

# The Rotunda Times



Volume 5 No. 2 The Official monthly Publication of the Ford & Mercury Restorer's Club of America February 2015

**Feature Vehicle:**  
*1969 Cougar*  
**By Tim Pusilo**



For 25 years my hobby had to have wings and a tail. I am a licensed pilot. The time came to keep my feet on the ground and Bonnie suggested I get a classic car. Something I could work on in the garage and not be spending weeks at the hanger doing an annual inspection. A car we could go out in and enjoy together. I asked for her input and she said "it would be nice to have a convertible". I started looking for a type and model. I found the Cougar was a little roomier and they came with Windsor 351. I finally worked it down to a 1969 convertible with 4-barrel 351. I finally found a car in Roanoke Virginia. Fair price for the advertised claims but always leave room for negotiating. We had a pleasant trip to Virginia using secondary roads through West Virginia and Virginia.

We arrived at the address given and the car was out in the drive positioned in front of a beautiful flower garden someone knew a little about marketing. I looked the car over and found some concerns that allowed me to renegotiate the price and we struck a deal. I had a shipper lined up who would arrive in a couple of days to pick-up our new car.

After receiving the car I took it and had the breaks completely redone. Replaced lines and completely restored the entire break system. While it was there by Brian Kutas recommendation I had the valve seats replaced with new modern material seats. As it turned out the old seats were fair but I found out the top end of the engine was in very good condition. An ounce of prevention provided a great deal of peace of mind.

A friend repainted the car. He needed a winter project and we agreed to have it repainted. I took it to his shop and we broke the car down. I took the front and rear light assembly's home with me and polished and painted them. The cougar received multiple coats of base and then clear. The project turned out very nice and the color was a personal choice of red, a deeper lip stick read not the traditional orange red that came from Ford.

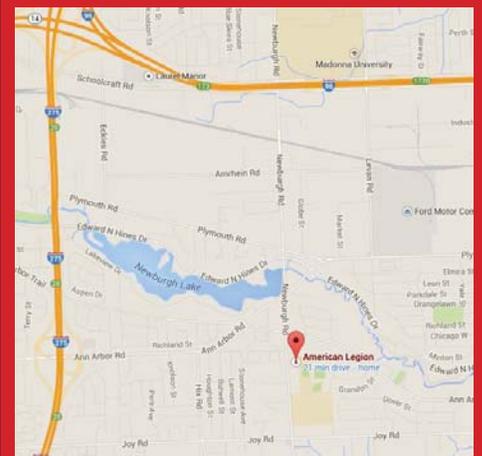
The radiator was record by Ferndale Radiator with a 3 row core. Made the car run cooler and was the proper radiator for the engine. They did a nice job and explained everything that they were going to do so I understood why.

We have and will enjoy the car again this coming summer with a new top next.

Well I saved this article for last, no more articles in the file cabinet. We'll see what comes up next month.

**ATTENTION MEMBERS**  
**APRILS MEETING WILL BE AT**  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST32**

**TUESDAY April 7th 2015 @ 6:30pm**  
**9318 Newburgh Road • Livonia**  
**Between Ann Arbor Rd & Joy Rd**





# President's Message

FEBRUARY 2015

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
GREG PERTROVICH  
  
WINNER OF  
2014  
GENERATOR AWARD!**



The dinner dance was a success. Attendance was up this year and by all accounts members enjoyed themselves. The food was delicious with plenty for seconds. There were left overs which were packed up and given to a local shelter the legion works with. This year there were beautiful center pieces and decorations which were given out to the ladies in attendance? An enjoyable evening!

## DINNER DANCE 2015



February is a busy month for club business. Jim Crawford and Paul Colman are moving forward with car show plans and preparation. Cole Grandy and Hank Dawson are busy with planning and promoting the new feature of the swap meet The Model Car Show. They will be using the building on the top of the hill at Chelsea for this event. This could be a great new feature to the swap meet and bring in more people through the gates. Guys have already started to pass out flyers at Jackson and Kalamazoo swap meets as well as Model car shows. Jack Von Gerichten will be working with Rodger Hodyka on the swap meet.

For 2015 the club is building momentum for a successful year. Let's all support each other so our Club is successful. Lend a hand, take on a task, volunteer.

We will have the flyers at next march's meeting take what you need and can pass out.

Gerald Murphy is looking for a ride to the meetings. He can no longer drive, Lives in Brownstowne twp. Phone is 734-323-8378.

A reminder, when you're in the market for a new vehicle remember Varsity in your search, and when doing a project or repair remember all of our advertisers. They support us lets always remember to support them.

Keep Warm!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**TIM**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**CLUB MEETING  
MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>**

.....

**AUTORAMA  
MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup>**

.....

**NOVI HOT ROD AND RACING SHOW  
MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>-22<sup>ND</sup>**

.....

**APRIL FOOLS DAY CLUB MEETING  
APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**

.....

**MONROE SWAP MEET AND CAR SHOW  
APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>**

Send want ads to Secretary for publication in newsletter via e-mail [www.masrtr43@hotmail.com](mailto:www.masrtr43@hotmail.com)



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Just search Ford and Mercury Restorers Club of America to post your photos and comments. Network fellow club members and invite your friends to share on Facebook.

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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

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P.O. Box 2938  
Dearborn, MI 48123**

For more information on becoming a member go to [FMRCOA.org](http://FMRCOA.org) or write to the above address



## YOUR CAR!

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:

**TIM PUSILO**

313.278.1325 • [dean35aw@gmail.com](mailto:dean35aw@gmail.com)

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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**February 2015**  
**FMRCOA MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 4, 2015**

52 members braved the cold and snow to recite the pledge at 7:40 pm. We had one guest, Bill Kern of Farmington Hills. We also had a guest speaker, Don Grenanco from Tech Bond Adhesives.

Don began our meeting with a demonstration of his adhesive product line followed by a Q and A session. Several members took advantage and brought items to be fixed by Don. For more information or product contact Don at 313-617-3492.

President Tim started new business off by addressing the pending meeting hall situation. A healthy discussion of issues ensued including the option of moving meeting day to Tuesday, the cost at several halls, the meeting meal, and the Dinner Dance.

The Dinner Dance comments were positive and the overall impression was that it was a successful club event. VP Jim sent out 2 e-mail invitations announcing the Dinner Dance. Since this was a change from previous years, the Board phoned each member affected notifying them to check their e-mail for their invitation.

Featured vehicle articles are need for upcoming newsletters. Jack VonGerichten was announced as this year's Dearborn 2015 Swap Meet Chair.

VP Jim along and Paul Coleman are creating car show trophies for Dearborn 2015. Jim also donated a Glass House Clock to be Best of Show trophy.

Treasurer Stan gave the monthly financial report as well as a Dinner Dance review to the membership. We had lower ticket prices and greater attendance plus we saw a significant reduction in the Dinner Dance final cost. A Win Win Win for our Club.

Secretary Mark read January Club Meeting Minutes.

Director Bob Topping is heading Dearborn 2015 t-shirt design and gave members heads up on his vision.

Director Bob Guetschow presented 40 year badges to Darrell Harding and Bill Timoszyk.

Garage tour flyers were available for the Tech Shop tour on Feb 21st and details for a March tour will be finalized soon.

Hank Dawson had FMRCOA window stickers produced and they were for sale thru Tim for \$1.

Show and Tell. Secretary Mark brought in an oddity, a Ford Parts and Redistribution Center book of artwork and poetry called Wordstock 96. Bill Timoszyk brought in a FMRCOA License Plate Frame. The club issued them in 1996. Bill also had a history book of the Henry Ford Museum/Greenfield Village and gave a short talk on Henry Ford's Vision. It was originally opened in 1929 and was called the Edison Institute. Bill showed several early Edison Institute publications. Bill was a literally a book a

facts pertaining to The Henry Ford as it is now called. Bill also had a newspaper with an article about an early car collector, Barney Pollard. Bill's Father worked for him and had several stories to share with us.

50/50.

Adjourn 9 pm.

Side Note : We are presently at 201 paid renewals according to Membership Secretary Terry Worful.

**January 2015**  
**FMRCOA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 29, 2015**

All Board Members present. Welcome new Directors Bob Topping and Don Steinhagen

First order of business was graphic artwork design for our Dearborn 2015 T-shirt. Director Bob Topping who was involved in previous T-shirts will lead the effort in this task.

Advertising for Dearborn 2015 was next agenda item. We discussed a strategy to maximize our advertising dollars in several new areas across Michigan.

Club Meeting Hall locations with emphasis on remaining at our present venue St Mary's Cultural Center is pending.

President Tim reviewed the 2015 Club's Dinner Dance.

The new location with great buffet meal, lower ticket price, and DJ resulted in an increase in attendance while according to Treasurer Stan overall cost for this event were cut by 50%.

Club Secretary Mark has created a FMRCOA Facebook Group Page. Just go to Facebook and Search "Ford and Mercury Restorers Club of America". It is an OPEN group page so anyone can access the page. {Please feel free to go there to interact with fellow members and posts pictures as well as comment about our Club} Swap Meet business about vendors, toy show, field layout, food vendor, tents, golf carts, and various other detail items to put on Dearborn 2015 were reviewed.

VP Jim brought up Car Show Trophies. He wants to create trophies attaching 1/24 diecast cars to a plaque to give out this year. Jim also donated a beautiful FOMOCO Glass House Clock to be given out to Best in Show trophy winner. As a bonus, these trophies will cost our Club less too.

Garage tours and guest speakers for the next several months were considered.

Lastly, Dir. Bob Topping introduced the idea of creating a Club calendar utilizing 12 members cars for 2016.

Feasibility and membership interest will determine the calendar's fate. Board meeting hosted at VP Jim's home with Pres. Tim providing the cost of the meal continuing the boards commitment to spending Club's funds wisely.

## **BRIAN'S TIP**

### **BRIAN'S REPORT CARD FOR 2014**

I may be a little rusty with my Brian's Tips column, but that's because it's been a little while since I've done a one. To get back in the saddle again, I thought I would practice by doing my annual Report Card. Instead of just facts, figures and statistics, I thought I would add a little more of the fun side to further explain what makes for a good weekend of racing to anyone not familiar with a solid weekend of racing.

So far the best my Maverick has ran remains at 10:071 @ 133.8 in the 1/4, and 6:385 @ 107.9 in the 1/8th. I ran 33 races this season to be in the \$\$\$'s 10 times, which includes two final rounds to have me end up with two runner ups, dadgumit anyways. Fortunately, pot splits have become a way of racing life, so I have to thank my lucky stars for agreeing to the money splits before racing those final rounds. Besides those 10 money money earned races, I picked up other monies by still being in three different races when the clouds opened up, at which time the tracks split up the total purse money equally to the remaining combatants.

The biggest disaster this year was us deciding to change the cam in my engine more toward the end of the season. Well, even though I write this column I certainly don't know everything, and for sure I learned another hard lesson from the school of hard knocks and expensive mistakes in 2014. After having ran bronze distributor gears against my steel cams for years, I went to the newest composite gear which failed. After that, and after talking to professional engine builders, I decided to run a steel distributor gear against my steel cam to prevent several issues that I won't bother you with by going into. As long as the steel distributor gear is properly installed to match the cam, it works as good as a stock factory engine. What I did not know is that when you change the cam you need to change the gear so they both mesh to each other to run without issues. Because the car was running all kinds of silly ET's that did not coincide with each other, I just kept thinking it was something just getting old, maybe like me, so ran it that way for the remainder of the season. When pulling the engine down the first thing we noticed was the distributor gear was totally shot, which therefore took out my billet steel cam &^%\$#@ too.

Other than the cam change, the only other difference for 2014 was me going from 28" x 9" slicks to 29.5" x 11.5" slicks, and rear end gearing from the 4:30 to a 4:56, which helped immensely to get away from spinning the tires when launching the car. For 2015 I am making some rather serious changes, but that can wait for some other article to talk about those changes. Sadly, I've lost Maddox RV as a faithful sponsor, that being because the GMC dealership bought him out to acquire his property and building. On the happy side of that coin, I have joined up with Downriver Motorsports Wiring, a brand new advertiser in our own Rotunda Times, and these fellas really know their stuff.

I really have to thank Kar-Go Carburetor Inc., Accurate Transmission, Driveline and General Repairs Inc., Cougar Construction Midwest Inc. (CCMI), and now Downriver Motorsports Wiring (DMW). My fuel system has always worked perfectly, I haven't even imagined a transmission failure or driveline issues, physical help comes primarily from my son Mike, and some financial and physical help comes from my son Mark, the owner of CCMI. These people are really good people that know their respective trades, so when you are looking for a service it would be worth your time to strongly consider doing business with them. I also have to mention that I've done

business with about half of the people that advertise in our Rotunda Times, and I've been more than pleased with everyone I've dealt with so, keep our club supporters in mind when you need the services they provide.

Lastly, as I mentioned early in this article, going to a race can be a whole lot of fun, even when it rains out or the racing finishes early. Pit vehicle races are very popular, and they will include golf carts, scooters, three and four wheelers, bicycles, mini bikes and even runners. Sometimes we race for bragging rights, sometimes we pitch in and race for beer money, and sometimes we really get serious and have raced pit vehicles for \$1,000.00 to win, \$300.00 to R/U and \$100.00 to the semis. The picture I am including in this article will give you a visual of us racing to the 330 ft. mark, the usual distance for pit vehicle races



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Cougar Construction Midwest Inc.  
P. O. Box 686  
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248-446-1099 (owner Mark Kuta)

Downriver Motorsports Wiring LLC.  
20565 Northline Rd.  
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734-288-3475 (Joe Caccia & Ed Viger)

## **POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST**

by

**Lou Ironside**

This month I again dug into the photo album instead of the postcard album, and have a photo of my maternal grandfather with his brand new 1936 deluxe tudor sedan. The photo isn't the best as the bushes block some of the car, and the cracks in the photo hide some of the other details. My grandfather was a "Ford man" all his life, owning everything from a Model "T" popcorn wagon thru a Fairlane 500 in the middle 60's. It was then that my uncle who worked for Rambler talked him into a new AMC product. My grandfather disliked that Rambler as he felt it cheap and "tinny". Also it didn't last like the Fords he had previously. Unfortunately



his health gave out about then and he had to discontinue driving with his last car as a non-Ford. The 36 lasted thru WWII, and was traded in on a new 47 sedan when cars became available. Sure wish I had that 1936 in my garage today !

## **ROVING REPORTER**

Two swap meets to report on this month, the Saginaw meet put on by the Script A Region of the Model A Restorers Club, and the Kalamazoo meet put on by the Kalamazoo Area Auto Restorers Club. I had mentioned last year that I was very disappointed in the Saginaw meet, and wasn't sure if I would return. I did go again this year, and was pleasantly surprised! This year there were no vendors selling: Avon, lampshades, household items, and other non-car items. There were lots of old car parts this year, and a good selection of Model A parts. A friend bought a complete brake set up for the 1937 Fords that were from a low miles California car. The parts were all near mint. I found a few needed Model A items, and was glad I took the chance to go again. I know it is a long drive for most of the club members, but if you are looking for Model A parts, it is worth the drive.

The second meet was the annual Kalamazoo swap meet, and as every year, it was packed. This meet always has a good selection of old car parts, and we were not disappointed this year at all. Everyone in our group found

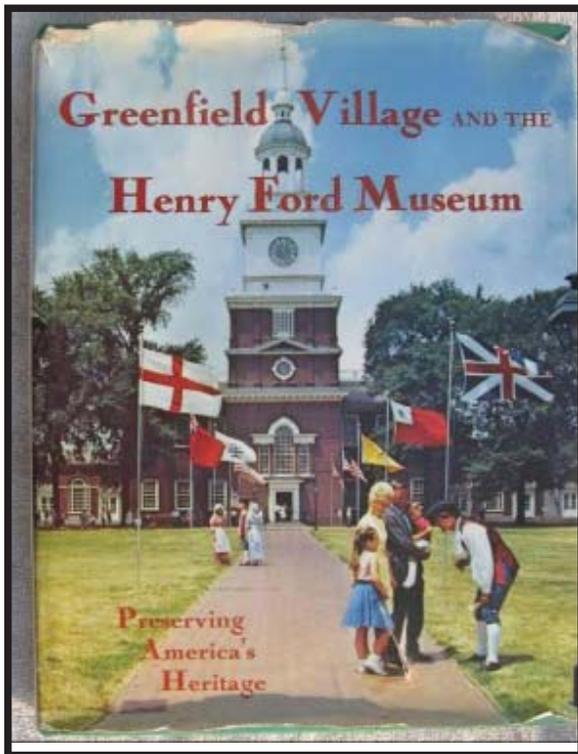
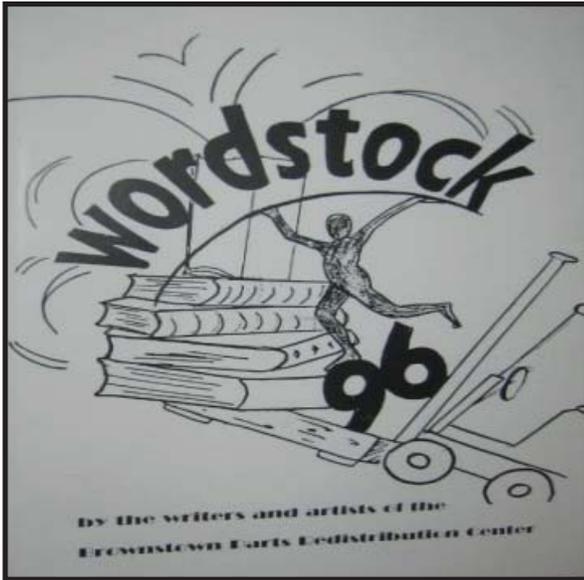
a few needed items, and we considered the meet a success. The meet has four rooms filled with tables, the aisles are fairly wide, and it is pretty easy to walk around until later in the morning when things get really busy. This group works hard to put on this meet in the winter, and the Red Barns Spectacular the first Saturday in August. The club said they sold nearly 500 tables for the winter swap meet, and around 400 spaces at the summer meet...along with over 1500 cars in the show. Well worth the drive in my opinion.

Finally: I have a question. Are any of you familiar with the OVERHEADS Car Club of Wayne, MI ? While antiquing the other day we were in Yesterdays Antiques on Plymouth Rd in Livonia and they have a car club jacket from the Overheads. The owner would love to know any history on the club. The lady that brought it in thought it was from around 1955, and the jacket was her brothers. A really neat item. I know the owner would love to hear from anyone with information...thanks.

## FEBRUARY SHOW AND TELL

by  
Bill Timoszyk

Mark Sapienz brought in a copy of the 1996 “wordstock” booklet. This booklet of poetry and artists drawings is by the employees of the Ford Brownstown Parts and Redistribution Center. It is a co-operative effort of Ford-UAW. We encouraged Mark to read us some poetry, but he declined.



I gave a talk on some of the history of on Greenfield Village, originally called The Edison Institute. I had on display for reference ; 1) an original booklet issued on opening day in 1929, 2) a 1941 issue of the Herald, the official publication of GFV, with an article about n upcoming Electric Vehicle display in the Henry Ford Museum, and 3)A hardbound book (1972) entitled Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum.



I also brought an article about the late Detroit car collector Barney Pollard. As my father worked there in the 50's, and I had viewed the collection, it was story telling time.



Footnote; several people approached me after the talk with stories about there GFV experiences. We even had a member that attended the school there from 1948-1952. If anyone that has further material / stories about GFV, please bring them with you to the next meeting and we will share them.

In Memoriam 

**Edward Thomas**  
9/22/29 - 8/10/14

We Mark the passing of fellow club member Edward Thomas. Ed and son Steve have been members since 2002. Ed is survived by wife Eugenia and son Steve.



**William F. Turner**  
1/22/42 - 2/13/15

We Mark the passing of long term fellow club member Bill Turnau. Bill was a member since 1987 and is survived by wife Debbie, sons Bill & Paul; three grandsons Bill, Robert & Joey



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John Miller 586-756-4279

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Hank Dawson 810-231-3184

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Gerald Murphy is looking for a ride to the meetings. He can no longer drive, Lives in Brownstowne twp. Phone is 734-323-8378.

Downriver Contingent seeking fellow members wishing to carpool to meetings. Contact

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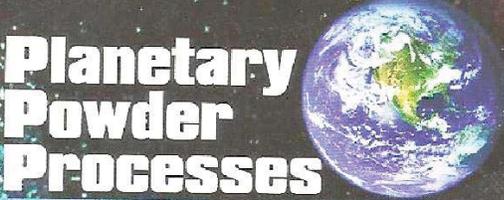
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