

# The Gas Line

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## President's Corner

Happy New Year!

Hope everyone was as excited as we were to ring in 2021! We had no problem saying 'Good-Bye' to 2020.

2020 did fly by in a flash even with the shutdowns, staying home, social distancing, mask wearing, self-isolating, on and on. We are looking forward to a better 2021 and, hopefully, an end to the pandemic and many opportunities for day tours and overnight tours.

Please plan on attending the monthly meeting and consider signing up for monthly treats and/or a monthly activity. We will also discuss the Swap Meet. We need someone to step up and take on the position of being the contact person, accepting applications, collecting payment, assigning Swap space, and setup of Swap vendors. This is the position that Larry and Clyde have undertaken for the past several years. They will not be able to help us this year. We really appreciate everything Larry and Clyde have done to help make the Swap Meet the success it has always been.

Mark your calendar -- our monthly meeting will be

**Thursday, January 7, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Aero Mark, 1940 International Way**  
**Idaho Falls, ID 83402**

**CHAPTER EVENTS**

**Jan 7** – Chapter Meeting, Aero Mark, 1940 International Way, Idaho Falls, 7 p.m.

**MEETING TREATS**

Coming in 2021!

**NATIONAL EVENTS**

**Apr 25-30:** Chrome Glidden Tour, Alcoa/Marysville, TN Jimmy and Debbie Hixson (386) 478-6668 [debbieowens1953@aol.com](mailto:debbieowens1953@aol.com)

**Jun 6-10:** Nickel Tour - Planes, Trains & Automobiles, Troy, OH Rick Lindner (614) 263-3673

**Jun 6-11:** Lewis & Clark Regional Tour, Yankton, SD to Mobridge, SD. Jim and Judy Johnson, (605) 390-4410 or [jim.judy.johnson@rap.midco.net](mailto:jim.judy.johnson@rap.midco.net)

**Jun 13-18:** 1&2 Cylinder Tour, Fremont, OH. Marty Tansey & Jerry Martin, [dmtansey@ncwcom.com](mailto:dmtansey@ncwcom.com)

**President's Corner (continued)**

Wearing masks is strongly advised. The Skyline Activity Center is not available to us for our January meeting. At this time, they allow a maximum of only ten people in the meeting room. Thank you, Bob and Jane, for your generosity in the use of your building.

Take care and hope to see you at the January meeting.

Douglas

**National News**

The VMCCA has recently released an updated web site with more information than ever before. It has taken some time to get it reorganized and refreshed with a consistent theme, but it is very attractive and useful. Point your favorite web browser to <https://www.vmcca.org> and take a look.

The Touring Chronicle also has a new look and feel – this was not planned, but it is starting to come around. Thanks to Ray for taking on the new software and keeping the tour information coming, even though many events continue to be impacted by COVID-19.

Here are some cars that have the holiday spirit – you might recognize a couple of these photos borrowed from the VMCCA web site (Rich and Joy – nice photos).



## 1953 Packard Caribbean Custom

By Matt Litwin, Hemmings Motor News, December 24

Keen to stay relevant in the luxury market, and appeal to the sporting, well-to-do types, the automaker commissioned an exclusive line of hand-crafted "senior cars," such as this 1953 Caribbean Custom convertible, which was based on the Cavalier line. Its price new was a staggering \$5,200 (or \$50,047 today), and its racy lines - inspired by the Pan American concept car - attracted 750 buyers. To put its rarity in perspective, only three models were built in fewer quantities during the year: the Henney Executive sedan (100 units), Henney Corporate limousine (50 units), and Patrician Derham Formal Sedan (25 units).



According to the seller of this attractive Caribbean:

*For consignment a bespoke luxury convertible with styling tweaked by the legendary Dick Teague and based on the Packard Cavalier convertible. A continental kit, extra chrome and stainless, a sumptuous leather interior, and a high-output 180 horsepower version of their 327 cubic inch straight-8 all combined to draw customers into Packard showrooms one last time. They were hand-built by the Mitchell-Bentley Corporation in Ionia, Michigan and only 750 were built. With a price tag of \$5,210, they were among the most expensive cars you could buy, weighing in at a staggering \$1400 more than a comparable Cadillac.*

Many believe that the 1953 Caribbean was the purest, most elegant design and the last of the truly great straight-8 Packards. The radius rear wheel openings are the primary difference, and it is significant-the '53 looks sporting and little, while later cars with skirts tended towards heavy and ponderous. Then there's the color on this car, which is Packard Maroon. With a soft shine that's entirely appropriate for a product of the 1950s, gaps are very good, and yes, that hood scoop-which was hand-fashioned out of lead on the assembly line-looks better than ever.

The two-tone maroon and white leather interior is exactly the right choice with the exterior maroon bodywork, creating a flashy yet sophisticated contrast that feels sporting and not dated.

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Send me your car photos for  
the website.  
<http://www.eivmcca.org>

## 1943 White M3A1 Halftrack

By Daniel Strohl, Hemmings Motor News, December 27

Every year I tolerate winter less and less. Shoveling is stupid. Ice is stupid. Bundling up in 14 layers just to get the mail is stupid. Salt on the roads is stupid.



Maybe if I had a wintertime hobby, something like cruising around in this 1943 White M3A1 halftrack for sale on Hemmings.com, then maybe winter wouldn't be that bad. With four-wheel drive and tracks, who cares if the roads have been plowed yet? Heck, who cares if the trails have been groomed yet? Maybe add a flamethrower in place of those machine guns and I'd never have to shovel again. I might even come to like winter behind the wheel of something like this. From the seller's description:

*"...a great running/driving WWII MV, nicely restored. Orig. White 160AX Engine, drive train and mechanics rebuilt, New tires and tracks. No cancer. Includes 2 propane firing replica Browning .50 AN M2 machine guns w/mounts. Canvas top and framework included."*

