



Wisconsin Society of Automotive Historians

Summer Issue 2026



Welcome to the WSAH Summer Newsletter! Allow me to introduce myself. I am Mary Goodearle, your new newsletter editor. As a classic car enthusiast, I am excited to be a part of your group! I will be bringing you quarterly newsletters featuring upcoming events, meeting notes, featured members, articles and much more. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas you have about our newsletter. I will always welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Wisconsin Automotive Historians Spring 2026 Meeting

Submitted by Dan Manola

The Spring meeting was held on April 25 at 1PM at the Wisconsin Automobile Museum in Hartford WI. The members in attendance were Ken Nimocks, Don Gullikson, Dan Sharpee, Gene Steinfeldt, Gary Koehnke, Larry Staszak, Greg Ziegler, Jim Morris, Jessica Zdanowicz, Bob Barr, Russ Schultz, Reuben Johnson, Gary Kaphingst, Dawn Bondhus, Mary Ann Goodearle (the newly acquired newsletter editor), and Dan Manola. Kerri Staszak and Erin Rice attended as guests. Don Gullikson opened the meeting by reading the minutes of the fall meeting that was held in Cross Plains WI. The minutes were approved by a motion from Gary Koehnke and were seconded by Jim Morris. Next, Gary Koehnke read the treasurer's report. A motion to accept the report was made by Dan Manola and seconded by Dan Sharpee.

Dawn Bondhus explained the work she had done to make minor updates to the Kissel book before it is reprinted. Erin Rice had also done some editing. Dawn spoke about some of the cost that took place for the reprint. She went on to talk about what WSAH might expect for the reprint of the Wisconsin Cars and Trucks book. Bob Barr made a motion to go forward with the plans to reprint the book. A vote was taken with all members present, and it was unanimously approved.

Don Gullikson moved on to new business. Mary Ann Goodearle was introduced as our new newsletter editor. She was warmly welcomed to our group. (Continued on Page 2)

The following information was presented:

- A donation of \$500 was made to the Raw Hide Organization
- The annual donation of \$1000 was made to the Wisconsin Auto Museum.
- An additional \$250.00 was earmarked for promoting WSAH at the museum special events.
- The lola car show theme will be red, white, and blue in recognition of America turning 250 years old in 2026.
- The dates for the lola car show will be July 9th 10th and 11th
- Only the Lindsey room in the building will be available for displaying invitational and theme cars this year.
- The Theme room will be set up for a special guest, Sung Kang
- There will be an entrance fee for the blue-ribbon cars at the show.
- Our summer meeting will be held at 1 PM on July 10th at the lola car show

Iola Car Show 2026

Members who have volunteered to work at the Iola Car Show should have all received volunteer packets.

The gates open for car registration each day at 6 AM

The gates open for spectators each day at 7AM

Admission for one day is \$20. You can obtain a three-day pass for \$30. For club members who are volunteers at the car show, please use your wrist band for all three days.

Volunteers, please honor your pledge to help out at the car show. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated!

Featured Member, Gene Steinfeldt



Gene bought his 1929 Ford Woody Station Wagon in 1998. The original Woody was stripped down to its bare frame. The engine had to be completely rebuilt. The frame and the cowl were stripped down, sandblasted, and painted. The wood top and all the wood on the sides had to be replaced. The wood parts were ordered from a company in New York. As you can see in the picture above, the wood pieces arrived in a crate. The wood top was assembled piece by piece. This was a labor of love for Gene. With the help of a friend, who worked for free lunches, the work got done. In fact, five years of work on it was completed on the Wednesday before the 2001 Iola Car Show. It made its debut showing there just one day later. Gene and his Woody Wagon have been in countless parades, including the Appleton Memorial and Flag Day Parades. The Woody was a part of several weddings too. Car shows were a family affair for the Steinfeldt clan. Gene's brothers and sisters also owned antique cars. Their cars appeared all in line with each other every year at the Pierce Park Auto Show in Appleton. Gene has restored several other antique cars as well, including his 1931 Ford Model A Coupe. (That's a story for a future issue!). Gene loves to give people rides in this beautifully restored car. In fact, he gave me a ride in it. Our destination was Dick's Drive-in located in Kaukauna WI. Gene loves to honk at people on the street. The Woody's horn makes an "Ah-roo-ga" sound. People smile and wave when Gene drives by. If you are ever in Little Chute, give Gene a call. My guess is that he would love to show it to you. And, if you are lucky, you might even get to go for a ride!

If you would like to have your antique car featured in our next issue, call, text or email me. I would love to hear your car's story!

Mary Goodearle 920-572-5277 newparadigms2000@icloud.com



My Love for the Mustang

By Dan Manola

My love for the Ford Mustang did not start with my first car. First, I owned a Ford Customline. That car began my education of trying to figure out the mechanical side of automobiles. My second car was a bronze 1965 Mustang coupe. It was equipped with a 289 cubic inch engine. It had more than enough power to get me where I wanted to go. I drove my first Mustang for about four years. Then, I decided that I wanted something newer. I bought a 1968 Mustang GT fastback. It had a 390 cubic inch/335 horsepower engine. Other than the color, it was a Frank Bullitt car. It had a roof console, which was a rare option. It also had two overhead map lights. I lived in Chicago at that time where no car was safe when parked on the street. I can't tell you how many of my cars were broken in to, and items like tools and radios were taken. One day when I walked out of the door, something was missing. My Mustang was not there! At first, I thought that some of my friends were pulling a prank on me. But no such luck. It was really gone! Typically, the Chicago Police didn't recover stolen cars. It was true in this case too. To this day, I still believe that the death penalty would be the perfect punishment for car thieves. After receiving a check from my insurance, I began searching for a new Mustang. After a year of looking, I still had not found just the right car. Then, I spotted a 1968 ½ Mustang Shelby in the Hemmings Motor News. It was in Toledo Ohio. The problem was that it was beyond what my budget allowed. My fiancé loaned me \$1300.00. That and my \$700.00 insurance money gave me enough money to try and buy the car. There was a little room to haggle as well. A good friend gave me a ride to Toledo. The Shelby had a 428 cubic inch engine. At that time, Ford had to install five hundred 428 engines into Mustangs, Torinos, and Mercury Marauders, to qualify that engine to compete in NASCAR. I was excited to drive it home. Unfortunately, during the trip back, the Shelby went through a case of transmission fluid. Since then, the transmission has been in and out three times. It still is not completely done. I will leave the rest of my Mustang Shelby story for another time!

Did You Know?

It was a woman who invented the first automobile windshield wiper. Her name was Jan Whitfield. She created the design for her own car. A woman also invented the first automobile passenger compartment heater. Her name was Margaret Wilcox. She patented her design in 1893. It was the de foundation of car heaters and air conditioners that are used today!



Buy, Sell, Trade Corner

This is a new feature of our newsletter. Please submit your items to the Newsletter Editor, Mary Goodearle at newparadigms2000@icloud.com

Upcoming Events

- July 9-11, Iola Car Show, Iola WI
- July 19, Pierce Park Auto Show, Appleton WI
- August 2, Swap Meet and Car Show, Chippewa Falls WI
- Sept. 19, The Hill and Valley Antique Auto and Americana Show, Baer Park in Cross Plains WI
- Stay tuned for future information on our Fall Meeting

Club Contacts

Don Gullikson, Acting President, blazer47@tds.net

Ken Nimocks, Vice-president, knimocks@netnet.net

Dan Manola, Secretary, sponge19501924@yahoo.com

Gary Koehnke, Treasurer, garyk7140@gmail.com

Mary Goodearle, Newsletter Editor, newparadigms2000@icloud.com

That's it for this issue. Until next time, drive safe and always enjoy the ride!

