

# Classics, Cruise-ins & Rallies



Lee Welch | Sentinel-Tribune  
Nevin McDaniel's 1934 Ford features a late-model driveline with a 302 Ford engine and a Corvette rear end. Combines classic styling with updated mechanical components for enhanced performance.

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# Wendy's classic car shows return

After more than a 10-year hiatus, Wendy's in Perrysburg, Bowling Green, and Fostoria will be hosting classic car shows in their parking lots each month through July.

In the spirit of "classic," Wendy's is going to bring back some of their favorite past time activities for their car shows. There is no registration fee, and each show will include raffle drawings every half hour, T-shirt giveaways, prizes, and a 50/50 charity raffle to help support local charitable organizations

including, but not limited to, Adopt America Network an organization committed to connecting children who wait in foster care with permanent families.

Each classic car show will run from 5-7 p.m. Wendy's in Fostoria, located at 1104 N. County Line Road will take place on July 8th. Wendy's in Perrysburg, located at 26630 N. Dixie Hwy. is on June 29 and July 20. The Bowling Green Wendy's on 1094 S. Main St. will happen July 21.

Additional shows in Northwest Ohio include:

- 11th Annual Autism Awareness Car Show, 5700 Monroe St., Sylvania, June 30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Vehicle owners interested in showcasing their vehicles, irrespective of their make, model, or year—including motorcycles—are welcome to register with a fee of \$10.

- 13th Annual Route 66 Car Show and BBQ, 1400 Cass Road, Maumee, July 6. Free registration at 9 a.m.; show from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dash plaques, raffle prizes, Pastor Ruby' rib and chicken dinner.

- Ohio Car Chix First

Meet, 213 S. Dixie Hwy., July 20, 5 p.m. This is the first official meet of a female-owned and operated car group. The meet will be held at a park located in Portage, after which participants will cruise to the Stroh Center meet in Bowling Green.

- Stony Ridge Car Show, 5705 Oak St., July 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration \$10 with door prizes, food trucks and dash plaques.

- Tiffin Drive-In Theater Classic Car Cruise-In, July 25, 6-8 p.m. with live music by The Tuesday Crowd; and Aug. 22 from 6-8 p.m. with live music by No Eileen. Eat at the theater's Moonlight Diner.

- Cruisin' the Point at Toledo Yacht Club, Aug. 8, Aug. 22, Sept. 5 and Sept. 19 from 6-8 p.m. Dash plaques to first 100 vehicles to register.

- Young's Brothers

Memorial Car Show, 601 E. Boundary St., Sept. 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Registration \$10 with all proceeds going to Grace Church and Wreaths Across America.

- Roche De Boeuf Car Show, downtown Waterville, Sept. 28, registration 9-noon, show noon-2 p.m. Registration \$10, trophies.

- 29th annual Corvette and Chevy Show, 26997 N. Dixie Hwy., Perrysburg, Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open to corvettes and Chevys only.

- Northwood Fall Festival Car Show, behind Great Eastern Shopping Plaza, Oct. 12, registration 9-noon, show noon-2 p.m. Free registration.

- Bluffton Cars and Coffee, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 28 and Oct. 26 from 8-11 a.m. at 902 N. Main St. All makes of autos and bikes are welcomed. Free.

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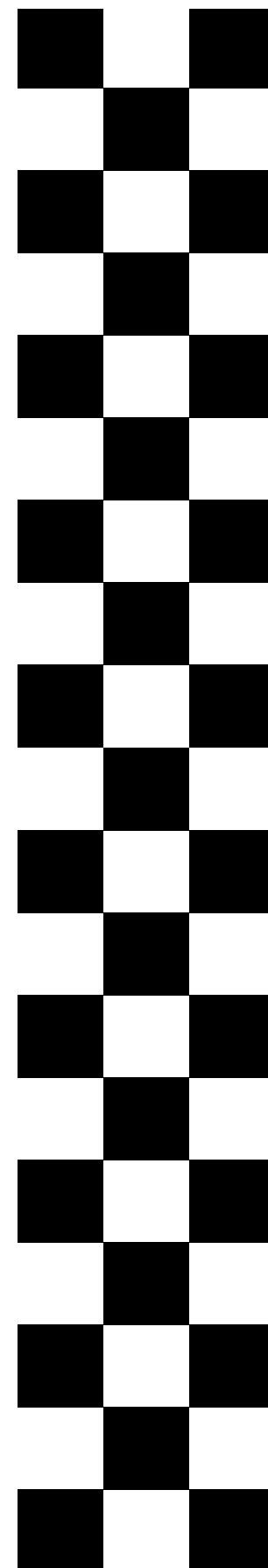
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# Porsche 944 is his dream car

By Jim Krumel  
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LIMA – It came down to buying a Porsche or a Corvette.

A tough pick, but Roy Rojas settled on a 1986 Porsche 944.

“I was looking for a nice car, something I could really enjoy,” the 30-year-old Lima man said. “There are a lot of nice Corvettes out there, but when I came across the Porsche, I knew this was the car for me.”

He used Facebook Marketplace to find the Porsche. The woman

who owned it lived in Dayton and kept the 37-year-old car in great condition with only 95,000 miles on it. The interior was immaculate and the exterior still sported the original paint. The only reason she was selling the car was because a surgery left her having difficulty shifting the manual transmission as well as getting in and out of the vehicle.

Rojas said the woman was happy to sell the Porsche to someone who she believed would keep it in good

condition.

The Porsche 944 is highly regarded by the German automaker for its great handling. It makes regular appearances on lists of affordable sports cars, according to the Road and Track Web site. Rojas’ 944 is fitted with the base engine – a 2.5-liter, five speed in-line four-cylinder engine. The fact that the engine was developed by Porsche itself makes the 944 a “real” Porsche in the eyes of its customers, Road and Track said.

“It’s really a smooth

running car,” Rojas pointed out. “At first it took me a bit to get used to driving a five-speed, but I have it down now.”

He cannot wait for the weather to stay warm so he can take the car out on the road. He purchased it last August and it has been in storage for the winter and much of this spring.

Rojas said the 944 is definitely a step up from the Volkswagen Jetta he has been driving.

“This Porsche is my dream car,” Rojas noted. “It’s a lot of fun to drive.”



Supplied photos

A black leather interior and a sunroof sets off the 1986 Porsche 944 owned by Roy Rojas of Lima.



The 1986 Porsche 944 owned by Roy Rojas, of Lima, is in excellent condition with only 95,000 miles on it.

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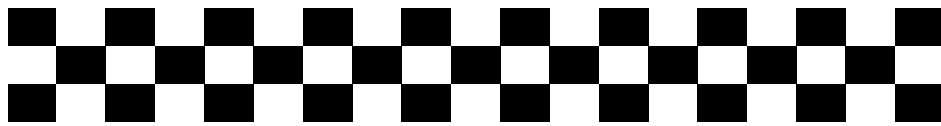
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# A Mercedes made for her

By Jim Krumel  
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Tammy Schakett, of Belle Center, went to Florida in January to get out of the cold and came back with a replica 1929 Mercedes Benz Gazelle.

**BELLE CENTER** – Tammy Schakett knew when she saw the 1929 Mercedes Benz Gazelle, it had her name written all over it.

She and her husband, Larry Fleming, made the January trip to Florida to get out of the cold. Their destination was the Mecum Auction in Kissimmee, Florida. While they really weren't in the "car-buying mode" – more like the "just-looking mode" – they had been to Mecum auctions before and knew it would be a fun time.

Once there, things happened quickly.

"When the car came across the stage, I was like, 'that's what I've always wanted – a roadster.' Nobody was bidding on it. I raised my hand and I got it," Schakett said. "We hadn't even looked at it closely. We bought it 'as is' and it turned out that it was in really good shape."

The kit car only had two previous owners: the man who built it and the person who purchased it from him. It sits on a Mustang frame with a Ford 289 crate engine.

The Flemings had the car shipped back to their home in Belle Center near Indian Lake. It now sits in a garage along with Larry's 1966 Pontiac GTO and

her '66 Chevrolet Malibu. She did manage to get the Mercedes out a few times during this year's winter warm spells.

Mercedes named the car after the Thomson gazelle, a small, fast antelope found in East Africa that can reach speeds of 50 to 55 miles per hour. Only the cheetah, pronghorn and springbok are faster land animals.

"It's just a comfortable, sharp, fun little car to drive around on the weekends when the sun's out," Schakett said. "I've had people give me the thumbs-up when I drive past them. I'm looking forward to taking it out in a few months when the car shows begin."

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# A car named after a star

By Jim Krumel  
info@limanews.com

VAN WERT – Phil Akerman never expected to hear back from the man who owned a 1963 Dodge Polara.

He had attended a cruise-in in Lima six years ago and told the man he'd like to buy his Polara. They had a nice conversation, but the man politely declined, saying it wasn't for sale.

"I never thought I would hear from him again," Akerman said. "Then on a Monday after the car show that weekend, I get a call from the guy. He wanted to know if I was still interested in buying his Polara. He had decided to buy a Mustang GT and was now willing to sell."

It didn't take long for Akerman to close the deal. The 71-year-old Van Wert man has been driving the Polara ever since to car shows throughout Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

"The guy I bought the Polara from actually called me back some time later and wanted to buy back the car," Akerman said.

The Polara was named after the Polaris star, an attempt by Dodge to appeal to the excitement surrounding the space race dur-

ing the early 1960s. It was part of Dodge's lineup from 1960 to 1973, when it was replaced by the Dodge Monaco.

Interestingly, at no place on the outside of the car does the word "Polara" appear.

"It says '440' on the outside of the car and

some people falsely believe that's the name of the car – a Dodge 440 – but the 440 is just a body style," Akerman said.

His Polara has the original 426 cubic inch max wedge V-8 engine, which makes it one of the first muscle cars ever built.

That engine also powered the Polara Pursuit, one of the most revered police cars of the 1960s. It recorded a speed of 149.6 mile per hour on Chrysler's test track in Michigan.

"The car has a lot of history to it," Akerman said.



Supplied photos

A view from inside the Dodge Polara



Phil Akerman, of Van Wert, purchased his 1963 Polara from a man he met at a Lima cruise-in.

# MGB VanTilburg's favorite convertible



Deborah VanTilburg is all smiles behind the wheel of the 1980 MGB.

Supplied photo

By Jim Krumel  
info@limanews.com

WAPAKONETA – Gary VanTilburg has owned four convertibles, but none of them drove as nice as the 1980 MGB he picked up a year ago.

“It handles especially well and is just enjoyable to drive,” he said of the two-seat roadster.

When VanTilburg purchased it from a man in Cleveland, he knew the car needed some work. That didn't deter him.

“I like fixing up older cars,” the 68-year-old VanTilburg said. “The guy was about halfway through replacing the original four-cylinder

engine with an Oldsmobile V8 when he decided to sell it. It did turn out to be more work than I anticipated, but other than tires and some interior work, that was all it needed. The outside was clean, free of rust. A good waxing brought the shine back into the paint.”

The MGB is one of the most affordable classic cars made. The British Motor Corporation built more than a half million MGBs between 1962 and 1980.

British Motors played up the motto of the MGB being “safety fast.”

Unlike other roadsters that have been criticized

for being “so small you wouldn't want to be in an accident while driving one,” the MGB has been remarkably safe for being a small car. Autoweek magazine notes the MGB sported many safety features, such as a crumple zone and collapsible steering wheel, years ahead of American-made cars. More so, the MGB was a unibody car, where every part is welded together.

The biggest challenge VanTilburg sees with the car right now is teaching his wife, Deborah, how to drive it.

“We're working on that,” he said. “She loves the car.”

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Gary VanTilburg, 68, of Wapakoneta enjoys fixing up older cars.

# Pemberville's car show is a step back in time

By Lee Welch

Special to the Sentinel-Tribune

**PEMBERVILLE** — For 62 years, the town of Pemberville has closed down Ohio 105 through downtown three times during the summer to bring the small town streets back to yesteryear with classic car shows.

The June 13 show had 72 cars registered and that helped to fill up most of the side of downtown Pemberville.

Here's a recap of some of the notable cars and their owners:

- Jeff and Tyler Bourdo's 1976 Trans Am: Purchased by Bourdo straight out of high school, stored for over 30 years, and brought back to life after he became a mechanic. Mostly stock with a 455

4-speed engine; the only modification is aluminum heads.

- Tommy's 1957 Chevy Belair: Owned for about 15 years, it features a modern drivetrain paired with a standard 350 and 4-speed transmission. Known for its reliability and fun driving experience.

- Julie Kurtz's 1963 Chevy Impala: Has a 283 engine with the original drivetrain. Modifications include cosmetic updates such as paint, interior, and newer wheels, but largely maintains its stock configuration.

- Nevin McDaniel's 1934 Ford: Features a late-model driveline with a 302 Ford engine and a Corvette rear end. Combines classic styling with updated mechanical

components for enhanced performance.

These cars represent a mix of restoration, preservation, and customization, showcasing the diverse interests and approaches within classic car enthusiasts. Each owner has put their personal touch on their vehicle, whether through mechanical upgrades or cosmetic enhancements, adding to the charm and uniqueness of Pemberville's car shows.

The sponsors of this year's events include PIMA- Pemberville Independent Merchants Association on June 13, Otterbein Senior Life on July 11 and SAL Squadron 183 on Aug. 8. The sponsors provide gifts to the first 100 cars registered to the show as well as door prizes.



Nevin McDaniel's 1934 Ford

Photos by Lee Welch | Sentinel-Tribune



Julie Kurtz' Blue Chevy Impala



A 1957 Chevy Bel Air

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