

June 2019



June Meeting

On a nice summer day ten members gathered at my house in Minneapolis for the monthly club meeting and to help diagnose ignition/start-up issues with my '71 Chevelle.

President Hank Millette led the club meeting as we discussed Summer Nationals, the St. Paul club night, and noted that the club events for September & Octobers are still to be determined. Does anyone need/want to host a technical session? How about go-kart racing or a drive-in movie at Vali-Hi in Elko? I have never been to the Ellingson Motorcars / Car Museum in Rogers. Let the club know if you have meeting ideas or needs for a tech session.

After the club meeting I provided an overview of the issues with start-up. The vehicle had not been able to run consistently since the fan clutch failed and projected itself into the radiator late last summer. Main goal of the day was to get the car running.



Before the work started

The initial thoughts were the coil/Ignitor 1 System was to blame as I was trying to adjust the throttle position last fall and had started the car many times. I thought the coil or ignitor system in the distributor had burnt out. In fact, Pat mentioned that happened to him on more than one vehicle and several club members have indicated the same issue.

Turns out the timing couldn't be advanced enough due to the distributor hitting the intake manifold. The distributor had to be lifted and turned one tooth. I'm glad for the help as I did not even consider that the distributor was out of position. A new set of spark plugs helped the cause as the existing had some damaged electrodes.

Several club members with carburetor knowledge dialed in the floats on the 4-barrel Holley, 750 CFM. The throttle cable position was moved to assist with the travel. After a hang-up with a bad battery the vehicle was running just after lunch!

Other small projects were either started or completed, including:

- Installation of the passenger seatbelt
- Drilling of holes for a bracket for the neutral safety switch
- Making set screws for the driver's side adjustable mirror
- Deciding on a location for the coolant overflow
- Reviewing parts and setup for cowl induction
- Installation of a new Hurst shifter handle



Thanks to those of you that brought tools, especially the air compressor, 90-degree drill bit head and timing gun. Chris, Bob, and Pat brought their rides and my wife mentioned several neighbors were out taking pictures! Much thanks to Jenny for recording the meeting minutes and for bringing her delicious cinnamon cake.

A reminder that owning a Chevelle is not a requirement for guests/club members to belong to the club. A few of you met a co-worker of mine, Nate Rhodes, and he has mentioned a desire to join the club.

Tools – Minnesota Tool Library

The Minneapolis Tool Library is a great way to obtain access to tooling without the cost of purchasing. I realize it's nice to have your own tools, but some things are used so infrequently it doesn't make sense to own. There are several membership options with the lowest at \$55 for an annual subscription for one household member.

The library has over 5000 tools available for use including many automotive tools. Workshops and use of the workspace are also available to members. Larger equipment (table saws, etc) are setup on-site for member use. The library accepts tool donations (note to self on that shingle shovel I will never use again) and, of course, monetary contributions.

The Minneapolis library is located at 1620 Central Ave NE in Minneapolis and is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

The St. Paul library is located at 755 Prior Ave N and is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The web address is <https://www.mntoolibrary.org/>

3D Printing

Innovation and continuous improvements on the original 3D printers have finally enabled many auto enthusiasts the ability to create high quality replacement components. Next month's newsletter will feature various options for 3D printers, from low end models that produce rough single-color prototypes to high end models capable of multi-color/multi-materials including metals.

July 19th-21st: Street Machine Summer Nationals,
State Fairgrounds, Falcon Heights, MN

July 26th: North St. Paul "Club of the Night"

August 10th: Hastings "Club of the Night"

September: TBD

See forum for swap meets, cruises, shows

Chevelle Trivia / Fun Facts / Car News

This month I'm changing things up a little bit to talk more about major events in the general automotive world. Within the last month three notable changes occurred.

Death of the Camaro

Rumors are circulating on-line that the Camaro may be discontinued after 2023 of the 6th generation model. GM has been unwilling to confirm that the 7th generation projects have been put on hold. However, several internal sources have confirmed that to be the case. 2018 Camaro sales have dwindled to the lowest level since 2009. Another contributing factor could be that Camaro's chassis is shared with the now-defunct Cadillac ATS and CTS.

Final production of the VW Beetle

It was reported in 2018 that Volkswagen would stop production of the beloved Beetle in 2019. Well, on the 10th of July the last Beetle rolled off the production line in Puebla, Mexico. The last production car will head to a museum for all to gaze upon in the future decades. I'm sure many of you recall seeing the car in a number of films and was even the star of a few movies, including "Herbie Fully Loaded" and "The Love Bug." The reasoning behind the discontinuation was noted as a decrease in demand for compact cars, but the diesel emissions scandal and movement towards battery powered vehicles likely contributed to the Beetle's demise.

Passing of Lee Iacocca

The car world was saddened to learn that Lee Iacocca passed away at the age of 94. He was born in Pennsylvania to Italian immigrants and his father was the owner/operator of a hot dog restaurant. His entry into the automotive world actually started at Ford as a designer (short term). Lee promptly realized his skills and desire fit that of a salesman much better. He was instrumental in the development of the Ford Mustang. He also pioneered a vast new market with the 1975 Granada and launched the successful front-drive Fiesta in Europe.

Lee Iacocca is obviously most notable/recognizable for his leadership at Chrysler. He was hired in 1979 and became CEO in 1980. His vision included hiring top managers and he was successful in lobbying for and obtaining a government loan to keep the company afloat. Significant company products under his leadership included the Dodge Caravan and Plymouth Voyager Chrysler returned to profitability just after Iacocca completed his first year as CEO.



Sources:

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/features/volkswagen-beetle-production-halted-production-of-its-iconic-beetle> 09 Jul 2019

<https://www.motor1.com/news/356610/chevy-camaro-discontinue-2023/> 07 Jul 2019

<https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a28270699/lido-anthony-iacocca-obituary/> 07 Jul 2019