



## 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](http://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](mailto:info@natmus.org)

## SUMMER AT NATMUS!

In this issue, we have lots of stories to tell and fun things coming up that we are eager to share with you. Look inside for info about:

Events coming up this summer (mark your calendars, you won't want to miss these!)

The Youth Program and the Great Race (p. 4 & 5)

Our building turning 100 years old (p. 3)

How we partner with other museums (p. 2)

Belly tanker at the Bonneville Salt Flats (p. 6)

How we are preparing for the future

Ways for you to get involved!

## 9 OUT OF 10 PEOPLE SURVEYED LOVE CHICKEN BARBECUE\*

Come to our Chicken Barbecue fundraisers this summer to help raise money for our Youth Scholarship program. We will be at Advance Auto Parts, 1001 W Seventh St in Auburn (by Kroger), from 11am—4pm on:

**May 27, June 17, July 15, August 19, and September 9** this summer.

Please drop by, buy some delicious barbecue, and help out a great cause!

\* We made that statistic up, but we think it's pretty close.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Along with the new look to our PastLane newsletter, we would like to welcome our new newsletter editor, Joan Taller. Joan brings a vast amount of experience to this position and has many ideas that she wants to incorporate into our newsletter. Joan's husband John and son John Jr. are both long time Wednesday night volunteers and help maintain the vehicles throughout the museum. Please welcome Joan as our new PastLane editor.

We are truly blessed with a great group of volunteers throughout the museum. We cannot begin to list all of the items they accomplish or the amount of hours they donate to the museum. Without them, our museum would not be able to exist. We will be recognizing this great group in future issues and the valuable services they provide. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the museum. The only skill required is that of having fun!

Since the grip of the pandemic is loosening, attendance is up at the museum. Foreign travelers as well as visitors throughout the country are returning in large numbers.

Business gatherings, weddings, and social events are renting the museum and car clubs are returning for events at the ACDA and NATMUS campus. Check us out if you have an event or venue that you are planning to host and need a host facility.

The campus pass that allows visitors to tour both museums for up to two days has been a hit. Visitors can now tour both world class museums at their leisure for up to two days, enjoy the grounds with the tourist cabins and Eckhart Buggy Building, and re-enter both at anytime during their stay for two consecutive days.

Our galleries and displays are continuing to change and be updated. We now have the newest Auburn dealership to open in over 85 years. We have created a showroom and service bay as it would have appeared circa 1930 and you can even buy a used ACD auto from the used car lot attached!

As warm weather is upon us, plan on visiting the museum. The excitement continues to build and we want you to be a part of it!



Executive Director Dave Yarde

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Part of the success of the National Auto and Truck Museum is due to strategic partnerships formed with the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum and the Early Ford V-8 Foundation Museum.

For the past year and a half, we have joined the ACD Museum in selling campus passes that allow a visitor unlimited access to both our museums over a two day period. This has been good for both museums and has allowed us to nearly double our admissions. We are seeing visitors from every state in the United States and multiple countries from around the world. We have even

hosted visitors from Eastern Europe and the Far East. We are truly becoming an international destination.

For nearly a year now we have been working closely with the Early Ford V-8 Foundation Museum in a strategic partnership that will allow our youth volunteers to participate in the "Great Race" this June, and to make a run for a land speed record on the Bonneville Salt Flats in 2023. (more about our young racers on pages 5 & 6)



Find out more about the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum at:  
[www.automobilemuseum.org](http://www.automobilemuseum.org)



Find out more about the Early Ford V-8 Museum at:  
[www.fordv8foundation.org](http://www.fordv8foundation.org)

# NATMUS SERVICE BUILDING TURNS 100

There are only three buildings remaining that were part of the original Auburn Automobile Company. The buildings include the original factory administration building that currently houses the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, and our own L-29 Building that was built to assemble America's first front-wheel drive car, and our arched roof building that housed the Auburn Automobile Company Service Center and world wide Parts Distribution Center. This last one is the oldest of the three and will actually turn 100 years old next year.

In addition we are replacing sections of the 99-year-old concrete floors and repainting the interior. In late March and early April of this year we replaced the failing roof, and this summer we will be resealing all of the old and new sections of the exterior walls.

### HOW BIG IS THE MUSEUM? (in square feet)

- Service Building (arched roof): 31,280
- L-29 Cord Building (flat roof): 73, 160
- Total Square Footage: 104,440
- Acres under roof: 2.3976 Acres

In all, we will be investing over \$100,000 to stabilize and improve this historic building.

Look for other exciting news regarding progress on this rehabilitation in the coming months.

In anticipation of celebrating this milestone, we are making a major investment in refurbishing this building.

Last summer we began replacing major sections of the masonry walls on the north face of the building, and we will continue that effort on the south face this summer.

### August 1993 Renovation of the L-29 building

- Top: North Loading dock enclosed
- Middle: North end looking West. Later Entry and Gift Shop
- Bottom: Looking East



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Larry Gurtner

This issue we would like to recognize long time volunteer and Board of Directors member Larry Gurtner. Larry has been active with the museum for over 20 years in various capacities. He currently serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors and is curator of the model car and toy portion of the museum.

We currently have over 7500 model toys and trucks of various scales on display. Larry has made signage for each of these vehicles as well as once a year doing detailed cleaning on each. Larry cleans each toy as a jeweler would clean a fine watch. Using Q-tips and solution, Larry cleans each interior and exterior to new condition. His attention to detail is incredible. Larry also volunteers as a docent for tours throughout the museum. Thank you Larry for all you do for the museum!



## YOUTH PROGRAM

Seven years ago the National Auto and Truck Museum started a program to encourage area youth to volunteer their time in service to our museum. Fast forward to today and we have had the opportunity to work with young people from four counties in Indiana and two counties in Ohio, who together have donated thousands of hours of their time. Currently 15 young people work in our museum on a weekly basis helping to build new displays, working in the library, creating new signage, and servicing the museum's vehicle collection.



The bulk of their time is spent maintaining and improving the museum's auto and truck collection. They may be working on a Model-T Truck one week, and working on a Corvette or DeLorean the next. When their work is complete, they then take the vehicle out for a test drive to make sure it is ready to go back on display.



On a recent evening one our youngest youth, Josh Heisler, test drove the Checker Cab he had been working on, and then several other youth drove it as well. The prior week David Overy and Camden Reese drove an MGA two seat sports car that they have been assembling over the past few months. Once the assembly is complete all of the youth will have an opportunity to drive it as well. These young people, male and female, represent the future of our museum.



## DONATIONS FUEL THE MUSEUM

The National Auto & Truck Museum counts on a variety of sources for support. Monetary donations, cars and automotive artifact donations or loans, and bequests are all integral to the growth and future operation of the museum. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, donations are tax deductible.

**MONETARY DONATIONS:** The upkeep and improvements on our historic buildings can't happen without donations. Our next project is to upgrade the windows throughout the building to conserve energy usage. Soon we will be sending out a letter for our annual "No-Show Ball" donation drive. Please consider making a monetary donation to the museum. To send a check now, you can make your check out to "NATMUS" and send it to the address listed on the front page of this newsletter. We are so grateful for any amount given.

**CAR AND AUTOMOTIVE ARTIFACTS DONATIONS OR LOANS:** The vehicles in the museum have been donated or loaned to us for display. Bringing in different cars to display helps to bring in more visitors, which brings in more revenue. If you have a car or car-related artifacts that you would like to donate or lend to us, please contact the museum at (260) 925-9100.

**BEQUESTS:** A bequest is a method of donation that ensures the legacy of NATMUS. It is given by identifying our museum as a beneficiary in your Will, Trust, or Estate. If you would like to learn more about this option, please email us at [info@natmus.org](mailto:info@natmus.org).

*Your gifts keep the museum open to all who want to learn about our automotive history, as well as supporting our education programs, collections, and research library. Thank you!*

## LET'S GO RACING (PART 1)

We are excited to announce that we will be fielding not one but two youth teams in the 2022 "Great Race" in partnership with the Early Ford V-8 Foundation Museum located here in Auburn. Four of our younger youth — Gavin Swift, Jack Pontius, John Taller, Jr., and Connor Miller will be campaigning a 1941 Ford from Warwick, Rhode Island to Fargo, North Dakota in late June of this year. Two of our older youth, John McCollough and Scott Armstrong are building and will be racing a 1948 Ford. Kaden Goebel has played a significant role in preparing the cars for the race and will be an alternate member of the team and travel with them to help address any mechanical problems.



Connor Miller, John Taller, Kaden Goebel and Gavin Swift with the 1941 Ford Great Race Car prior to the 2022 transformation. Missing is Jack Pontius. (Photo credit: Al Rogers)



John McCollough and Scott Armstrong with the 1948 Ford Rookie Team Great Race Car prior to the 2022 race preparation. (Photo credit: Al Rogers)

The Great Race is an international event and will involve 120 teams from around the world. It is a 9-day time-and-distance rally — not a conventional high speed race. It will involve precise navigation and superior driving skills on 2,200 miles of back roads across America. In addition our youth will need to troubleshoot any problems that arise with the cars and repair them themselves en route.

These young men have been working for the past several months preparing these cars for the race. Their work has involved converting both cars to disc brakes, and replacing the clutch, transmission, and rear end as well as the cooling system and wiring in the 1948 Ford. In doing the work themselves our youth have learned enough about the cars to allow them to effect any necessary repairs along the route.

We are extraordinarily proud of these young men and excited to see them compete in this national event. They will represent our museums, our state, and our nation as this event is truly international in nature.

You can follow their progress during the race on social media and by going to [museumcrew.com](http://museumcrew.com) on the internet. This internet site will not be available until the race.



More info about the Great Race can be found at: [greatrace.com](http://greatrace.com)

## LET'S GO RACING (PART 2)

As soon as the Great Race is completed and the cars return to Auburn, we will begin work on a World War II era “belly tank” to create a streamliner to run for a land speed record on the Bonneville Salt Flats in 2023. A “belly tank” is actually an aerodynamic reserve fuel tank carried under bombers to extend their range. After the end of the war, veterans began buying these tanks, putting them on wheels, and powering them with Ford Flat Head V-8 engines and making high speed runs on the famous Bonneville Salt Flats.

Kaden Goebel, who is a junior drag racer, will attempt to set a land speed record with the “belly tanker” powered by the

famed 60hp Ford Flathead V-8. Kaden will be 17 at the time and compete in the under-18 class. Jack Pontius will also attempt to set a new land speed record for drivers over the age of 18.

We are extraordinarily proud of all who will be helping with this event. What a great way to represent our museum across the nation!



Kaden Goebel standing alongside the belly tanker with some of our youth and adult volunteers at a Wednesday Work Group session.

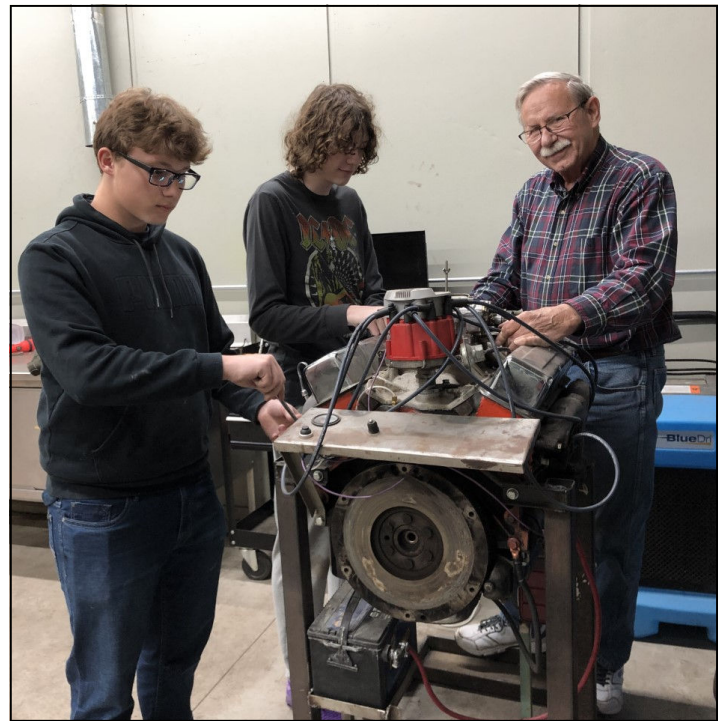


## BETTY STOMM ENGINE LAB

Here at NATMUS we have a little known jewel tucked away in our lower level. The Jerry Muzzillo Auto Restoration Center is where autos from NATMUS are worked on and refurbished. Our high school students also come here each week to learn about and work on cars. A part of this center is the Engine Lab that was donated by Betty Stomm. Betty was an Auburn High teacher and an outstanding volunteer in the community. She also volunteered at NATMUS over the years and was awarded the “Volunteer of the Year” award multiple times.

Inside the Engine Lab is where students learn all about how engines work. Each student starts out by observing a cut-away Model A Ford where you can see the workings of the engine, transmission, and all of the components when the crank is turned. They learn the four cycles of the internal combustion engine (intake, compression, power, and exhaust) needed to make an engine run. In the lab, there are three V-8 Chevy engines on stands. Two of them are set up to be able to run with battery, gas tank, and dash. The students learn how to disassemble an engine to do a valve grind by themselves. Then of course, they have to put it back together and see if it runs. Flipping the on switch, pushing the starter button, and hearing the engine roar back to life always brings a great smile to these students’ faces!

We are grateful for our volunteers like Len McCollough who pour their knowledge into these youth and Betty Stomm who exemplified the true meaning of giving back to the community.



Working in the Betty Stomm Engine Lab are (l to r) Leo Powell, Tyler Miller, and Len McCollough.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

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!

### **LOOKING FOR A VENUE FOR YOUR SPECIAL OCCASION?**

Look no further! NATMUS rents out our museum for weddings, receptions, graduation parties, reunions, corporate functions, etc.

Whether your gathering is large or small, give us a call and let us show you what we have available.

What a great place to have a party!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST	
19	<b>3RD THURSDAY CRUISE-IN</b> Downtown Auburn 5-8pm FREE dekalbcvb.org	11	<b>CRUISE-IN AND SEND-OFF CELEBRATION FOR OUR GREAT RACE TEAMS</b> NATMUS 9-11am	15	<b>CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER</b> for NATMUS Scholarships Advance Auto Parts 11am-4pm	18	<b>3RD THURSDAY CRUISE-IN</b> Downtown Auburn 5-8pm FREE dekalbcvb.org
20	<b>3-DAY PRACTICE RALLY</b> for Great Race Teams	14	<b>NATMUS TEAMS TO GREAT RACE!</b> Rhode Island to North Dakota. See p. 5	16	<b>CARS &amp; COFFEE</b> ACDA Museum 9-11am FREE automobilemuseum.org	19	<b>CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER</b> for NATMUS Scholarships Advance Auto Parts 11am-4pm
21	<b>CARS &amp; COFFEE</b> ACDA Museum 9-11am FREE automobilemuseum.org	28	<b>3RD THURSDAY CRUISE-IN</b> Downtown Auburn 5-8pm FREE dekalbcvb.org	21	<b>3RD THURSDAY CRUISE-IN</b> Downtown Auburn 5-8pm FREE dekalbcvb.org	20	<b>CARS &amp; COFFEE</b> ACDA Museum 9-11am FREE automobilemuseum.org
22	<b>FREE ADMISSION</b> for DeKalb Co. Residents NATMUS 11am-4pm	16	<b>CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER</b> for NATMUS Scholarships Advance Auto Parts 11am-4pm	23	<b>ROLLING INTO ROANOKE</b> Downtown Roanoke 10am-3pm \$25 to show rollingintoroanoke.com	28	<b>GARAGE CRUISE-IN</b> Around Auburn, TBD 10am-4pm
27	<b>CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER</b> for NATMUS Scholarships Advance Auto Parts 11am-4pm	17	<b>CARS &amp; COFFEE</b> ACDA Museum 9-11am FREE automobilemuseum.org				
28	<b>FUTURLINER</b> to lead Indy 500 Festival Parade!	18	<b>CARS &amp; COFFEE</b> ACDA Museum 9-11am FREE automobilemuseum.org				



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