

**October 2015**



Pic courtesy of  
Chris P, Taken  
While driving!

Fall is here, and you know what that means.... Get those last cruises in; enjoy your rides before they go into hibernation. We had some great weather this summer; hopefully we'll have an easy winter and an early spring. Looking back over the summer, we've had some new members join, and seen others move. One thing remains unchanged: our members have fun together. We're to that point of the year where our officers will need to be nominated and voted upon by our membership. Please do your best to attend the next couple meetings and support your club. We need our volunteer leaders to help arrange meetings, and guide the group.

### **Winter storage:**

Everyone has their own recipe for winterizing their car (or whatever you consider your ElCamino). Over the years, I always write about what you should do, what others are doing, and what I do (less than most). Really, winterizing your car is more of a result of WHY you're doing it. There are several things we're trying to protect our cars from: external damage, corrosion, and rodents. Here are some things to consider when putting your car away:

**External Damage:** Car covers not only protect from things like tree sap, acid rain, UV rays and whatever "fallout" is, but they also simply keep the crud off. If you're leaving it outside, you also have to contend with small twigs and branches that drop, acorns, pinecones, and leaves. Once leaves get wet and start to decompose, it starts to affect painted surfaces and they creep into all those hard to reach crevices. My car was left outside for well over 10 years under a blue tarp when I bought it. The tarp beat the paint so bad that even though the color is still there, the shine won't ever come back. Plastic tarps aren't for cars. Buy a car cover, they're worth the money. I still use mine, even inside. Keeps the dust off, saves your paint.

**Corrosion:** Like it or not, if your car sits outside in the winter, it's potential for corrosion increases. Snow in itself isn't corrosive, but if you use salt on the driveway and you're parked close to it, you will see some effects. As the salty snow evaporates, it will find those bare surfaces. It's mostly seen on brake surfaces. You also will have some internal corrosion from the engine sitting for so long, that's why many people "fog" their cylinders with WD40 or oil. A good suggestion is to change the oil at the end of your driving season to get all those contaminants out before it sits. Don't forget that on first fire-up in the spring, you want to crank the engine over for a bit until it builds oil pressure.

**Rodents:** This is where you start to hear all those "swear by" solutions. You can cover the basics like using poison pellets around the car, fragrant soap shavings, or even a moat of antifreeze. Remember last month's newsletter? The sealed air bubble for your car isn't the worst idea ever, though some owners go to the extreme and make the equivalent of a mouse-sized Ninja Warrior obstacle course for those little buggers to help protect their car.

## Mike's birthday cruise:

This is one of the great benefits of being part of a good club. Want to do something? Make a quick plan and let us know! Mike's Birthday Cruise had a plan to visit the St Croix vineyard area and hit the drive-in. It was nice weather and it sounds like there were a handful of various makes/models that went with.

## Coming this month:

Date: Oct 17<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:30am

Place: Veit Automotive Foundation Museum, 914 80th St NW, Buffalo, MN 55313

Site Link: <http://www.veitauto.com/>

\*\*\*The meeting will be at 9:30 with the tour of the auto museum starting at 10:00. For those who are interested, a visit to the horse stable will follow.

## Up in November:

Date: Saturday November 21st

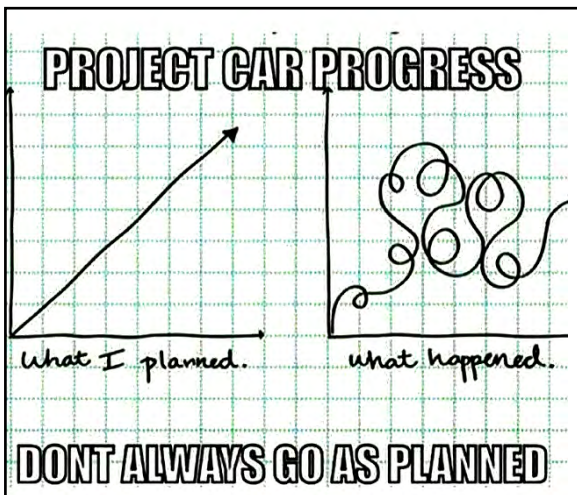
Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Place: Mermaid Entertainment & Event Center - Mounds View

Come on out and clobber some pins... or put on your best "Statler & Waldorf" and heckle the bowlers from the rail.

\*\*\*Depending upon turnout, there may be a minimal per person cost to bowl. Dinner and drinks would also be on your own tab. Since this is during adult leagues with adult beverages served, it is leaning toward an adult function. However, the decision to bring children is ultimately left to the parents

Here's what happened with my rear disc brake swap:



I'm hoping to get it moving again, now that the Cruise is over. I did make more progress, then rethought something and had to stop and re-paint. The rear stuff is about halfway through final assembly, and hopefully an uneventful firewall side upgrade will keep things on track. I would like to at least button it up before the snow flies and get a trip around the block to test it before covering it for the winter.

How many  
of you  
are  
this way???





The October newsletter wouldn't be complete without a recap of Cruise for Troops. Northstar Chevelle Club has been a strong participant in Cruise for Troops for the past several years. This year, we had a good line of Chevelles, and club members covered every era and most of the Muscle car years. I wasn't able to do the cruise this year (my first miss in 4 years), but it was a nice winding drive through Columbus, Hugo, Stacy, and townships along the way. Total participation number is still being estimated since we open the gate for anyone later in the afternoon, but it is in the 600-800 range. Look at the picture above, we completely filled the lot at Running Aces. We drew so many spectators that while everyone was out cruising, we had to expand the "normal" car parking area to accommodate the extra crowd.

The main event started under the 40x160 tent with the 451<sup>st</sup> army band and the Polaris Battalion U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corps presenting the colors. After the Pledge of Allegiance and opening comments by Cruise for Troops founder Russ Hanes, guest speaker USMC Major Chris Hage spoke about the war we're currently in, our members of the military, and the support we are giving them. The ceremony continued with a reading of names of each of the fallen Minnesota active soldier since 9/11 and Taps.

Upon return from the 50 mile cruise, everyone was greeted by live music from the Holy Rocka Rollaz and were free to visit the various vendors and military displays, and of course eat. The silent auction was up and running with about 100 different things to bid on, ranging from gift cards to merchandise baskets to one of a kind furniture to experiences. By close of bidding, we raised over \$10,000 for the Tribute To The Troops Fallen Heroes' Children's Education Fund. Once again, Cruise for Troops was the largest combined car and motorcycle cruise in the Midwest. I will share the final donation amount once we get all the expenses settled and final merchandise sales tabulated, hopefully after next weekend.

What will next year bring? Look for cheaper food, more military displays and involvement, more clubs participating, and overall, building on everything we have learned-both positive and negative. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please feel free to message me through the club website or send an email to us through the Cruise for Troops website or through it's Facebook page. As we grow, we continue to look for help. We're always looking for more sponsors, either with donations or businesses that can take care of those things that cost money. We also need more volunteer help. More volunteers mean shorter shift(s) and you get to be part of something that really does help make a difference. Do you want to help, but aren't sure? We can always use help dropping flyers at cruises and shows or getting posters into businesses and bars. Every little bit helps. Heres some pictures:



