

For Pete's Sake!

We all know and love our longtime treasurer, Pete Nathan. Pete is the proud owner of a gorgeous 1935 Buick with a later model Buick 340 engine and 200R4 transmission. Though the powertrain has been upgraded, most of the original undercarriage has been retained. Pete's basement is nearly filled with the numerous trophies he has won at car shows around the Midwest.



Unlike many Buicks of that vintage, Pete regularly drives his car. In 14 years of ownership, he has logged 100,000 miles. Actually, he drives the wheels off his car –literally. But more on that later.

He finally got tired of the many nervous panic stops he had to make in today's traffic with 80+ year old braking technology. He contacted Fat Man Fabrications to produce a disc brake conversion for his car which was then installed by Greg's Automotive in Maryland Heights. Much better — much, much better!



This past car season has not been a trouble free year for Pete and his car. Through his travels over the Midwest, he has run into several calamities that sidelined his car or caused him delays along the way.

It all started with him backing into a pole in a parking lot. Since backup cameras were not yet in vogue in 1935, he has limited visibility during backing. The result of this incident was a bent rear luggage rack. Corrective action to repair the damage was (get this) running straps from the rack around a telephone pole and applying power to the car to pull it back out. The result is that the original damage is not visible. Don't try this at home folks!

Pete is a passionate supporter of Arthritis charities. Having suffered through the years with Rheumatoid Arthritis himself, he devotes much of his time and energies for juvenile arthritis causes. As such, he is an avid worker and participant in the annual Juvenile Arthritis car show in Columbus, Ohio. This car show attracts about 1500 cars and makes an annual contribution of nearly \$250,000 to this wonderful and worthy cause. Traveling there in July, he had what can only be described as an "eventful trip".

Along the way to Columbus, he experienced an electrical gremlin. First the right turn signal would not operate. After a while it began to operate, but the cruise control then disconnected. Back and forth he went all the way to Columbus. An automotive electrician later discovered the cause and fixed it.

On the way home, he had a major blow-out. The tire totally shredded and the spoked wheel came apart. Not sure the chicken and the egg here, but they both were totally destroyed. AAA towed him to a friend's house along the way where he was able to replace it with a spare.



Then, just to add some salt to the wound, he started leaking coolant from his radiator. He was able to stop and add a gallon of water which got him home safely. Finding a replacement radiator for an 80 year old car is not an easy task. He finally was able to locate an aftermarket radiator manufacturer who could make him a new radiator. He crated up his old radiator and sent it along the way to be duplicated with modern radiator technology. Since this was not an inexpensive replacement, Pete was rightfully concerned that his new radiator would function properly and reliably. He asked them if they provided a guarantee or a warranty. The answer he got was “At your age—don’t worry about it.”

Hopefully Pete’s experiences from the 2018 car season are past history and he can safely and comfortably work towards his next 100,000 miles.

