

the PASTLANE

2023, Issue 1



**NATIONAL
Auto & Truck
MUSEUM**
AUBURN, INDIANA

National Auto & Truck Museum (NATMUS)

1000 Gordon M. Buehrig Pl.
Auburn, IN 46706
260-925-9100

Open 9am-5pm daily

Admission:

- Adults: \$10
- Children (5-12): \$5
- Campus pass: \$20
(includes ACD museum)
- AAA: \$9
- Active Military: Free w/ID

Online:

website: natmus.org
Instagram: [natmus_museum](https://www.instagram.com/natmus_museum)
Facebook: search for
"NATMUS"

Executive Director: Dave Yarde
Board of Directors

President: John Pontius
Vice President: Travis Sprouse
Secretary: Larry Gurtner
Treasurer: Don Monesmith

Contact us: info@natmus.org

COMING UP AT NATMUS

Look inside to find info on...

- ◆ NATMUS Auction (page 4)
- ◆ All Member Annual Meeting (page 3)
- ◆ Great Race (pages 5 & 6)
- ◆ Great Race Spring Rally (page 6)
- ◆ and much more!

NATMUS TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN HERO

NATMUS displayed the museum's 1937 Cord State Police vehicle in the ACD Museum Plaza as a tribute for the funeral procession of Indiana State Police Master Trooper James R. Bailey on Saturday, March 11. Trooper Bailey was killed in the line of duty March 3rd along I-69, south of Auburn.

Thank you to Don Monesmith and Travis Sprouse for preparing and positioning the car for the procession.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

As spring is approaching, I would like to reflect on last year here at the museum. We had a very good year in many areas.

Attendance was up to nearly the level before the pandemic. Our Next Gen youth program continues to grow and is the envy of museums across the country. This year we will be able to continue with the Hemming's Motor News Great Race program that will run from St. Augustine, FL to Colorado Springs, CO. We are also beginning a project for 2024 to attempt a world's land speed record run in the youth class at the Bonneville Salt Flats in a "belly tanker."

Repair and maintenance learning opportunities continue to grow and provide our youth with many unique hands-on experiences.

Our volunteer numbers continue to grow, as do the incredible services and projects they provide and complete here at the museum. Without their dedication of time, materials, and equipment, our museum would not survive. When you visit the museum, please be sure and thank a volunteer for their service.

Our collections continue to grow and diversify to meet the changing interests of our visitors of all ages. Most recent additions are in the model toy room. We have had an incredible IH model tractor donation made by Bill Berry. This display is located in the lower level and has several hundred pieces on display. We also received a large donation of Ertl, Hot Wheels and Johnny Lightning prototypes from designer Mac Ragan. Many of these pieces are one-of-one and will only be found here at NATMUS. These are truly world class displays. I wish to thank Larry Gurtner, Betty Owens, and Travis Sprouse for putting these displays together.

We are becoming a destination for many car clubs throughout the country. Please check our web site (natmus.org) for these and more activities that are scheduled for this summer.



With the arrival of warm weather, I encourage you to get your special vehicle out on the road and enjoy it. If we are going to grow the hobby, we need to be seen on the road, at car shows, and special events. Let's teach our young people (and older ones too) how to drive a stick and have fun. For years I've been cautious about getting that first stone chip so my kids can have a perfect vehicle someday. I've come to the conclusion that this is not going to happen. I'm going to get that first stone chip (and probably more) this summer and enjoy every one of them! I will take the worry out of it for them. Hope to see you on the road this summer.

- Dave



IH Model Tractor display at NATMUS.

LOOK FOR OUR MUSEUM CARS AND CREW OUT AND ABOUT THIS SUMMER

Look for various NATMUS show cars and some of our youth volunteers at different events this summer.

- ◆ World of Wheels show March 24-26 at the Indianapolis State Fairgrounds
- ◆ Downtown Auburn Cruise-ins
- ◆ ACD Cars and Coffee
- ◆ ...and other museum events!



We are grateful to the Early Ford V-8 museum in Auburn for their continued help and support for the Next Gen youth program!



The museum youth showed the 1941 Ford Great Race vehicle at Autorama in Detroit on Feb. 26.

AUCTION AT NATMUS - MAY 13, 9:00 am

Mark your calendars! We will be holding a gigantic auction of surplus equipment and collectibles at the National Auto and Truck Museum on Saturday, May 13, beginning at 9 AM.

Over the course of the years we have accumulated a lot of equipment and collectibles that are not displayable or no longer needed and thus need to go. We can utilize the space these items are taking up to store more vehicles.

Among the items up for auction so far are:

- two very good, working 2 post hydraulic auto lifts
- engine analyzers
- engine stands
- motorcycle and transmission jacks
- hydraulic presses
- hand tools
- skill saws
- car parts
- vintage signs
- diner stools
- 1950's dinette sets
- miscellaneous vintage furniture
- garden tools
- wheelbarrows
- 1972 Chevrolet C-40 medium duty box truck (great for a food truck or a mobile shop for area farmer)
- 1920's Studebaker truck formerly used as a book mobile in Los Angeles
- additional vintage vehicles may be added prior to the auction date.



Don't miss this opportunity to win some one-of-a-kind items, and support our great museum. We will start promptly at 9 AM so don't be late! We have hundreds of items to sell.

GET READY TO WELCOME OUR GUESTS!

This summer we will be hosting, or helping to host numerous groups from throughout the country. Make sure to stop by, lend a hand, or warmly greet these groups:

- ◆ Great Race Spring Rally, May 18-21 (see page 6)
- ◆ Back to the Bricks car tour on June 10th
- ◆ Antique Auto Club of America Car show at DeKalb HS on July 8th
- ◆ National Model A Ford Tour, July 16-21
- ◆ National Edsel Car Club, TBD
- ◆ ACD Festival Garage Tourists, August 27th

HELPING OUR MUSEUM NEIGHBORS

Over the Christmas Holiday, the Early Ford V-8 Museum had a water line break, flooding their museum and causing significant damage. Some of our youth pitched in immediately, carrying out waterlogged supplies and furniture. After repairs to the museum were made, 27 of our NATMUS Wednesday night volunteers returned to help clean floors, displays, and vehicles so that the museum could reopen. We are so proud of all of our volunteers that helped our museum neighbor. Way to go!



2022 GREAT RACE RECAP

Last June, NATMUS and the Early Ford V-8 Museum teamed up to field two youth teams in the 2022 “Great Race” from Warwick, Rhode Island to Fargo, North Dakota. Gavin Swift, Jack Pontius, and John Taller, Jr., drove a 1941 Ford. John McCollough and Connor Miller drove a 1948 Ford. Kaden Goebel also traveled with them to help address any mechanical problems. Others helping out along the way were Don Monesmith, Nate Fluke, Alishia Iddings, Kennedy Pontius, and John Pontius.



The Great Race is an international event involving over 165 teams from around the world. It is a 9-day time-and-distance rally covering nearly 2500 miles..

Right away the youth teams were a big part of the race. They were in charge of tech inspection for all of the cars. They volunteered to rebuild a transmission on a 1932 Ford Model A the night before the race started. They made a wonderful name for themselves and were highly thought of by all the other participants. And they had a lot of fun — both teams scored aces (perfect times) during the race and performed admirably (62nd place for Swift/Pontius/Taller and 89th place for McCollough/Miller)! We are so proud of these young people!



First Day. Rhode Island. June 18, 2022.



Last Day. North Dakota. June 26, 2022.



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2023 GREAT RACE

The 2022 Great Race was such an out-of-the-park success for our youth and our museums that everyone decided that they wanted to do it again! Once again, the youth from NATMUS will be driving the Ford vehicles from the Early Ford V-8 Museum to traverse another part of our great country — St. Augustine, FL to Colorado Springs, CO — in the Hemmings Motor News Great Race being held June 24 through July 2 of this year.

Plans are underway for: coordinating volunteers, checking over the cars inside and out, towing the vehicles there and back, driving the youth there and back, booking hotels, budgeting for gas and food, etc. There is so much to think about to have a successful experience.

And now we are asking for your help. We could use more financial support. We are looking for sponsors to help cover expenses. Please consider helping in the following ways:

- ◆ Sponsor 1 mile for \$20
- ◆ Sponsor 5 miles for \$100 (includes t-shirt)
- ◆ Sponsor 25 miles for \$500 (includes t-shirt and signed photo of racers)

Please go online to www.natmus.org/store to make your secure donations.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!



GET A TASTE OF THE GREAT RACE - ATTEND THE SPRING RALLY HERE!

The organizers of the Hemmings Motor News Great Race were so impressed by our youth last summer, that they have decided to host their Spring Rally here in Auburn for the first time ever! The event will be held May 18-21, and serves as a practice rally for those who plan to compete in the Great Race in June.

It is expected that at least 60 race teams from throughout the country will arrive at race headquarters (NATMUS!) on Thursday, May 18th. That is also the date of the first downtown Auburn Cruise-In, which the racers will go to and have their own show area downtown, so you can see them up close.

On Friday evening the racers will finish their rally for the day at the Early Ford V-8 Museum arriving around 4PM, spaced one minute apart. After all cars have arrived at the museum, there will be a celebration with food and a live band.

On Saturday evening the racers will finish their rally for the day at the ACD Plaza (again spaced about one minute apart). So if you can't make it Thursday or Friday, don't miss the finish on Saturday.

Make sure to come out for as much of this fun event as you can attend, and show these race teams what "Hoosier Hospitality" is all about!

UPDATE: BELLY TANKER AND BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS

We were hoping to take our youth to the Bonneville Salt Flats this year with a belly tanker and see what it could do. But, as anyone who has ever worked on cars finds out, it is best to keep your deadlines flexible. So that is what we are doing.

Recently the sponsor of the belly tanker, Tony Sutton, visited with some of our museum crew to discuss the plans for fixing up the belly tanker. Modifications will be made, engines will be built, and details will be hashed out to hopefully make the trip in 2024. We are still very excited to see this project come about!



John Taller, Travis Sprouse, Don Monesmith, and Tony Sutton discuss future plans for the belly tanker. You can see the belly tanker on display in the lower level of the museum.



THINGS ARE LOOKING BRIGHTER!...

...LITERALLY!

Thanks to the volunteers who installed all new LED lighting in the Restoration Shop. The new lighting is a huge improvement! These volunteers also spruced up, tidied up, organized, hung new vintage signs, and made the whole space just look a whole lot better! Our volunteers are the BEST!

DON'T JUST SIT THERE — JOIN IN THE FUN!

Join us every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am—4pm as we work on various projects around the museum. Just show up, or call us at 260-925-9100 for more information.

Looking to volunteer in other ways? We have volunteer tasks such as: admissions, docent, restoration shop, event volunteers, research library, and more. We will work with your schedule. Give us a call, we have LOTS of ways you can help!

NATMUS AS YOUR PARTY HQ

Did you know that you can rent out our museum at very reasonable rates for graduation parties, showers, weddings, reunions, etc.?

Our summer calendar is filling up, so if you are thinking of having a gathering at the museum, you should call or email soon!

260-925-9100
info@natmus.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 16** Annual Membership Meeting, 2PM (see p. 3)

MAY

- 13** Auction at NATMUS, 9AM (see p. 4)
18-21 Great Race Spring Rally in Auburn (see p. 6)
18 ACD Festival Third Thursday Cruise-In downtown
20 ACD Cars & Coffee

JUNE

- 10** Back to the Bricks Kick-off (info: www.auburnmainstreet.org)
15 ACD Festival Third Thursday Cruise-In downtown
17 ACD Cars & Coffee
19 **Thru July 2.** GREAT RACE: Florida to Colorado (see p. 6)

Visit dekalbcvb.org/events/ for info on the ACD Cruise-In and Cars and Coffee



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