

SWANKS NEWS

Swanks Car Club

Established 1956

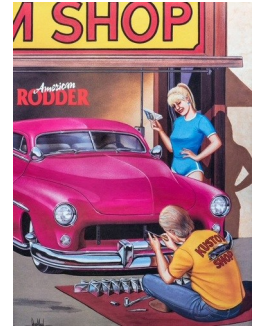
Swanks Newsletter

July-August 2025

MOPARS in the Park

Photos: Joanna, Olivia, Avery,
Kennedy & Ron

Swanks ace Photojournalists ventured to Farmington MN for the MOPARS in the Park car show held at the Dakota County Fairgrounds. We had lots of fun taking pictures of the vast number of MOPARS until they found the food trucks then, they noticed the kids' games and I lost them. Lots of beautiful cars, lots of food and lots of kids' stuff to do the car show was a hit for all of us.



Photojournalists: front row; Olivia and Joanna. Back row: Avery and Kennedy



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Issue Dates: Jan. 25th, March 25th, May 25th, July 25th, September 25th, November 25th

Going to a car show? Bring your camera and send in the photos for the next newsletter.

Got a project or a new car? Take a few photos and submit them to the newsletter.

Got something to sell? Put it into the newsletter—
rondahley@gmail.com

MOPARS in the Park Continued...



SWANKS 23rd Annual Car Show

Photos: Terry Madsen

This newsletter will drop on the day of the Swanks 23rd annual car show so coverage of the show will be in the Sept./ Oct. issue. Or possibly in a Special Edition Issue. Anyway, Swanks Members have been busy for months putting together the car show. It takes a club to put on an event like this so thank you to all the Swanks Members for their hard work.



Fun Fact: The Chevrolet Motor Company was incorporated on November 8, 1911. Production for 1912, the first full year of production totaled 2,999 Chevrolets.

Ted Talk with Ted Bryans



Hi Swanks, I thought I would share my experience attending Huset's Speedway for the first time. In June my dad, Victor, my good friend Nick and I decided to drive to Sioux Falls, SD, to attend a race at Huset's speedway. The races that week started on Wednesday and ran through Saturday with the World of Outlaws Sprint Cars. Now this is a big race week with lots of prize money attracting most of the big names in sprint car racing including race teams from other sprint car series like High Limit Racing Series. It was a good opportunity to watch so many of the top sprint car teams across the U.S.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the races were called the Huset's Hustle with Thursday's feature paying \$100,000. Friday and Saturday races were called Huset's High Bank Nationals with a purse of \$250,000. Buddy Kofoid had a great week with feature wins on Thursday and Saturday! The races were very competitive with several lead changes and lots of excitement. This was my first time visiting Huset's but not my last. I highly recommend this racetrack and particularly this race.



Flyover to start the evenings racing - first military flyover for a dirt track race.



Elks Post 260 Car Show

Photos: Ron Dahley

The Elks Club in Fargo ND hosts a monthly car show and it is easy to remember because it falls on the same night as the Swanks Car Club meeting. This works really well for a guy who travels from the east in lake country to Casselton for the meeting. I arrived about 4pm at the Elks Car Show and had over two hours to hang out checkout the cool cars visit with fellow car enthusiasts, get a bite to eat and a cool beverage before heading to Casselton for the club meeting.



Happy Birthday!!



Ed Iskenderian, known as the "Camfather", turned 104 on July 10, 2025. Ed is the founder of Isky Racing Cams, an industry leader in performance parts starting in the 1950's. Ed has become a household name among hot rodders and racing enthusiasts.



Rocket 88

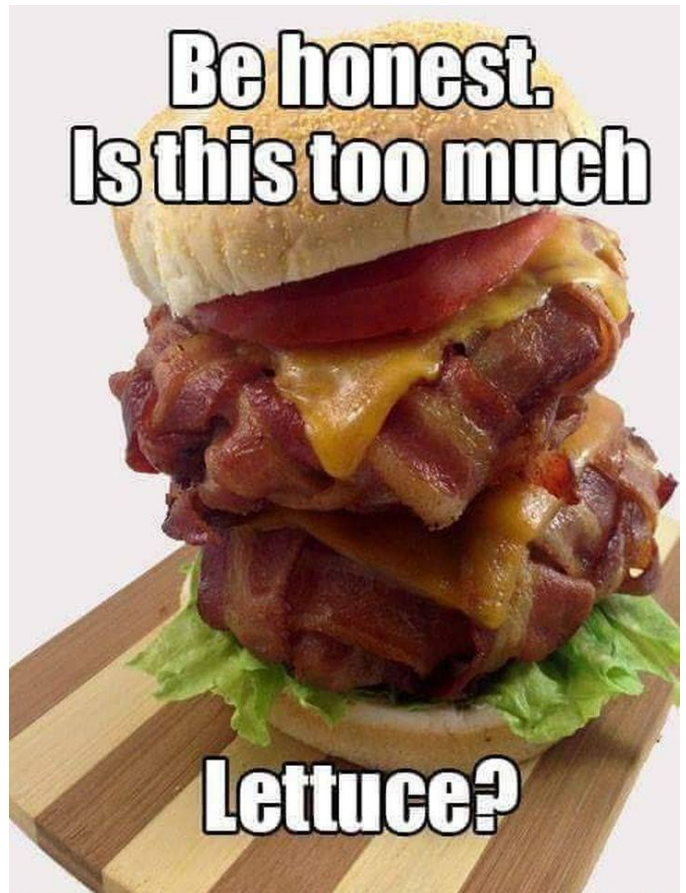
The Saturday Hopper's Group

71 years ago, on March 5, 1951 Ike Turner's band, featuring vocalist Jackie Brenston, recorded "Rocket 88" in Memphis TN. Many have called the song the first rock and roll record. It's also the first hit produced by Country Music Hall of Famer Sam Phillips.

That's Funny!

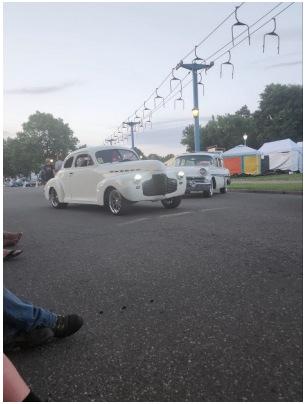


SWANKS COOKIN' CORNER



Back to the 50's

Photos: Johnny "Rocket" Nustad



What's the Diff?

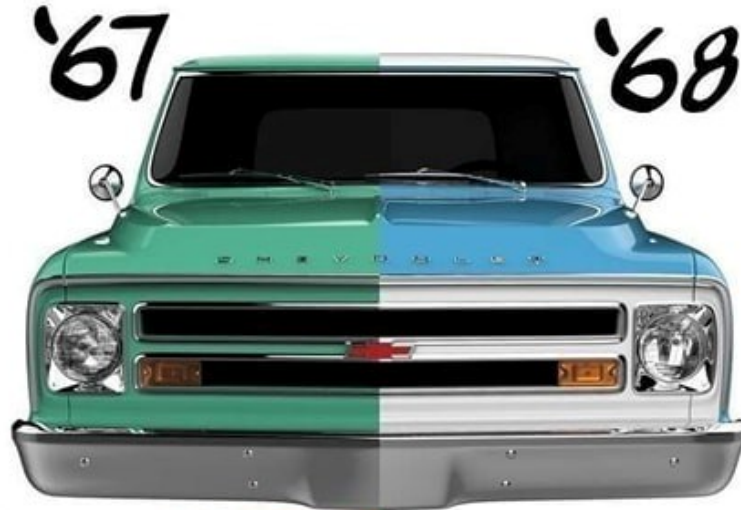
John Griffith

67 - 72

Chevrolet

Pickups

This shows the difference between the years and changes. Hope this helps with identifying different years. Only the 67 didn't have side marker lights. Also 67 came with large and small back windows, large being an option roughly 20% of 67 came with large back window or panoramic view as it was called. 72 used a glue on windshield rear view mirror all others were mounted to the inside of the cab sheet metal above the windshield



Devils Run

Photos: Koly Speer



*If your car does not scare you a little bit
It's not fast enough.*

Feature Car: The 1963 Tempest 421 Super Duty

Story Time

The 1963 Tempest 421 Super Duty station wagon is a fascinating piece of automotive history! Pontiac built only 12 of these hand-crafted race cars for NHRA competition, including 6 leMans Coupes and 6 Tempest station wagons. Each was, meticulously designed for performance, featuring light weight aluminum front ends, aluminum radiators, and Plexi-glas windshields to reduce weight.

These vehicles showcased Pontiac's engineering prowess, retaining the unique Tempest transaxle setup, modified to handle immense torque of the 421 Super Duty Engine, which was underrated at 405 hp. The custom, transmission with the "rope" driveshaft sent power to a heavily modified trans-axle, allowing for a unique manual-automatic shifting experience.

This combination of power and lightweight construction made the 421 SD a formidable contender in the dragstrip proving that even a station wagon could be a serious performance machine!



OK Roundup Car Show Carrington ND

Photos: Todd Schultz



SWANKS CAR SHOW CHALLENGE 2025

Swanks don't forget our 3rd annual Swanks Car Show Challenge! All you have to do is put on some Swanks gear and attend as many car show as you can, then write them down so we have an accurate count. The top 5 attendees will receive a great deal of adulation and a trophy!

Photos: Joan Thiel



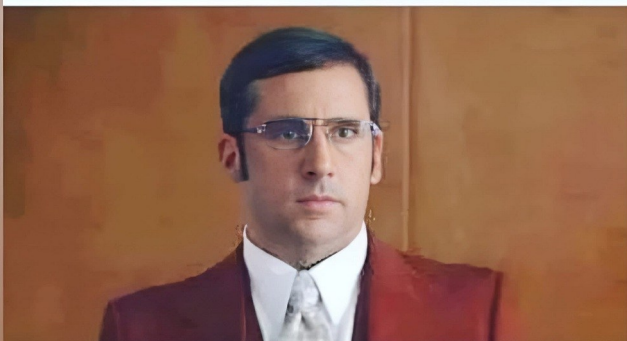
A Message from Jerry Quam

For you new Swanks members Jerry Quam is a Swanks member who was active in the late 50's and early 60's. He moved out west in the early 60's and has an amazing history in the automobile and hot rod culture. Jerry, as a Swanks member, receives our newsletter and sometimes shares some history. As you can tell by reading this message Jerry knows all the big time hot rodders across the country and has some very interesting stories to share.

Jerry shared this message after reading our newsletter regarding the passing of the legendary engine builder Ed Pink. Thank you, Jerry, for sharing and please keep sharing I know our members enjoy your memories and these stories help us learn about the great traditions of the Swanks Car Club.

Re; Newsletter; nice Job! I went to Ed Pinks roast at the N H R A museum some years back; I lived on Moorpark off of Woodman Ave. in Van Nuys when working selling sports cars; I had a X K-E roadster (drove it to No dak in the late 60s) Tony Nancy; Kent Fuller; Ed Pink & Kieth Black shared Tony Nancy's shop around the corner from my apartment on Ventura Cyn; I took my Jaguar to Tony Nancy on Woodman Ave for a new top; (less than a block away) left it there; supposed to be done on a Friday; but "no dice" ;finally got it done; but Tony could get a bit of a attitude; so at one point Tony; myself; and Ed Pink went across the street to the "Chimney Sweep" a bar; had some beers; reminded Ed Pink of that at the roast; later saw Tony Nancy at the Santa Barbara car show where he was a guest of honor; along with Gene Winfield; we had about a five minute talk; he died shortly after if my recall is accurate. I guess it all about being in the right place at the right time.! Later, I had a small car lot on Pass Ave & Riverside drive in Toluca Lake. Cal; about 4 blocks from George Barris's shop; had lunch at a Mexican restaurant around the corner from George's shop; ran into his daughter there several times; later went on a garage tour with his daughter; her husband & son; we had some laffs! There were hundreds of boxes of model cars; a Roadster p/u street rod project; and some other stuff for sale; that was some years back. Jerry Quam

When someone tries to talk to me about sports:
Me: I like old rusty cars



***Chevrolet Nova and
someone's Grandma***



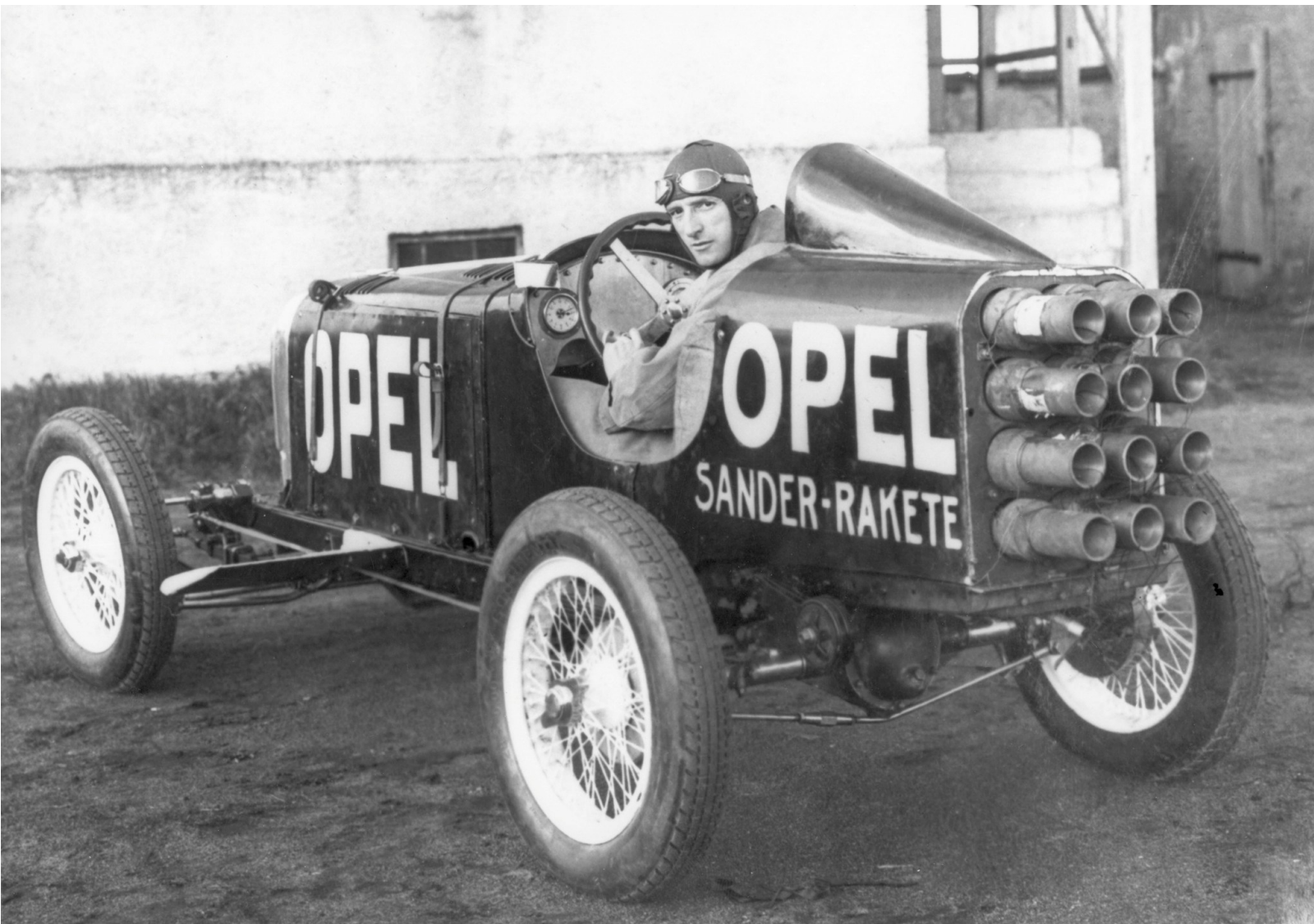


HISTORY LESSON

Stacey David



On May 23rd, 1928, Fritz von Opel drove his rocket-powered Opel Rak 2 to 143mph on the Avus Track near Berlin! He attached 24 Brander powder rockets to the back of his car, separated from his seat by only a sheet of steel. The reported 6,000kg of total thrust had enough force to blow up a city block! "I just love this early automotive history where guys were pushing the boundaries with whatever means they had. Fritz strapped 24 rockets to the back of his car and fired them with a foot pedal! What could possibly go wrong?!? LOL! At least he had a leather helmet and goggles to protect him! I would love to see footage of this run! The next time someone looks at you and your chopped up hot rod and says, "You're crazy," tell them "Thank you!" because you come by it naturally!"

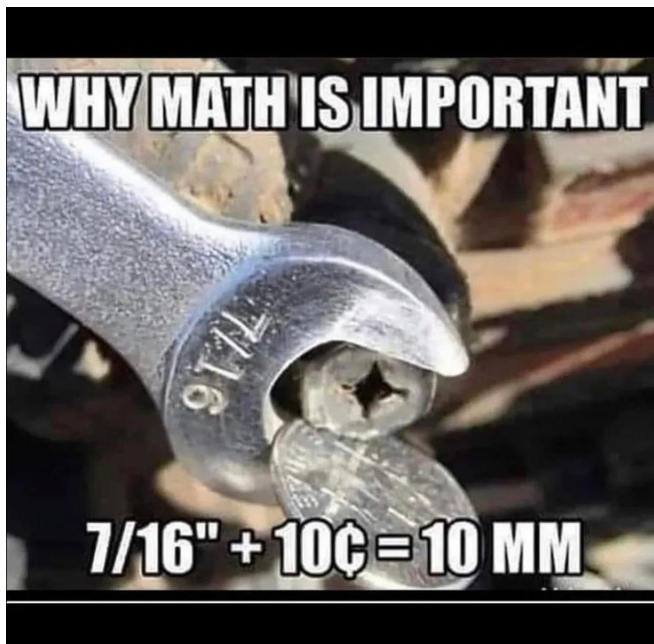


Swanks Drive Careful



Why is it when women say "We Need to Talk." It's never about cars.

RON'S HELPFUL HOT ROD TIPS



Up Coming Events

Please check to ensure the events dates and times have not changed.

July 24 Swanks Car Show

July 26 Buffalo Rally show and shine, Jamestown ND 11-3

July 26 Dilworth Loco Daze Car Show, Dilworth MN 12-3

Aug.2 JJ's Hog Roast for Hospice Car Show, Pelican Rapids MN 11-3

Aug. 2 Harwood-A-Rama Car Show Harwood ND 11-3

Aug, 3 Fergus Falls Car Show/Swap Meet, Fergus Falls MN 9-2

Aug. 8-9 Run to the Rapids Park Rapids MN

Aug.9 Kindred Community Days Car Show, Kindred ND 12-3

Aug 9 Chaffee Days Car Show Chaffee ND 5-8

Aug. 14-17 Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals, Brainerd MN

Aug. 16 Sabin Days Car Show, Sabin MN 10-2

Aug. 16 Rosholt Cruise In, Rosholt SD 10-3

Aug. 16 14th Annual Cormorant Daze Car Show Comorant Village MN 10-4

Aug. 21 OK Roundup Wahpeton ND

Sept. 6 15th Annual Childhood Cancer Awareness Car Show, Blue Cross Parking lot, Fargo ND 11-3:30

Sept 14 Cruise to the Island Mayville ND

Oct 5 Uffa Days Rutland ND

Oct .11 Frankenstiiners Ball 20th Annual Isanti County Fairgrounds Isanti MN

Frequent Events

1st Tues. El Roco Cruise Night Grand Forks ND 6:30-9:30.

2nd Tues. Elks Car Show Fargo ND 4-8:30 pm 3435 North Broadway.

1st Wed Fergus Falls Cruise Night

2nd Wed Detroit Lakes Cruise Night June-Sept, 4-8:30pm

Wed. Cruise Night Pelican Rapids MN 6:30 Main Street.

Wed. Classic Cruise Nite Fort Saloon Abercrombie MN 6-10

Thurs. Cruise Night Grand Forks ND 6-8:30 pm Culvers Restaurant.

1st Thursday Moorhead Cruise Night Moorhead MN 5-8:30 pm Downtown Center Avenue Moorhead. Starts in May.

2nd Thursday Barnesville MN Show "N" Shine 6-8 pm Downtown Barnesville.

3rd Thurs West Fargo Cruz Night West Fargo ND 4:30-9 pm Sheyenne St.