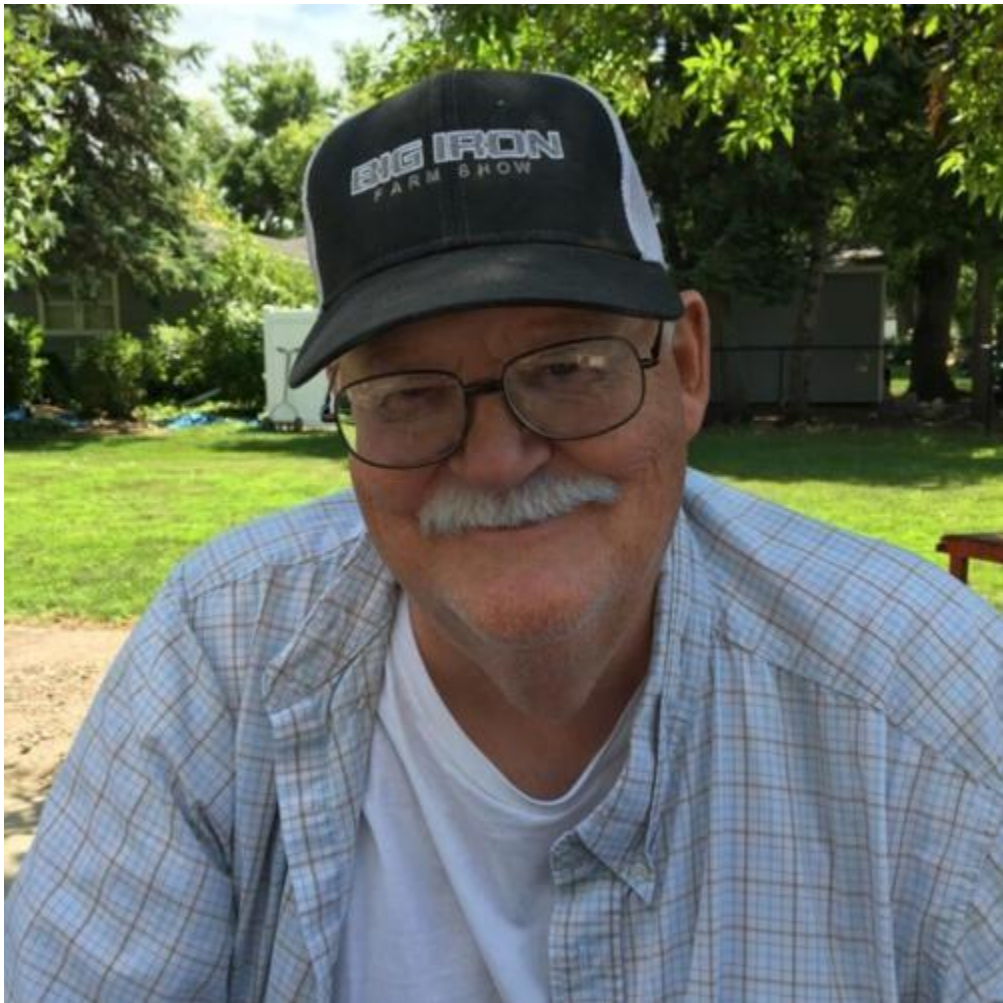


SWANKS NEWS

Special Edition

Cruise to Casselton July 2026



In remembrance of our friend Michael Eberhardt founder of
“Cruise to Casselton.”

Mike Eberhardt started 'The Cruise to Casselton' 24 years ago on his own with a \$75.00 budget. The first show attracted about 100 cars and I'm proud to say I attended the first show. I remember my brother-in-law, Danny Opgrand told me about the cruise, and we gathered on the frontage road on the west side of West Fargo ND. I remember Kenny Johnsons' Cadillac parked with us along with a long line of hot rods from Fargo and Moorhead. We cruised into Casselton, parked on main street, ate brats and had a really good time. It was much later before I met Mike Eberhardt. I met Mike on a garage tour one spring again, Danny invited me to ride with him on this garage tour and Mike, and his sons. I recall Mike entertaining us for the whole day telling stories and jokes, lots of jokes while we traveled from garage to garage. Mike hosted the car show for 6 or more years and then the Swanks Car Club was formed in Casselton ND and Mike thought it was fitting to offer the show responsibilities to the club. Mike spent a lot of time preparing the Swanks for their duties and the transition went smoothly because of Mike's guidance. Mike continued to attend the shows and give the Swanks advice for example, it was Mike's idea to add people movers to the show so older folks could get to cover the entire car show which is a blessing as the show has grown from the 100 cars to 500 + cars these past few years.

Mike has given an incredible gift to the car community, the city of Casselton and to the Swanks car club. Thank you, Michael Eberhardt!

The 24th Cruise to Casselton was dedicated to our good friend Mike Eberhardt so on this occasion the Swanks arranged for a park bench commemorating Michael to be installed in Governor's park. Swanks own Mark Weber gave a wonderful tribute to Michael with Michael's wife, Lillian and family members in attendance.



Top; Mark Weber, Lillian Eberhardt and Andrea Eberhardt

Bottom:
Lillian with family members and their cars.



Swanks at the 24th Annual *Cruise to Casselton*





Feature Car

Todd Schultz 1967 Pontiac Tempest Convertible



C and K Photography

C and K Photography attended the Swanks 24th annual car show and shared some photos. The photos are super nice. Thank you, C and K Photography.



C and K Photography Continued...



The Cars

Photos: Ron Dahley



Cars



Cars



More Cars



There's more



And more cars



Cars

The exact number of hot rods, customs, rat rods and classics in Casselton on July 23rd cannot be confirmed but over 400 registration bags were handed out. Two streets were filled with Cars well before the registration bags were handed out, some of those folks picked up their registrations but others did not and because of the road construction cars were parked in separated locations making it hard to get a count. The first hot rod arrived at 8am! A few others turned up about 10am that ensure good parking and a shady place to set up lawn chairs but makes for a long car show.



Cars and Blow Up Contest

The blowup contest is always a crowd favorite at the Swanks Car Cruise. This year president Mark Kieffer produced a Chevy pickup to destroy at the event. The Chevy proved to be “like a rock” and ran for several minutes at full throttle before succumbing. Don’t be too sad as the truck is already sold and its’ parts will be recycled to another vehicle.

Thanks to the Swanks members who all pulled together working hard side by side to make this show a success. This year with the streets in Casselton under construction it was especially challenging but, with collaboration with the city of Casselton and the fine city businesses and all the hot rodders who were not scared away from road construction made this year’s Cruise to Casselton a memorable one.

This is the Swanks 70th year and the Swanks Casselton 18th year that is something to celebrate! Remembering our good friend Mike Eberhardt the guy that started the Cruise to Casselton car show, also the words of Swanks member Mark Weber when we commemorated the park bench to Mike Eberhardt’s memory Mark said, “Mike had contributed much to this city of Casselton”. That made me think of another legend in local hot-rodding history, Morrie Lamb. Morrie told me once “the longevity of the Topper’s Car Club is their show, it keeps them together working on something, gives them a purpose” and that is what our friend Mike Eberhardt did for the Swanks Car Club. Thanks Mike, we are grateful!



Wes Rydell 1941 Chevy Fleetline

This year Wes Rydell sent down his 1941 Chevy Fleetline to be in the show. I asked the young men who parked it if they had trailed it down from Grand Forks and they quickly set me straight that it had been driven. This is a very special car built by “Rad Rides by Troy,” the Fleetline was completed in 2021.

The Chevy was on the show car circuit in 2021 and 2022 after that it has been driven. This Chevy started life as a 4 door so imagination the modifications. Next issues Feature.