

Newsletter  
Volume 23  
Issue 1  
May 2010

## Minnesota Grand National and T-Type Association



**MAY MEETING** - The next MGNTA meeting will be held at Ultimate Electronics Installation Shop, 2500 Cleveland Avenue N, Roseville, MN on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 7:00 pm (651-631-2392)

### Notes From the Editor

- ◆ Hello and welcome back to another season of MGNTA newsletters. This newsletter is for the benefit of our members. Let me know if you have any For Sale or Wanted listings, if you are planning on attending any car shows this season, please take a photo and send me a couple sentences describing the event, and I'll get it into the newsletter, I'm always looking for fresh stories. Also If you want to list an event in the Event section, just let me know!
- ◆ Yes, the location of the May MGNTA meeting will be at the Ultimate Electronics Installation Shop (not the retail store) in Roseville, same location we have done for the past two years, but look for a map & directions on the back cover of the newsletter. We will be grilling up some hot dogs and hamburgers, so come hungry! This should be a good time as always!
- ◆ Below is a photo from the April meeting, thanks Roger for your contribution. The April meeting was at Walser Buick and we had two Turbo Regals up on the hoist for one of our favorite meetings of the year!



### MGNTA Club Officers

Tom Shea	President	952-892-5669	ttshea@frontiernet.net	Lakeville
Roger Flint	Vice President	952-888-0119	reflint@comcast.net	Bloomington
Tom Rhude	Treasurer	651-653-9169	trhude@q.com	White Bear Lake
Abe Shoberg	Web Master	612-387-4013	webmaster@mgnta.com	Bloomington
Curt Carlson	Newsletter Editor	952-201-0759	mgnta@comcast.net	Maple Grove



## President's Post from the March & April Meeting

**By Tom Shea**



There were about a dozen members at both meetings.

I was not able to attend the April meeting. I was disappointed since this is one of my favorites. Car on Hoist Tech!

We had a couple of prospective new members attend the April meeting. Jeremy Berg and a friend. Jeremy brought his white "T" which he purchased from Billy Tyson last year. He is considering a GN instead, but hasn't yet pulled the trigger. Jeremy brought his car and Abe had his there for the car on hoist.

Curt mentioned that these should be put to paper in the newsletter. I would be willing to take some notes and maybe come up with something to help out fellow members. I am particularly interested in the human interest side of these stories.

We all have interesting stories that really should be recorded. It would be a shame not to share them.

Several of us have done some things to our cars recently. Anybody wishing to share some of that should contact me. I'll take some notes and write it up for the newsletter. I can think of at least a few including Abe, Roger, Dan, Tommy R, Lanny and even me.



Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 27th. Ultimate Electronics Installation Shop, 2500 Cleveland Avenue N, Roseville, MN 55113. (651-631-2392) Tom Lininger, Manager / contact. Keep in mind that this is the install center and not the retail store. Driving directions, Hwy 35 N (to the first exit past Hwy 36), Co Rd C. This exit will split to allow access to Cleveland Av. (frontage rd). Take Cleveland south past Co Rd C, less than 1 mile. Access / parking lot on left (east), free-way on right (west).

### Meetings Preview:

- May: Ultimate Electronics
- June: Wagner's Drive In
- July: Porky's Drive In
- Aug: Minnetonka Drive In
- Sept: JR's
- Oct: JR's or other member's place. Volunteers?
- Nov. Fudd's Feed
- Dec. no meeting

We talked previously about our personal reasons for why we have our cars and interesting back stories.



*Our April meeting had 13 members in attendance and 2 turbo Buicks up on the hoist's at Walser Buick GMC in Bloomington, MN*



## President's Post (continued)

Now that it's the season to enjoy our toys. If there are any suggestions for furthering that cause, don't hesitate to call me. I'm talking about extra-curricular activities here. Club cruises, race days, club or smaller informal group participation in any existing events.

Give me a call or contact our unofficial group of organizers. These guys are the most likely to attend and may already have some info on the event. Abe, Dan, Roger and Jason among a few others like Tommy R and even Lanny are regulars at many of the local shows.

There is always something cooking for shows and events on the local scene. It would be nice to see some of our members and cars show up.

If you have something in mind and want to bring it up at a meeting, but can't make it, call me or another officer. We will see that it's addressed.

Now let's have some fun enjoying our toys in this season. It's here now and time to experience the good times that have been waiting for us all winter.

## President's Post February Meeting

There were only 8 members at the February meeting.

Roger and I came directly from the World of Wheels, where we set up his car in the Buick Club of America display.

It was not bad weather but rather the mid winter blahs that may have kept some of our regulars from showing. There were a couple of faces there that are not able to come on a regular basis. It was nice to see them.

The small group and casual atmosphere lent itself well to our rather informal meeting. We had most club business taken care of last month. This left us with a lot of discretion as to how to use the time.

We Talked about some possible activities for the up-coming season.

Roger had just arranged to get the club invited to John Hudson's place in Andover. He is showing his beautiful 53 Skylark convertible at the World of Wheels. He told us about his other cars and his place. It sounds like it would be well worthwhile to check it out. We tabled it for now, but will re-address it later in the season.



*Roger Flint's 1984 Buick Regal GNX #548 on display at 2010 World of Wheels with the Gopher State Buick Club*



## February President (continued)

We talked about some of our ongoing projects.

Dan mentioned that his fresh built 109 was back from Sod Bogosian. He will be running Champ 14 bolt aluminum heads (he referred to them as "Stage 2" which was confusing to me). These heads are not ported but right out of the box. He will also be running a pretty big roller cam and still using the 66 turbo.

He mentioned that he was going to use Scorpion, stud mounted rockers instead of the Sharp or T&D shaft style. He said that the Scorpions were superior. Imagine my surprise thinking all along that the T&Ds that I have been running were the best. Dan said he now has a set of good ported stock cast iron heads with the new Sharp, shaft mount rockers, and that he will make a very good deal to someone.

Dan also mentioned that he is the Minnesota guy for Cal Hartline for E-85 on the XFI. I assume Cal will be referring locals using E-85 to Dan for hands on help with their XFIs. Dan is one of the pioneers around here for E-85. I was reluctant to either endorse or condemn it's use, but Dan was willing to go for it.

Abe will be doing rear control arms and a line lock. I think he also mentioned a larger rear sway bar.

I mentioned that I just finished going through my motor, making it a little less high strung. It had a big cam and high compression ratio. I had it freshened and changed to a milder cam and lower C/R. I took the opportunity to have John at Master Transmission go through the 4L80E tranny. I also had the torque converter tightened up and freshened by Michael Reeves at Art Carr and the turbo freshened by Chopper at Limit Engineering. Abe helped me find a good used lap top since the ones I was using for the engine F.A.S.T. and trans control were showing their age. I may have some parts for sale as well. The cam and High C/R pistons are race only in my opinion. Call me for details.

We talked about the nationals and who will be attending. Dan and his dad, Abe and Brian, Jaysen and another friend. That's six that we know of for now. These guys may or may not all caravan together. Other interested parties should give them a call.

Abe, Dan and Jaysen are kind of the unofficial race committee. Call these guys if you have interest in any event. They will know details if there are any to share.

There may be events other than racing. These guys should be your first call if interested.

We talked about our personal reasons for why we have our cars and also interesting back stories.

Curt mentioned that these should be put to paper in the newsletter. Abe volunteered me for the job of ghost writing for members that actually have a life, since I am retired and have nothing but time on my hands. He knows that I am usually looking for something to do to fill up my empty days. Thanks for being so thoughtful and concerned for me Abe. I hope to return the favor some day.

All kidding aside, I would be willing to take some notes and maybe come up with something to help out fellow members. I am particularly interested in the human interest side of these stories.

Ron gave us a brief glimpse into his story. He is the original owner and actually ordered his car.

We all have some interesting stories that really should be recorded. It would be a shame to not share these.

I repeat without sarcasm (this time), I am willing to do some ghost writing.

Please call me with a few details or e-mail [ttshea@charter.net](mailto:ttshea@charter.net). I'll put something together and return it to you for approval. If you like it, we can forward it to Curt for publishing. I don't know how much easier I can make it for you. I really think there is at the very least some sentimental value in these stories. It would be a shame to waste them by not bothering to put pen to paper.

We adjourned around the usual time. Some of us went to Perkin's for a bite. Those of us that did had a good meal and more bench racing and tech talk along with the usual fare. The two "Old Guys" were plum tuckered out after a long day and had to cut it short after only a couple of hours.

All in all an enjoyable evening and what a meeting should be, at least in my humble opinion.





## January President's Post By Tom Shea

There were 15 members at the January meeting.

We had some club business to handle and some planning for the coming season.

These winter meetings are the time for the club to attend to any business and to plan for the coming season. If members have any ideas for activities / events, these first 3 meetings is the time to bring it up. We have February and March left for this, since the April meeting is the traditional annual car on hoist tech.

The Feb. & March meeting would lend themselves well to presentations from providers of services or vendors. Call me if you have something in mind.

It was determined that there was no interest in any officers positions, therefore no elections. You are now stuck with the officers we have in place for another year. If there is interest in any position, the time to declare, is at the start of the year to allow for elections.

We talked about the April meeting (Car on Hoist) tech session, last meeting of the year at Walser. Last year we had 6 cars on hoist in the service bay!

Members wishing to be considered for using their car for this year, please contact me. I can't say how many cars they will allow. I hope to have at least 2 hoists available. It would be nice to have more. It's always good to have a few extra cars for alternates.

Weather will probably be a factor for some of us. For now I would like to see a few volunteers.

Walser has been very good to us in this respect. Most places would probably just blow us off with some vague reference to liability. We are fortunate to have this facility both for the (Car on hoist) and our "Default" meeting location.

We talked

about the ongoing club business of the (Plaques). This committee was chaired by Dan W. He volunteered and did a fine job with the arrangements. Tom Rhude picked up the finished products from MPL Specialties and had them at the meeting. These are a nice 7X5 wood base with a 3X6 brushed metal plate face. The club logo and title along with a ¾ front view picture of a GN are shown in color. The plaque has an additional 1X6 metal face plate below to have whatever you like printed.

The club ordered several of these for specific members and one for each business that allows us the use of their facilities for our meetings. The cost was only \$15 each. They can still be obtained separately, but the price is another \$6 due to individual as opposed to group orders.

We arranged for Roger Flint to present the Walser plaque to them since he lives very close and is able to get there during business hours. Hopefully this small gesture will help to show our gratitude.

Our up-coming year's events will be as similar to last years as the calendar allows. We will be posting the new schedule on site as time permits. For now we can use last years posting as a guideline.

Our "Season" meeting locations are, May at Ultimate, June at Wagner's, July at Porky's, August at Minnetonka, Sept. and Oct. at JR's and the year end Nov. "Fudds Feed".





## January President's Post (continued)

We talked about possible alternate meeting locations but the aforementioned will be the default unless changed. Change to a pre-set meeting location will only happen with at least 1 month notice. The proceeding meeting will be the last possible opportunity to address the next meeting's location.

We talked about the possibilities of additional club activities. These events could include shows, race days, cruises, etc. These can be either official / formal club events in addition to our regular meetings, or they can be simply informal gatherings by some of the members. We have had good results with the latter in the past. Guys like Dan, Abe, Jayson and now Dave and Kevin our newest members are likely to be participating and would be willing to spread the word. Give them a call if interested in an upcoming event.

If there is interest in official club events, they would have to be planned at least in advance of the last meeting prior to the event. The best time to address these types of issues is our first three meetings of the year. These are the traditionally and logically the best time. Call me if you have any suggestions.

During the Tech session, which is always the last part of the meeting after any business is addressed, we talked about Timely tech. Now might be a good time to check up on our sleeping beauties.

I mentioned that these cars will likely have electrical draws that can drain a battery over time. I had this happen to me last winter. My battery then froze and cracked. This was a new battery that year! Batteries should be kept on a maintainer.

Gas tanks should be topped off to avoid condensation.

Mice and rodents are destructive and will likely use your car for their own purposes unless discouraged. The latest thing I'm trying is "Irish Spring" soap. I cut the bars into small pieces and place them around the interior. Hopefully the strong smell will discourage the mice and still be easy enough to air out in the spring.

Use mouse or rodent poison around the perimeter of the floor near the base of the walls of your stall.

Lay a vapor barrier like a sheet of plastic under the car.

Raise the air pressure in the tires to a higher

than normal pressure. Use stock type highway radial tires to store it on, rather than softer drag radials or slicks. This should help to address the flat spotting issue to some extent. Even at that there will likely be some flat spotting. It may take some driving to round them out again. I suggest lower speeds for this.

Insurance can be modified, (suspend liability but keep comprehensive) for the storage period. Most policies will allow an automatic reinstatement of full coverage date, to avoid forgetting to do it later. This could save a few bucks.

We talked about normal periodic maintenance. We revisited hoses and belt. There is one hose that is very specific to our cars. It's the thermostat bypass (S) hose. It has two very tight bends (approx 120 deg). It is located between the front of the intake manifold and the back of the water pump. This hose would be difficult to replace with anything other than that specific part. When servicing the cooling system you should replace this hose and keep the old used one for a spare.

The upper radiator hose has a special concern. This is due to the close proximity to the belt tensioner. The belt tensioner can slice into the bottom of this hose. Make sure the hose is secured above and away from the tensioner.

The boost control is via the small tube / hose from the turbo outlet nozzle. This line has to be able to contain pressure. Rub it between your fingers. If there is evidence of black on your fingers after this, replace the lines. This goes for all of these small lines, especially this one and the one that goes to the fuel pressure regulator. If either of these small hoses fails, it could lead to catastrophic engine failure!

Curt Carlson mentioned the importance of using the proper (high pressure) hose for the fuel system. These lines have up to 75 psi of fuel pressure. Regular fuel line will fail causing fuel to be sprayed at high pressure, possibly onto a source of ignition.

Although the above things are by far the most important in periodic maintenance, there are the usual other things that should be checked occasionally.

One of the most common things I find is coil pack terminals that need cleaning. This can be done with some sandpaper and Scotch Brite. Use silicone dielectric tune up grease after to seal them against future contamination.



## Spring Extravaganza Car Show

The Gopher State chapter of the Buick Club of America held it's 23rd Annual Spring Extravaganza car show at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds on Sunday May 2nd.

Considering the weather we have had in the past for this show, everything from snow to rain to sunny & 90 degrees, this year the weather was pretty nice, bright and sunny but cool enough for a sweat-shirt.

I got to the show around 11:00 and we had 7 or 8 MGNTA club members cars spread through out the entire show area. Club members Roger Flint and Lanny Lolling took home trophies. 1st place for Roger and 3rd place for Lanny.

It was good to see Ron Heuer's car at the show. It is now being cared for in the hands of it new owner, Troy Peterson, who is Bob Peterson's son.



*Here is a shot from the Gopher State Buick Club show at the Minnesota State Fair grounds on May 2, 2010. In the foreground is an 1984 Regal T-Type with designer series paint and the Lear Siegler interior. This car is owned by David Mustonen. In the background you see the '87 GN owned by club member Joel Parker.*

## Membership Dues are Due!

Tom Rhude, our club Treasurer, asked me to remind everyone that our club dues were due back in January. If you haven't renewed your MGNTA Membership yet, please bring some cash or a check to our May meeting.

Since this is the first newsletter of the year, it is going out to everyone on our mailing list. I'm sure no one will want to miss out on the next exciting issue of this newsletter, or any of the other benefits of club membership, so please make sure your dues are paid!

If you are not able to make it to the May club meeting, you can mail a check to: Tom Rhude, 5428 Eagle Street, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, or give Tom a call at 651-653-9169. Thanks!

## For Sale

I was digging around in the GSBICA storage locker and found some 1/18th scale die cast Regals, 1 gray, 3 white, 1 black 86 GN. When you do the news letter put them in the for sale section at \$54.00 each, which is the cost the club paid for them. I think they have gone up in price since then. If anyone is interested they can call Roger Flint, 952-888-0119





## Speedometer Upgrade

by Curt Carlson

As many of you know, my car is fairly stock. But each year I find one to two mods to do to my car. I think my last mod that I put in the newsletter was re-finishing my headlight bezels, which is holding up quite nicely. I sanded down the bezels and painted them with a satin black specifically designed for painting plastic parts. If you want to see the story, you can check out our June 2008 newsletter, which is available on MGNTA.com.

This time I'm upgrading my speedometer. It may be the rare occasion when I get my car going over 85mph, but just the look of that stock speedometer, does not instill the image of speed and performance. So I've wanted to do this upgrade for several years.

The best looking up grade is to go to a GNX type of dash. I believe there are several suppliers that offer various gauge options. While these look great, they are very expensive, to much for my budget. So I had to look for alternatives.

Kirban's has been offering a 145mph speedometer for several years, they are currently offering a new decal and recalibrating the speedometer head for \$129.95. This sounded like a pretty good deal. But I was not sure if I liked the long white lines that are used in this decal, so I had to keep looking.

The decal I liked best was the one I found at Poston's. I bought the decal for \$25.00 a couple years ago. I don't think Poston's is in business any more but I think this decal is available from other sources. I liked this decal because the numbers are small, the white lines are small, and it includes kilometers like the original did. Now I needed to find a speedometer shop to recalibrate my original speedometer head.

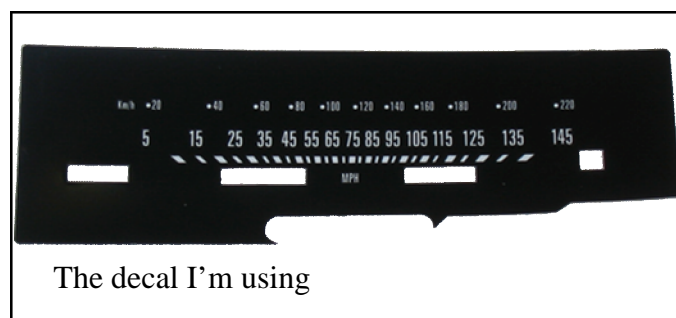
An alternative to recalibrating is to use a gear reducer in the speedometer cable. I know people that have used this method with success, but I chose to recalibrate because I wanted to keep my odometer accurate.

I found a shop in Bloomington to do my recalibration. I applied my decal and brought them the speedometer assembly. They were able do the recalibration for \$65 and they fixed my tripometer as well.

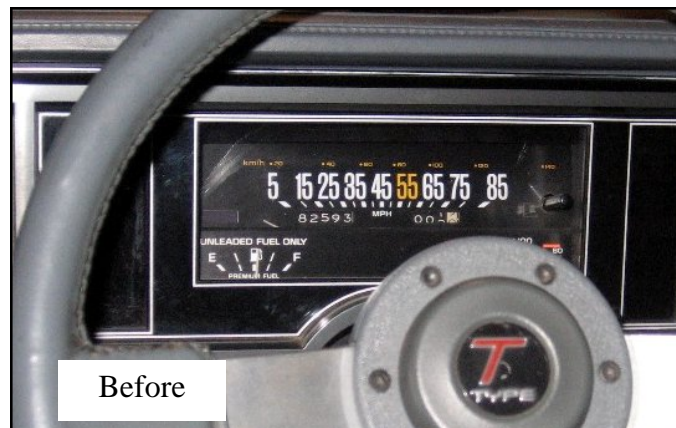
I am extremely satisfied with this upgrade, If you are interested in recalibrating your speedometer, here is their contact info: APT Instruments, 9632 Humboldt Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55431, 952-881-7095, [www.gaugeguys.com](http://www.gaugeguys.com)



Kirban's product



The decal I'm using



Before



After



### MGNTA Logo Plaque

Since we have found ourselves in a yearly routine of meeting locations, it was suggested that we say thank you to our host locations by presenting them with a plaque. This committee was chaired by Dan W. He volunteered and did a fine job with the arrangements. Tom Rhude picked up the finished products from MPL Specialties and brought them to the February meeting. These are a nice 5x7 inch plaques with a wood base with a 3X6 inch brushed metal plate face. On the plate is the club logo and title along with a 3/4 front view picture of a GN which is shown in color. The plaque has an additional 1X6 inch metal plate below to have whatever you like printed.

The club ordered several of these for specific members and one for each business that allows us the use of their facilities for our meetings. The cost was only \$15 each. They can still be obtained separately, but the price is another \$6 due to individual as opposed to group orders.

We arranged for Roger Flint to present the Walser plaque to them since he lives very close and is able to get there during business hours. Hopefully this small gesture will help to show our club's gratitude. Below is a photo of Roger presenting the plaque.

Roger says it was really fun to see how much Walser appreciated the plaque and it should be equally fun to give the plaques to our meeting host locations.



**Walser Buick GMC**  
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**Wanted**



## Car shows and MGNTA Events



### Re-occurring Events

- ◆ Saturday Nights - Anoka Classic Car Show, 5pm to Dusk, 1978 & older, spectators free, May 15 thru Sept 25
- ◆ Every-other Saturday Nights - Hastings Cruise-In, May 29 thru Oct 2, 1976 & older
- ◆ 3rd Wednesday of the Month, Lookout Bar & Grill Cruise Night, May 19 thru Sept, Maple Grove, MN, hosted by Chevy's Best Car Club
- ◆ Friday Nights - North St. Paul History Cruize, June 4 thru Sept 17, 6pm to 10pm
- ◆ Friday Nights in Champlin, May 21 thru Sept 17, Hwy 169 & Hayden Lake Road

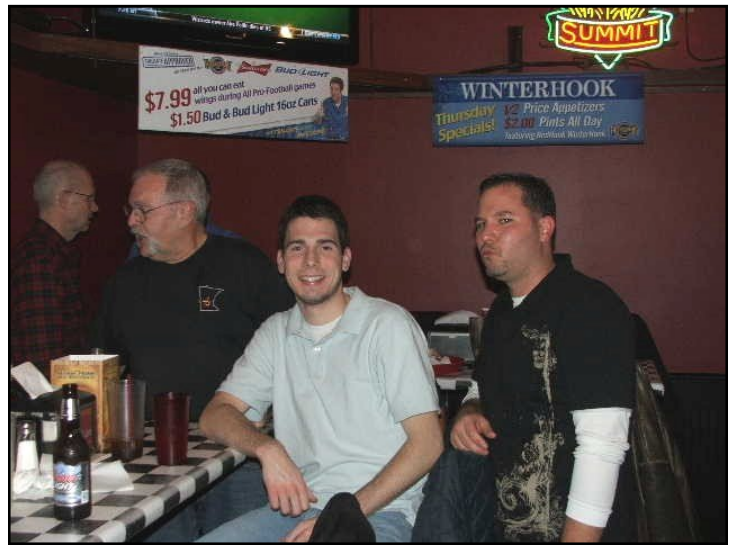
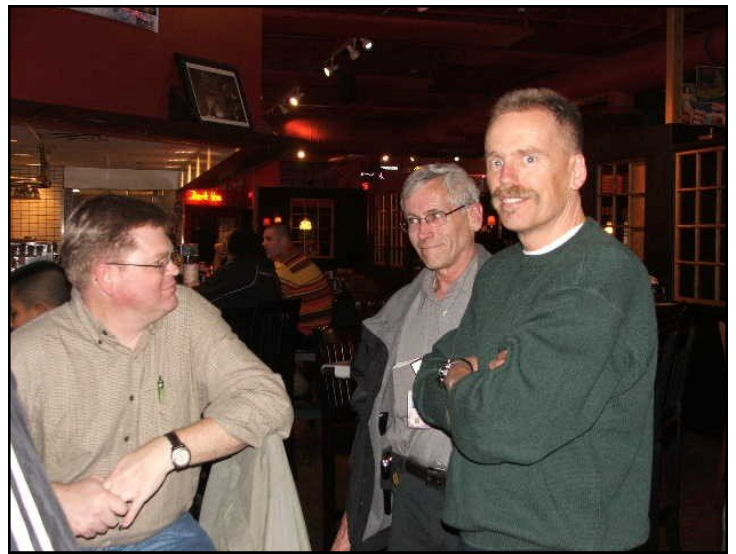
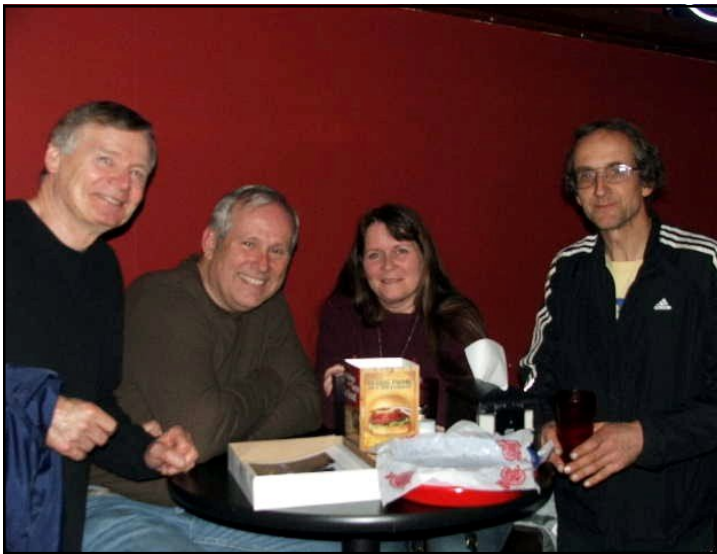
### Events

- ◆ May 23rd, Spring Meltdown Car show, Broadway Pizza Elk River, 9am to 3pm
- ◆ May 27th - May MGNTA meeting at Ultimate Electronics Installation shop in Roseville, MN
- ◆ May 29th - 9th Annual The Transmission Shop / Smith Nielsen Car Show, Free, 10am to 2 pm Brooklyn Park, MN
- ◆ June 5th and 6th, Mopars in the Park, Dakota County Fair Grounds, 8am to 4pm
- ◆ June 6th - All GM Car Show and Swap, 9am to 3pm, MN St Fair Grounds
- ◆ June 6th - Hot Rod Power Tour, Iowa Motor Speedway to June 11th in Mobile, AL
- ◆ June 7th - Drivers School and Lapping, BIR, 7:45 am to 5pm, Brainerd, MN

- ◆ June 12 - Samaritan Tire 5th Annual Car show, 11am to 4pm, Minnetonka, MN
- ◆ June 12th - Perfect 10 Car Wash car show, 5pm to 9pm, Spring Lake Park, MN
- ◆ June 18th - 20th, MSRA's Back To The 50's car show, MN State Fair Grounds
- ◆ June 20th - Annual Stone Arch Festival and Car Show, Free, Minneapolis, 12 - 5pm
- ◆ June 24th - June MGNTA meeting at Wagners Drive-in in Brooklyn Park, MN
- ◆ June 26th - Top 30 Car Show, 11am to 3pm, Oak City Grill, Brooklyn Center, MN
- ◆ July 11th - Jimmy's Food & Drink Car Show, 10am to 4pm, Vadnais Heights
- ◆ July 16h - 18th Car Craft Summer Nationals MN State Fair Grounds
- ◆ July 29th - July MGNTA meeting at Porky's Drive-in in St. Paul, MN
- ◆ August 14 - Duluth Car Show and Time Trials, Lincoln Park, Duluth, MN
- ◆ August 26th - August MGNTA meeting at Minnetonka Drive-in in Spring Park, MN
- ◆ September 30th - September MGNTA meeting at JR's shop in New Hope, MN
- ◆ October 28th - October MGNTA meeting at Walser Buick GMC in Bloomington, MN
- ◆ November 23rd - November MGNTA meeting at Fuddruckers on I-494 and France Ave S
- ◆ More info available at [www.autoswalk.com](http://www.autoswalk.com)



### Photos from the Fuddruckers Feed - November 2009





**Ultimate Electronics**  
**Installation Shop**

- ◆ 2500 Cleveland Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113
- ◆ 651-631-2392 ask for Tom Lininger
- ◆ Find your way to the intersection of Hwy 36 and I-35W in Roseville.
- ◆ North of Hwy 36 on 35W, exit County Road C.
- ◆ From County Road C, go South on Cleveland Avenue
- ◆ The shop is on the East side of Cleveland, just north of County Rd B2



*See you all  
at  
Ultimate  
Electronics*



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TO:

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Lakeville, MN 55044

