



# Newsletter



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2011



Well, hello. Seems like a long time since I've written one of these. Presidents message, well, here goes. I usually start out with the weather and say how cold, how hot, how rainy or WET, but this time I'm going to say it has been all of the above and leave it like that!

Our hearts and prayers go out to Dan Caswell and his family with regards to the loss of a wife and mother, Laurie. Laurie was like many spouses---she put up with her husband's hobby and liked being around the other wives and other club members until one day husband Dan got her a car that she liked and then she was hooked. I think it was a Chrysler LeBaron convertible that he bought her at the Motor Magic Classic Car Auction a few years ago. She loved that car...top down and away she went. However, in the back of her mind, she really wanted a Prowler. A what? Yes, a Prowler. Chrysler made them back in the late 90's and early 2000's. BUT, it had to be purple. Good luck with that one, Dan. Well, Dan being the good soldier that he was actually went to Florida and bought her—guess what—a 1999 purple Prowler. I saw it last weekend in Minot's downtown show. It was really sharp and it reminded me of the model car that I had in my shop. Laurie got to enjoy it for about two weeks before her passing. God be with you, Laurie.

Lots going on this month in Minot. Motor Magic ([www.motormagic.net](http://www.motormagic.net)) is certainly the big one for the club over Labor Day weekend, and then two weeks later, our very own Season Finale.

([www.dakotacruiser.com](http://www.dakotacruiser.com)). Things are shaping up with both events. We ask some of the active folks to help at the club table in the entry way for Motor Magic and a sign-up sheet has been passed around for your assistance with that. If you want to help and did not sign up yet, there is still time.

The cars will be lining up on the Friday (Sept 2) anytime after around 9 or 10 that morning but remember that they must be out Sunday night by 5 or thereabouts. "ORPHAN" cars are the featured cars this year, so if you have a Hudson, a Pontiac, a Dodge a Metropolitan or any car that is no longer in production ---WE WANT IT!!!

If you noticed the Wednesday night activities of the club are a bit different this year. I had asked Dave Smith and Dave Alberts to come up with some new things to do and they certainly did. Only real rules are that we want to stay about 30 minutes away from town so people can get back to their homes before it gets too late. It's working so far.

Well, all for now. I hope to see all of you at the Motor Magic event or the Season Finale. Both will be GREAT!

George

### Cool fifties slang

Are you writing a book? - You're asking too many questions  
Cooties - Imaginary infestations of the truly un-cool  
Cruisin' for a bruisin' - Looking for trouble  
Dig - To understand; to approve  
Don't have a cow - Don't get so excited  
Fire Up - Start your engine  
Flat out - Fast as you can  
Get with it - Understand  
Go for pinks - A drag race where the stakes are the car's pink slip  
Haul ass - Drive very fast  
Jacked Up - Car with raised rear end  
Passion Pit - Drive-in movie theatre

The Fifties, America felt bold, important and enthusiastic about the future and we wanted our cars to portray those feelings. We piled on the chrome, we shouted bigger, faster, prettier and Detroit responded with monsters that dripped opulence and luxury...



## Minutes of Dakota Cruisers General Meeting

August 3, 2011

Vegas Motel

### Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by President George Masters at 7:30 PM.

Board members present: George Masters, Joanne Larson, Larry Haug, Randy Hysjulien, Greg Olson, Doug Frazier, and Betty Trzpuc. Jerry Black and Bob Larson were excused.

New members and guests were welcomed. Seventy five people were present.

### Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented.

### Treasure's Report:

The Treasure's report was approved as presented.

### Committee Reports:

- Motor Magic-(Larry Haug-Greg Olson) is scheduled for September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> with move in day on Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Black Eyed Peas benefit concert will be September 3<sup>rd</sup> at the State Fairgrounds with all proceeds going to the Minot Area Recovery Fund. SCCA Auto Cross, Nodak Speedway, and Flat Track racing have been cancelled. Parking will be on north side of the All Season's Arena. SIDNE go cart will be in the same area with van painting next to it. Two wrist bands will be given for entering a car and workers will also receive a wrist band free. Both TV stations will have promotional noon shows. George will do KXMC show on August 30<sup>th</sup> and he requested a member volunteer for the KMOT show to air August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The theme is Orphan Cars and Larry stated he ordered a banner to hang above the room featuring the orphan cars. Members are asked to sign up to work for this event.
- Season Finale-(Randy Hysjulien) is scheduled for September 16-18<sup>th</sup>. Members were reminded to obtain the business door prizes they signed up for. All members are asked to bring a door prize; woman's gift if you a female and man's gift if you are male.
- Christmas Party-(Joanne Larson- Linda Black) will be December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- NDSRA Annual Meeting/Christmas Party-(Bob Larson-Dave Alberts) will be January 14, 2012.

### Old Business:

- Raffle tickets- will be available to purchase at Motor Magic. Buy lots of them!
- Year of the Next Generation- George reported the '56 Chevy project is on hold for now.
- Classic Car Museum- Joe Uhrmacher suggested that since the Ward County Historical Society flooded and had huge losses that maybe we could work with them to achieve this.
- Newsletter- the July/August newsletter is on the internet and the snail mail version will be sent out soon.

- Flood Relief Fund Committee-George submitted a proposal requesting monies from Tom Marsland for the Dakota Cruisers flood victims, as at the last meeting he stated he had a very rich friend. Tom's reply was that Josh Duhamel has already contacted this friend to donate to the Minot Area Recovery Fund. If any money comes forth we do have a committee in place.

New Business:

- Arts in the Park- At the Hop will be August 4<sup>th</sup> at the Heritage Center featuring The Treble Makers and the Dakota Cruisers cars. We have a contract with MACA to display our cars at this event.
- Christmas Donation- A suggestion was made to give the \$500.00 donation to the flood recovery fund this year. George stated they need to make a written request to the Board.

Announcements:

- Safety Inspection Team-(Dave Alberts, Rod Krause and Doug Frazier) will be available following the meeting.
- August 31<sup>st</sup> is the next Board meeting. This will be following the burger burn/potluck in Carpio.
- September 7<sup>th</sup> is the next general meeting.
- Check website for other events.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Trzruc, Secretary

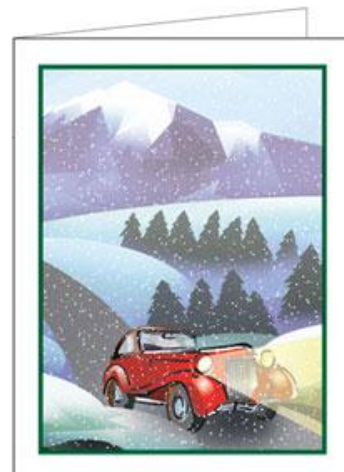
## Classifieds

**Looking for storage?**

For rent: Winter Car Storage

October through April  
\$250.00

Contact Bill 720-7183



## The History of the Rat Rod

The rat rod comes in many mind blowing backyard mechanic flavors. So, where did it all start and who really built the first rat rod? The argument has been made that rat rods are more recent variations of low dollar street rods built by rodders looking for the rusty vintage look and appeal of true 40's, 50's and 60's rods. Some of this is true in individual cars, but not on the whole. A view back to the 70's will show rat rods for sale in local papers.

Many say rat rod history originated from a Rod & Custom Magazine issue from 1972, where a low dollar rod was highlighted as a feature car. Others dispute the origin of the term "rat rod". An article written by Gray Baskerville in Hot Rod Magazine used the term to describe a 1932 Ford roadster painted in primer. Did Gray coin the term rat rod? There are other stories and variations of the origin of both the cars and phrase. With so many claims, it is best to point out the original car and term usage for which is documented in both articles.

Without a doubt, many rat rods appear to be unfinished. The finish can be primer or Mother Nature's true patina. Truly lucky rat rods have a combination of original paint and true patina rusty finish. These street rod variations are built for function, with form revolving around function. The interior is usually as simple and as basic as possible. Drive train is built based upon engine power, with most engines running on 8 cylinders. Hemi engines and old flat heads are most desirable for the true rat rod fanatics, keeping with the nostalgic look and feel of old street rods. Suspension too is minimal on most cars, keeping the car as low to the ground as possible.

Rat rods are welcome by most. There are groups of preservationists that wish to deter the modifications to vintage cars. These groups also do not support the rat rod's simple function and rustic look. Some claim that the cars are imitations. However, rat rods are truly an evolution of the art, form, and function we see in street rods. Street rods and hot rods have risen in value over the past 20 years. With the wide array of chrome, billet, paint options, leather interior, etc., builds can easily exceed \$30,000.00 dollars for a basic hot rod. So where does this leave the rest of the low and middle income and street rod fans? Once again, it is an evolution, not everyone can afford a \$30,000.00 dollar hot rod. Many of the bodies used to form rat rods were forgotten and left in fields to rot away. Most would never make it into the paint booth. So, for the preservationists, they must consider that many cars turned into rat rods would otherwise waste away in fields forgotten forever. Rat rods have managed to save more cars than those used by modifying perfectly good bodies.



In general, rat rods add flair to an already diverse hobby for car enthusiasts. The rat rod opens another door for people and new fans to get into a hobby enjoyed by many. Personally, I used to ride a Harley-Davidson and enjoyed motor biking for 7 years. I lost a good friend on a bike, and I too ended up hitting a 6 point buck on my bike a few years later. I've left bikes behind and now enjoy being wrapped in good ole rusty Henry steel. Quite honestly, I feel rat rods are much cooler and certainly more original than the now over-populated Harley hobby. Don't get me wrong, Harleys are cool, but rat rods take it all a step further. To each his own and enjoy a truly original hobby of rat rods.



# The History Of ED "BIG DADDY" ROTH

Ed "Big Daddy" Roth

March 4, 1932 - April 4, 2001

Ed "Big Daddy" Roth was born in Beverly Hills on March 4, 1932. He grew up in a German speaking household with a younger brother, Gordon. In school Ed learned to speak English and he liked to draw. Ed was able to do his homework and keep up with the rest of the class while he drew pictures of airplanes, hot rods and monsters. His father Henry was very strict with the brothers and kept the two out of trouble by supplying them with tools and a workshop. Ed's dad was a German cabinet maker and it was in the workshop where Ed learned how to build crazy stuff out of wood.

Ed purchased his first car in 1946 shortly after WW II ended. It was a 1933 Ford Coupe. He graduated high school in 1949, and went on to college majoring in engineering so he could advance his knowledge in automotive design. He started with his '33 Ford. Ed did pretty good in college but got bored with his engineering and physics classes because they just didn't have anything to do with cars.

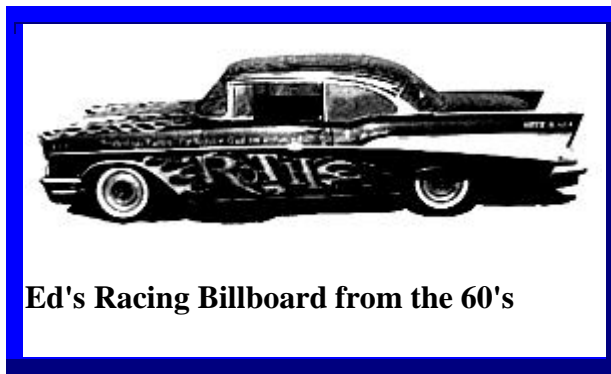
Ed joined the Air Force in 1951 and went to bombsight school in Denver where he learned how to make maps. He became an expert barber on the side. He was stationed in Africa for awhile and then transferred to South Carolina for 4 years before coming home. Ed was honorably discharged in 1955.

By that time he owned several vehicles, he was married and had 5 children, all boys. Ed began working at Sears in the Display Department and started pin striping cars after work.



As his family grew so did the bills. In 1958 Ed went to work full time with "The Baron" and his grandson Kelly. Using junkyard parts and a newly developed product called fiberglass, Ed created automobiles in his garage. Ed's first car was called the "Little Jewel" and then shortly after that came the "Outlaw", which showed the world that anyone could design and build a car without being some kind of certified automotive engineer. All you really needed was imagination, some motor head know-how, a lot of elbow grease and gumption.

Presto! His garage became his studio where other creations came into light which include the "Beatnik Bandit" and "Rotar".



**Ed's Racing Billboard from the 60's**

Ed became Ed "Big Daddy" Roth, a hot-roddin' gear head, mad scientist and struggling artist who financed his inventions by selling drawings and t-shirts at drag events, fairs and car shows. Ed would draw cartoons of monsters that he created and pictures of cars. But when he personally airbrushed t-shirts with the monsters driving the cars, people went crazy and would line up at his booth.



Ed signing autographs @ *Route 66 San Bernardino, CA September '99'*

Ed's most popular monster was Rat Fink. Rat Fink started as a drawing that Ed had put on his refrigerator. "BiG Daddy" was a genius at designing cars but it was Rat Fink that brought him fame. By 1963, teenagers across America were buying Rat Fink model kits and mass-produced Rat Fink T-shirts.

When Ed got so busy that his garage couldn't handle the work, he moved his operation into a new larger shop in Maywood, California. Ed had to hire several employees to help him build and produce more custom car and t-shirts. Revell American produced model car kits that featured the "Beatnik Bandit" and "Road Agent". Other model kits included "Rat Fink" and the gang a group of hot rodding monsters. Here is a very interesting Note: During 1963 Revell paid Ed a one cent royalty for each model sold. Ed brought in \$ 32,000 that year in royalties, now figure out the math, that's how popular Ed's creations were.

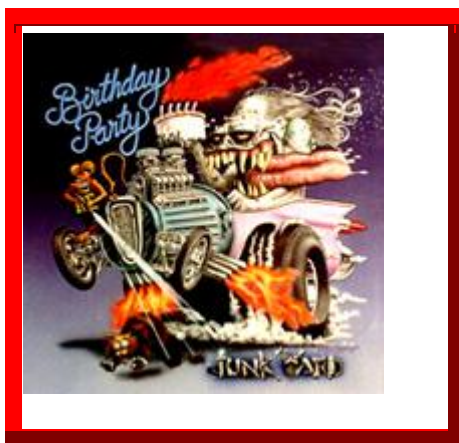
The Gang included: Rat Fink, Drag Nut, Mother's Worry and Mr. Gasser. They soon became heroes to young kids across the nation who could relate to the stories and themes of the gang.



There were also several record albums produced. The band was called Mr. Gasser (featuring Ed Roth) and the Weirdos. The songs featured on these records told descriptive stories about the gang and their favorite pastimes like hot rodding and surfing. The general message intended was that being different or weird was o.k. and being a Fink or a Weirdo was cool. It was a lesson some of us never forgot.

Rat Fink and the gang driving their hot rods have become rock-art icons. Originally they were adopted by surf musicians and today the gang can be found everywhere. A number of punk and alternative bands have used Roth's images on LP's and CD's such as: Birthday Party "An Australian Band" with Junk Yard covers 1981 and current releases by the Voodoo Glow Skulls Cover Artist "Marco Almera". There is even a band called Rat Fink.

Other Roth fans and enthusiasts include the Cramps and Rob Zombie of White Zombie. Rob Zombie is also an extremely gifted artist claiming that "Big Daddy" is his Daddy. Zombie currently has a whole line of sportswear and hot rodding swag that he manufactures.



Ed Roth's artwork can be found throughout the late 80's and mid 90's in underground comics produced by Roth and Sloane. You can also find Roth's artwork in tattoo parlors and in art galleries. Yes, many of us consider Roth's work fine art. You can also find Roth's creations on concert posters by other American cult artist Frank Kozik and Coop.

Ed Roth passed away on April, 4th 2001 the doctors said it was a heart attack. Ed Roth's genius has created a timeless monster. Rat Fink and the Gang will still reach the diverse demographic appeal of the young adults of today and us baby boomers of the fifties. Rat Fink and the gang will continue into the new millennium capturing a new group of Finks young and old for decades to come.

~ September 2011 ~

October ►

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Noon Luncheon Motor Magic	<b>3</b> Motor Magic
<b>4</b> Motor Magic 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Classic Car Auction	<b>5</b> Labor Day Motor Magic	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Monthly meeting Vegas 7pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Noon Luncheon	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Wednesday Nite cruise-Pre Finale meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Noon Luncheon Season Finale	<b>17</b> Season Finale
<b>18</b> Season Finale	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Wednesday Nite Cruise-MSU block Party 5-8pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Noon Luncheon	<b>24</b> MSU homecoming parade
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Wednesday Nite Cruise -TBA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Noon Luncheon	<b>Notes:</b>

Depend on the rabbit's foot if you will, but remember it didn't work for the rabbit.



# Member Directory

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POSITION	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL
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Board Member	Randy Hysjulien	838-2638	hysh@srt.com
Board Member	Bob Larson	838-0063	pblarson@minot.com
Board Member	Doug "Spanky" Frazier	721-7203	badss@aol.com
Board Member	Greg Olson		gominot@yahoo.com
Webmistress	Sherie Saltveit		sherie.saltveit@minotstateu.edu

WEBSITE ADDRESS:  
[www.dakotacruiser.com](http://www.dakotacruiser.com)

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**(701) 852 - KARS**

ADDRESS CORRECTION  
SERVICES



800 31st Ave. S.E., Lot 501, Minot, ND 58701

Next General Meetings at the  
Vegas:  
Sept 7, 2011/Oct 5, 2011