892  
emarschner@twmi.rr.com  
17445 Norborne, Redford, MI 48240

### **Display Ad Editor**

Bob Guetschow 248.328.9113  
rguetschow@comcast.net  
16291 Worden Rd., Holly, MI 48442

### **Staff Contributors**

Bob Guetschow 248.328.9113  
rguetschow@comcast.net  
Louis Ironside 810.798.8803 louisironside@aol.com  
(The Roving Reporter)  
Brian Kuta 734.753.3788 mbhouse@charter.net  
Mark Sapientz 734.676.5379 none  
Terry Worful 313.271.2017 kercrest@comcast.net

### **Membership Secretary**

Terry Worful 313.271.2017 kercrest@comcast.net

### **Club Historian**

Bill Gipperich 586.826.8813 gipp@juno.com

### **Web Master**

Jim Crawford 313.724.9117 jcrawfo1@wowway.com



Thank you for your articles and other great stories. I couldn't do this newsletter without them. What do you want to see in the newsletter? Let me know. More articles? More pictures? My email is emarschner@twmi.rr.com or bring something to the meeting. I welcome all ideas.

Interim Editor, Beth Marschner

**FMRCOA**  
**FORD AND MERCURY RESTORERS**  
**CLUB of AMERICA**  
P.O. Box 2938 • Dearborn, MI 48123

## **2012 OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	<b>Bob Guetschow</b> 248.328.9113 rguetschow@comcast.net
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Tim Pusilo</b> 313.278.1325 dean35aw@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Beth Marschner</b> 248.231.4892 emarschner@twmi.rr.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Dale LeVasseur</b> 248.807.2821 fmrc2011treasury@yahoo.com
<b>Director</b>	<b>Mark Koehler</b> 734.699.6900 mark51koehler@comcast.net
<b>Director</b>	<b>Rob Martoia</b> 734.837.1891 martoia5@yahoo.com
<b>Director</b>	<b>Jim Crawford</b> 313.724.9117 jcrawfo1@wowway.com

The Ford & Mercury Restorers Club is a hobby organization whose purpose is to foster and promote the acquisition, preservation and use of all Ford vehicles, 25 years of age and older.

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# Rotunda Times

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Well August has been a busy month for the FMRC. First, we had the general monthly club meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup>, this was followed up by The Gilmore bus trip to the Red Barns Spectacular at the Gilmore Automotive museum at Hickory Corners, Michigan on August 4<sup>th</sup>. We had 45-50 members and guests make the trip and a great time was had by all. The Red Barns Spectacular is an annual event that includes a car show with about 800 cars attending, a decent size swap meet, and a number of large buildings housing various national car clubs cars. There is also an area designated for cars that were built in Kalamazoo. This is a wonderful place for the car buff to wander through. About 4PM we all piled back on the bus and went to the Country Kitchen in Jackson for a buffet dinner and then it was time to head back home.

The next event was the Woodward Dream Cruise. We had lost our parking area with Royal Oak Ford and as I said last month the owner got way to pricey for us to continue the relationship. So a number of us parked at the City of Royal Oak park at 13 mile and Woodward. The park worked out well for those of us that chose to participate there. Dream Cruise is Dream Cruise what more can I say.

The final event for the month was the Hines Park Cruise and the club gathered at the Nankin Mills pavilion for our annual picnic and as I said last month there is no better place to be to see the cars cruising. We had the very popular DJ "Boogie Brian" present to give us a music dimension. We had excellent catered food provided by caterer Rob Cortis the brother of fellow club member Mike Cortis. Early in the day Hines Park was packed with cars and what a sight to see. We had 92 members and guests

that participated with about 50-60 cars in attendance. Anyone I talked to said the picnic was great. I even got 3 calls the next day with members expressing their satisfaction with the picnic. The weather, music, food, and the cars made this year's picnic one to remember.

I am already in contact with the promoter, Don Nicholson, about securing the Nankin Mills pavilion site for next year. He assures me if the cruise is on for next year he guarantees the location is ours.

This is one of the few times this year that I don't have to report the passing of one of our members. Thank the heavens for that.

Our long time member, and charter member, John Menning is having an auction of all his cars and parts on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9181 Cedar Lake Rd. in Pinckney. Visit the auction website at [braunandhelmer.com](http://braunandhelmer.com) and click upcoming auctions for more details.

Till next time  
Bob Guetschow

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### Welcome New Members



No new members joined this month. Have friend or co-worker that might want to join, bring them to a meeting and get them signed up!!!



# Rotunda Times



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Happy Labor Day  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>



September 5<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting

September 23<sup>rd</sup> Bakers in Milford  
Start gathering at 2:00pm

October 3<sup>rd</sup> Club Meeting

### The FMRCOA Membership Advantage!!!!

Your Board officers and editor take extra effort to bring you FREE classifieds and schedule of events found within your monthly newsletter. Take advantage of these benefits your membership provides. Post your schedule where you can refer to it easily. Submit your ads at a meeting or mail to Beth Marschner, our ad editor. For more information on becoming a member go to FMRCOA.org or write to :

**FMRCOA Membership Secretary**  
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**Dearborn, MI 48123**

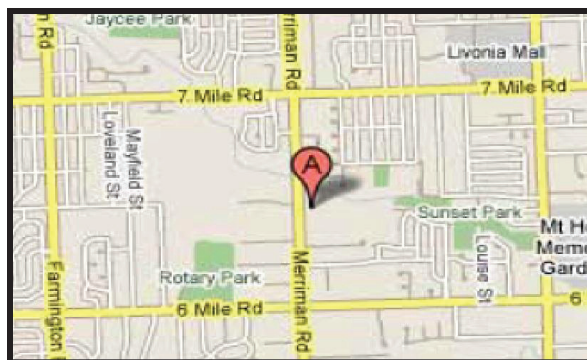
Dues are \$25 before and \$30 after December 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Please mail your dues in or pay at a meeting!

The Rotunda Times would like to feature your old car or truck in an upcoming issue. We are interested in how you came about finding your vehicle of choice, and what you have done to enhance its beauty, and/or mechanical condition. Simply mail or email us your article accompanied with a photo to:

**Beth Marschner**  
**emarschner@twmi.rr.com**  
ROTUNDA TIMES  
17445 Norborne  
Redford, MI 48240  
248.231.4892

Our monthly club meetings are held at **St Mary's Cultural Center at 18100 Merriman Rd** in Livonia between 6 and 7 Mile Roads. This is the beautiful facility where we have had the last several dinner dances. Moreover, it has an extremely large parking lot enabling club cars to be easily parked together (and the food is great).

**Meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month and begin at 6:30pm with a snack.** And do bring a friend!



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## AUGUST 2012 FMRCOA MEETING MINTUES August 1, 2012



70 members at the August meeting

Bob brought the meeting to order at 7:37pm and our traditional pledge started us off.

Guests in the audience included Chuck Bachmeyer who owns a 1957 Thunderbird and Bob Klein who has a 1956 Thunderbird. Welcome!!

The newsletter was out late so the minutes were read to the membership and were approved with no objections.

Treasurer's report was read. Dale's computer crashed at the car show so he did not have it up on the big screen but he reported what he had at the time. Dale mentioned that not all the bills were in from the car show/swap meet but would be soon. Overall, it seems that the downward turn our car show/swap had taken over the last few years seemed to have turned around this year. There were no questions and the treasurer's report was approved.

Terry was not at the membership meeting this month but Bob reports that there are currently 330 members in the club.

Jim Crawford reports that the website will be updated with the newsletter as soon as it is available. If you have an email and would like to give it to Jim, he can you send you events and the newsletter electronically.

Beth needs materials for the newsletter. Articles, feature vehicles, **anything**....Please mail it, email it or bring it to a meeting.

Dearborn '12 is behind us and Bob thanked EVERYONE for their help and support to make this year's swap meet and car show a success. Our swap spaces were up from last year. Tim was running around delivering water to members which one member commented was GREATLY appreciated on such a hot day.

Dale reports that the car show went well overall. The computer crashed but they made it through and there

were about 125 cars entered. Very few complaints but there is room for improvement for next year.

One member had a comment with a vendor space and recommended not to use it. Bob agreed that it won't be used next year.

Tim encountered some shortages in the work detail. This made things difficult for everyone. Tim also noted some changes for next year and if you can think of anything else, please forward it along to Tim.

Kurt Gotleib asked about the status of the by-laws. Bob stated that now that things have settled down, the board should be ready to meet very soon.

Joann Rodriguez who is a club member had her annual birthday bash in Romulus and a few club members attended including Bob who reports that it was good time.

The Gilmore Museum bus trip is set and about 45 members and guests have signed up. The bus will pick up members at St. Mary's Cultural center around 8am and will make a 2<sup>nd</sup> stop at the Ann Arbor/Saline exit 175 for those closer to that area. Reach out to Jim if you are interested as there are a few spots available.

The Dream Cruise is fast approaching and about 30 members showed an interest in going. Bob reports that the Royal Oak Park at 13 mile and Woodward is a great location and there is plenty of space available. See Bob for more details and sign up if you are interested.

The Hines Park cruise and club picnic is set for August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Nankin Mills pavilion. Boogie Brian will be there for music and a food vendor has been contacted. Promises to be a great time. Contact Bob if you are coming so that we keep an idea of how many are coming.

Members didn't have any show and tell items to share so there was a little car talk, the 50/50 raffle and the meeting adjourned at 9pm.

An advertisement for Jeff Schembri's Oval Repair Auto Service Center. The ad features a yellow background with a blue oval logo in the center. The logo contains the text "AUTO SERVICE CENTER" and "OVAL REPAIR" in bold, with "Specializing in Ford, Lincoln &amp; Mercury" below it. Two checkered flags are positioned on either side of the logo. At the bottom, the contact information is listed: "Phone: (734) 422-6825", "Fax: (734) 422-4922", and "28735 Plymouth Rd. • Livonia, MI 48150". A Facebook icon is also present in the bottom right corner.

## **Brian's Tip: Loss of Coolant**

*Submitted by: Brian Kuta*

Every now and again someone, maybe you, have a car that seems to lose coolant. Nothing seems to be leaking on the ground, compression testing appears to show all is alright inside, the thermostat is good and properly installed so, with hands up in the air, wassup with that?!?!?!?

A possible cause for loss of coolant could be a hairline crack in the tappet galley wall. If this is the case, evidence of moisture can be found in the crankcase breather, dipstick tube or PCV system. Look for a crack on the tappet galley wall about four or five inches long, about an inch above the tappets. Usually the crack will be located between either cylinders #2 and #3 or #6 and #7. A way of checking is to pressurize the cooling system with a pressure tester for about 30 minutes and watch for pressure drops. I personally have had a 390 that developed a hairline crack in the #7 cylinder wall, and years later a 429 that developed a hairline crack in its #3 cylinder wall. Both engines reacted the same way, and that was running great until they got up to a normal heat soaked working temperature, maybe about a half hour of running time on the freeway, then the same issues began. The engines would begin to not run right, like misfiring as if a spark plug was bad. When I pulled the plugs out the bad cylinders, the spark plug was clean as a proverbial whistle, with no carbon at all on them like the other seven. That was because once the engine really got up to heat the bad cylinder wall would open up, then the coolant would enter the cylinders and literally wash those spark plugs clean. After pulling the respective cylinder head off the engine, which I did both times by leaving the intake on, removing the exhaust manifold, then sliding the head out to be able to see the cylinder walls. The #7 split was obvious, but the #3 split required a portable magnaflux kit

in order to see the split. In my spare time, both times, it took me three days to get either engine down to the bare block, then a one day layover to have it bored and sleeved, then three days to get it all back together and running in time to go back to work. Great way to be spending one of my two weeks of vacation back in the day, but oh well, that's just the way it was back then.

If this very unfortunate situation ever happens to you, make sure that the belt that drives the water pump is of the proper width, and tight like it should be. Also, with no debate on the subject, replace all of those hoses while you are at it. Pay a lot of attention to that bottom radiator hose to make sure it has the wire inside to prevent it from collapsing and shutting off the coolant supply to the engine. Upper and lower radiator hoses, all heater hoses, thermostat, intake bypass and.....we're cool !!!

---

## **FEATURED ADVERTISER**

This month our featured advertiser is Eaton Detroit Spring. Eaton Spring is a family owned business started in 1937 by Mike Eaton's grandfather, Frank Eaton and they are celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Their springs are USA made and they can produce any spring you will need using their stock of 24,000 oem blue prints. If you need a spring call Mike for the best spring money can buy.



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## CLUB OUTING: Gilmore Car Museum

Continued from page 1



Above are some happy members ready for the museum, below are some of my favorites from the trip.

Pedal Cars



1906 Columbia



Automobile Mascots



1933 Pierce Arrow



1932 Roadster



1920's Motorcycles



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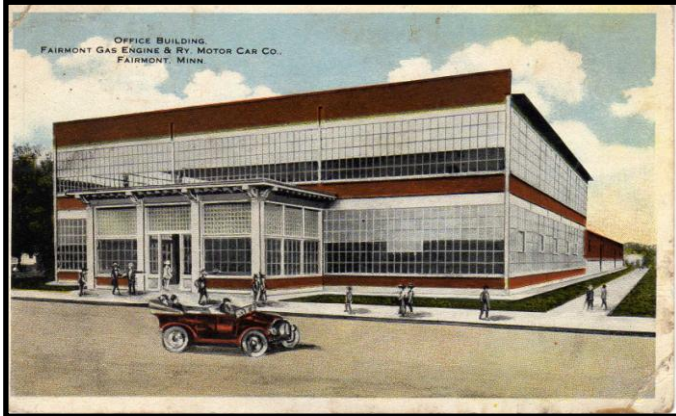
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## Postcards from the Past

by  
Lou Ironside

This month I am going to show a "non-Ford", which has been in my collection for many years. It shows the office building of the Ry Motor Car



Rv Motor Car Company Fairmont, Minnesota

Co. in Fairmont, Minn. From the car shown it is obviously in the pre-1920's, and the office building is very modern in design...much like the work of Albert Kahn who Ford admired and had design many of the plants including Highland Park. I have tried to research the Ry Company, but have found no information. Probably a dream of a person that never reached the production stage.



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## The Roving Reporter:

I don't know about you, but the FMRC swap meet was really great. I had the best sales in several years, and the people on either side of me did likewise. My thanks to all the members that made this year a success. I am already looking forward to an even better Dearborn 2013. The summer Midland show was really small, and basically a waste of time if you were looking for car parts. Even the antique section was pretty "thin". The NSRA national meet in Louisville, KY had a good, but smaller, swap meet this year. There were far more affordable cars and parts than in years past; guess that people realized that asking three times the going rate on parts didn't sell many. There were actually affordable cars for sale and I saw a lot of parts being carried out. It seems that the summer is pretty devoid of swap meets in Michigan with so many vacations, car shows, and family times to fill up the summer. But, fear not, the fall is loaded with swap meets so all is not lost!

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## Dearborn '12 Car Show Thoughts

by: Terry Worful

Even though we had a computer glitch in the morning, and some of the help didn't show up, trophies were given out only 45 minutes late. It was a **HOT DAY**, but no rain! Every car did finally get judged, which was good because in the past we have had trouble with that. So as we move to change, we have corrected the problems for next year.

Our Best in show car was a 1964 Mercury Parklane Convertible. This car was used in the skyline ride at the 1964 NY World's Fair; and the original owners were there to see it! Look for more on this great car in an upcoming issue of the Rotunda Times.

I want to thank the MOCSEM club for their support. They came out in droves to support us. Sadly we didn't show the same support at their show as only about 3 FMRCOA cars were entered. Maybe we can make a stronger effort to support them in the future.



## GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The Pierce-Arrow (1901 – 1938). One of the most prestigious cars of its day, the Pierce-Arrow set the standard for luxury and performance. According to one auto critic, "Even a massive limousine could whisper along at 100 mph -- uniformed chauffeur up front; tycoon, cigar, and *Wall St. Journal* in the rear. (Some cars had speedometers back there so the owner could keep an eye on the chauffeur's lead foot tendencies.)" Pierce-Arrow was the car of choice for rumrunners -- who liked its quiet engine and reliability -- and presidents: Woodrow Wilson rode in a customized Pierce-Arrow limousine; so did FDR and J. Edgar Hoover (theirs were bulletproof).

Fate: When the Depression hit, the company kept building expensive cars, thinking the business downturn was temporary. Sales dropped from a high of 10,000 cars in 1929 to only 167 in 1937. The company was sold at auction a year later.

*Courtesy of Leo Chouinard*

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# Rotunda Times

## Club Picnic and Hines Cruise

*Continue from page 1*



Photos  
courtesy of  
David  
Roussey



Mark & Rob enjoy  
a cold drink

Rob Cortis and his  
crew cooks a  
great meal



Jim finds a shady spot  
to watch the cruise







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## AUGUST CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR SALE

- 1965 Ford F100, frame off resto, short bed, 6-cyl, 4spd/od, \$7,500 or trades. Roger Hodyka. 517-282-4738.
- 1949 Lincoln engine 337 cubic inch F.H., runs good. \$800. John Miller. 586-756-4279 or 313-891-2640.
- 5 - '49 - '51 Mercury wheels. \$150 obo. Don Steinhagen. 313-561-1251.
- 1956 Tbird 312 4V + super charger. Kent Draper. 248-632-9752.

### WANTED

- Used oil (waste oil). Bring to the meetings. John Miller. 586-756-4279 or 313-891-2640.
- Old motor scooters. Jeff Gniewek. 313-563-6569
- Rodder's Journal NS 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and Ford Life. Cole Grandy. 810-735-1671.
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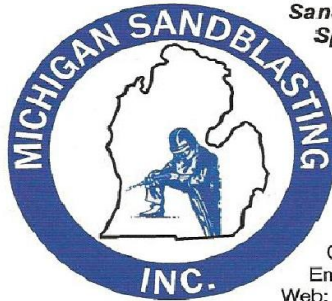


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