

Your Key to Gearhead
INSIDE



SEE MAP on PAGE 15

13 YEARS GEAR-HEAD GAZETTE

The Official Publication of Gear-Head Get Together



Est. 2011

A FREE Maple Lake Chamber Event

Saturday, August 17, 2024



Live Music

from local musicians will entertain on the Main Stage. Information and times inside.

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Shining Knights

159 volunteers give their time to keep Maple Lakes Largest event moving forward.

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1933 Willys Gasser

has the right stuff to honor the 13th Annual Gear-Head T-Shirt in 2024

Pages 8-9



Motorcycle Show

is back. New shows start on the hour throughout the day.

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From humble beginnings to biggest event of the year

By Brenda Erdahl

Although now famous for its State-Fair-sized crowds, exciting entertainment and no plaques no trophies philosophy, the Gear-Head Get Together actually comes from very humble beginnings.

It all started with a couple dozen old cars on display by the creamery in downtown Maple Lake. Founder Scott Chantland had the idea to incorporate a car show into the city's summer celebration, Taste of Maple Lake. The event was sponsored by the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce and was your typical,

History of Gear-Head
(Continued on page 12)



Maple Lake will host the 13th Annual Gear-Head Get Together and Swap Meet on Saturday, August 17, 2024. Enjoy this complimentary issue of the Gear-Head Gazette filled with all the details you will need to attend this free event hosted by the Maple Lake Chamber. Stop in and see it's much more than a car show! Photos from Messenger Archives



Find out the torque and RPM of your vehicle at the Powerhouse Mobile Dyno available at this year's Gear-Head Get Together.

PowerHouse Mobile Dyno revved to be back in 2024

By Brenda Erdahl

Back by popular demand for this year's Gear-Head Get Together is the Powerhouse Mobile Dyno.

If you are a horsepower junkie obsessed with speed, you can find out if your vehicle is the biggest and fastest on the road with just a pull on the portable dynamometer or "dyno" for short. The device will measure the torque and RPM of your engine, plus you'll get a printout of your car's performance.

The Dyno made its debut at the Get Together last year and about

PowerHouse Mobile Dyno
(Continued on page 14)

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MAIN STAGE



LIVE MUSIC



Star Chiefs

Star Chiefs

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Star Chiefs will return to the Gear-Head stage after being well received last year in their debut performance at the event. They play traditional rockabilly music heavily influenced by all-time greats like Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Carl Perkins, Stray Cats, Johnny Cash and more.

They have been playing this authentic American music around the Twin Cities since 2010. They have been called family friendly yet rockin' and rebellious – a good time for all.



The Everett Smithson Band

The Everett Smithson Band

2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

The Everett Smithson Band was formed in 2005 with Everett Smithson on harp and vocals, Phil Schmid on guitar, Jeremy Johnson on drums and Bill Black on stand-up bass. In 2006 Everett's wife Kathy Smithson joined with her accordions and added a creole sound while mixing it up with tunes by Wanda Jackson, Lavern Baker, Memphis Minnie and more. In 2018, Victor Span added his talents on drums and Jeremy Johnson added his guitar skills to bring the band to where they are today. Everett, Phil and Kathleen have added many originals to the set list over the years which can be heard on any of their five CDs including 2018s "Tall Tales."

Maple Lake Fire Department Annual Fundraising Event is here!

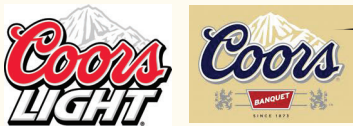
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BEFORE **AFTER**

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Test your Gear-Head KNOWLEDGE



in these musical favorites from the 1950's & 60's

1. What was the Little Deuce Coupe's best speed? (Beach Boys 1963)
2. What year was Ole Betsy born and where? (Beach Boys 1963)
3. What could catch the 409? (Beach Boys 1962)
4. Name the two cars racing in Shutdown. (Beach Boys 1963)
5. According to Elvis, There's "No Room To _____" (1963)
6. What article of clothing was recommended in "Little Honda?" (Beach Boys)
7. What was the "Little Honda" more fun than? (Beach Boys)
8. Complete the sentence "Every time I have a date, there's only one place to go, _____" (Beach Boys)
9. What was burning up at Drag City?" (Jan & Dean 1963)
10. What was the Little Old Ladies pretty little flower made from? (Jan & Dean)
11. Where did the XKE pass the Stingray on the way to Deadman's Curve? (Jan & Dean 1964)
12. Where did Dave Dudley start his "Six Days on the Road" in 1963?
13. Who was the foreman in "There Ain't No Easy Run" and how old was he? (Dave Dudley 1968
14. What hill was the Hot Rod Jalopy going up? (Johnny Bond 1960)
15. What type of vehicle did Gene Savage drag race with a "Big Machine?"
16. In 1955 Gene Simmons sang about a "Peroxide Blonde and a _____"
17. Leadfoot had his "right foot on the floor board and his _____"(Don Sergeant & His Buddies 1959)
18. Where did Mickey Gilley find his baby in 1961?
19. What did the singer who had the "Hot Rodder's Dream" have to do when he woke up? (Ray Burden)
20. What did you have to do to keep up with Burt Keyes in 1960?
21. What was Carl Perkins asking of his father in 1958?
22. Where did Chuck Berry park when he had "No Particular Place to Go" in 1964
23. What was Chuck Berry's dilemma in 'No Particular Place to Go?'
24. What did the "Hopped-Up Mustang" racing the Cadillac Sedan get caught by?
25. What was John D. Loudermilk's job in "Road Hog"? (1962)

Answers on page 14



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The Maple Lake Lions will be at the 13th Annual Gear-Head Get Together!

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KNIGHTS SHINE

in pit-crew role at Get-Together



By Brenda Erdahl

When trying to control chaos, leave it to a knight, the Knight's of Columbus that is.

Every third weekend in August thousands of gear-heads and non-gear-heads alike squeeze into Maple Lake congesting the city streets for a full-day of automotive fun in what's been called a day of "controlled chaos."

Fortunately, the Knights of Columbus (KC) are there to make sense of it all. Dressed in bright yellow shirts with Pit Crew written on the back, and wielding flags, their job is to safely get people where they need to be. From 5:30 a.m. until afternoon the volunteers are hard at work.

"We do the show car parking, assist with spectator parking, welcome all the cars and provide them with maps," Knight John Northenscald Jr. said.

At 2 p.m. the crew of about 25 KCs, transition away from parking for a while to help the thousands of pedestrians safely cross city streets while cars continue to trickle in and out.

The real crazy time is 7 to 9 a.m., that's when highway 55 and County Road 8 start to back up and the Knights must scramble to open roads and relieve congestion, Northenscald said.

Gear-Head doesn't officially start until 8 a.m. but with hundreds of hot rods, classics, remodels and motorcycles to make room for, owners want to make sure they get a good parking spot.

"We utilize every spot we can all the way out to Linden back to where the swap meet is on the north end of Birch and

all of downtown."

By 10 a.m. things start to settle down and gear-heads begin pulling out their lawn chairs and relaxing next to their parked show cars.

"There are a couple car shows in the area that day though and some want to get to both, so they start leaving and then they are going against all the other cars coming in," Northenscald said.

The Knights can usually fill in the vacated parking spot left behind, but now it's harder to maneuver cars into spots with valuable classics on either side.

By 10 a.m. about half of the Knights leave their posts to go and enjoy the event with their families. The rest have cross-walk duty and do their best to assist spectators where they can, that includes giving golf-cart rides to people with handicaps and dealing with minor incidents like heat exhaustion.

Last year the Gear-Head Committee introduced a shuttle service that picks spectators up in the high school parking lot and drops them off under the watertower. That was a big help to the Knights and the committee plans to use it again this year, Northenscald said.

The Knights like to work the get together for two reasons: It fits in with their priorities as a service group, and it's fun.

"Our volunteers love it because it gives them the opportunity to see lots of community members," Northenscald said.

"The Gear-Head Committee is also a very nice organization to work with. Because of their philosophy of no plaques, or trophies, it's just a fun event



A member of the Knights of Columbus directs a truck through the crowded streets of Maple Lake during Gear-Head Get Together.

for families to get together and enjoy each other's company."

Adding to the fun but also the challenge for the Knights is the fact that the get together is more than just a car show, it's a motorized everything show.

"We'll get these gas-powered washing machines on the back of a trailer that someone restored and is really proud of and they'll say to us, where do we park and we say, 'lets see, a washing machine, I think you should go over by the water tower because that's where the small stuff is. Or it could be a tractor or motorcycle on a trailer. We even have a guy with a sawmill - lots of interesting folks - and we have to first discern what they have and then where they need to be," Northenscald said.

Northenscald and his brother Paul chair the event for the Knights but it was Grand Knight Kenny Paumen who first

got them involved eight years ago.

It's a win-win relationship for both organizations. The Gear-Head Committee gets skilled help, and they reciprocate by making a donation to the Knights who turn around and put the money back into the community.

The Knights have 159 members between the two Catholic parishes in Annandale and Maple Lake. They've donated 9,600 hours of service to those two communities plus more than \$25,000. The service hours are spent doing anything from ditch cleanup to visiting people who are sick or hosting pancake breakfasts. About 2/3 of their monetary proceeds go to parish related charitable causes and the 1/3 goes to general community related causes, Northenscald said.

"The knights are all about charity and service, just like

the Lions and Jaycees, only our group has more of a faith element," he said.

The Knights of Columbus was established at Maple Lake St. Timothy church in 1953.

In addition to the Knights, there are others who volunteer for the day who have no affiliation with the group, but just want to take part because it's fun; and they are always welcomed with open arms.

By mid-afternoon the Knights receive additional relief with the arrival of some of the community's youth. Some of the kids are from the St. Timothy Youth Group, some are looking for confirmation service hours, others are children of the Knights and some are children of the Gear-Head Committee, but all are there to lend a hand.

They all have fun at what's been called Maple Lake's largest event of the year.



The Knights of Columbus "pit crew" have the tough job making sense out of the chaos when thousands of people pour into town for the Gear-Head Get Together each year.

'33 Willys Gasser



HAS THE RIGHT STUFF



By Brenda Erdahl

From the Top Fuel Rail Dragster “Prussian” to Kevin Lehse’s Rat Rod Lincoln, the Gear-Head Get Together t-shirt has featured some of the most iconic and unique vehicles to ever appear on the streets of Maple Lake.

Joining the company of those elite machines on this year’s t-shirt is the Veit Automotive Foundation owned 1933 Willys Coupe Model 77.

With only 13,000 produced during a four-year run, according to Hotrod LLC, the Willys 77 is a pretty rare find. Veit’s Willys was built by Dave and Lisa Simard of East Coast Customs. It’s powered by a 3.8-liter Grand National Turbocharged engine, has highly customized wider fenders and a full custom chassis, said Jarrid Roulet curator for the Veit Automotive Foundation.

Willys was one of those makes that just kind of went away, Roulet said. Consolidation within the industry really hurt the brand, as did the Great Depression and WWII. Today, most Willys seen at car shows and on the roads are fiberglass replications. It’s pretty rare to find a Willys with its original steel frame.



The Veit Foundation’s 1933 Willys Coupe Model 77 was built by Dave and Lisa Simard of East Coast Customs. The car is powered by a 3.8-liter Grand National Turbocharged engine, has highly customized wider fenders and a full custom chassis.

A sportier version of the four-door coupe, the 1933 Willy’s 77 was made famous in the late 1950s by drag racer Ohio George Montgomery. The cars were made small and were reasonably priced for the time, Roulet said. That made them the perfect platform to be raced – with a few

modifications of course.

Montgomery’s ingenuity reportedly included putting cement in the spare tire for a time to help increase traction. These early modified cars were referred to as gassers and some would argue the Willys 77 is one of the best-known examples of one.

The '33 Willys isn't the only rare find at the Veit Automotive Foundation Museum. Located just south of Monticello, this 500-acre campus is also home to a Willys Roadster - one of only seven known to exist. The facility, which is open for public viewing by appointment, houses about 80 vehicles all together, plus 200 rare and unusual gas pumps – the largest in the country. The museum also collects local history, often in the form of signs from bygone businesses like the Monticello Theatre, Monticello Ford, the Monti Club and the Galaxy Drive-in.

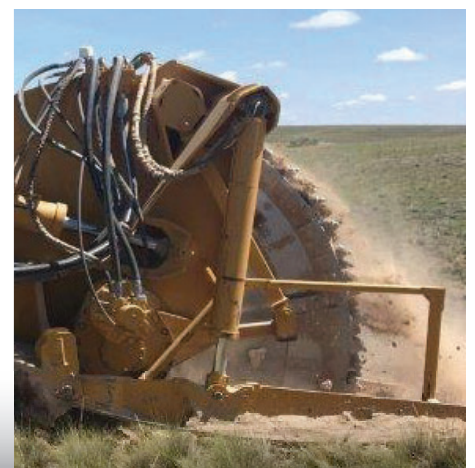
Dubbed Minnesota’s Automotive Destination, Gear-heads come from all over the country to experience America’s automotive past at the Veit Museum.

The foundation was established in 2000 by Vaughn Veit with the goal of propagating the car culture. One of the ways the Veit Foundation does that is through youth programs like Young Backyard Builders. This is an opportunity for young builders 18 to 27 years old to show the cars they have built or are building.

“It’s about the person and their story, their journey working on that car. What we’re really trying to do is foster that



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The Veit Automotive Foundation and Museum is located just south of Monticello on 500-acres. A collection of vintage style barns houses about 80 vehicles plus 200 rare and unusual gas pumps and signs from bygone local businesses like the Monti Club The Veit Automotive Foundation and Museum is open by appointment for tours of 10 to 20 people Wednesdays and Saturdays at no charge.

younger generation into building cars and continuing the legacy. That's really what we're trying to do, to get them involved, get them out to the shows and embrace the car culture," Roulet said. "We really just want the kids to enjoy cars. For us it was a right of passage. When we turned of age, we were down there to get our drivers license as soon as possible."

Veit has hosted the Back Yard Builder program at Gear-Head Get Together for three years now. They're set up on Birch Ave opposite the main stage and there's no preregistration.

Up for grabs is a \$500 cash prize, plus a tool-box full of tools. The contest is not judged on the highest value vehicle, rather it's about the person, their build, the personal connection with their build and the journey they took as they built the vehicle.

"We want the kids to come, we want them to participate and to bring their cars and the things they are proud to have built," Roulet said.

The Veit Foundation is dedicated to giving back to its local communities through programs like the Back Yard Builder and more. Local schools have

benefited from Veit's philanthropy and there is never a charge to visit the museum although they do ask that visitors bring a food donation for Wright County Community Action.

"Mr. Veit always wants to make sure anyone who is interested in cars can come out and see it," Roulet said.

"We are right here in the backyard, and we want people to understand we are

open for business. We do have limited hours (Wednesdays and Sundays to tours of 10 to 20 people) at the same time it's really a bucket-list stop to come see us," Roulet said.

Vaughn Veit has been a part of the community since 1968 and his passion for cars runs deep.

"We're pretty proud of what we have here," Roulet said.



Featured on this year's Gear-Head Get Together shirt is a 1933 Willys Coupe Model 77 owned by the Veit Automotive Foundation.



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A crowd of people wait eagerly for the next show to begin while performers give an introduction to the famed Wall of Death during one of its previous visits to the Gear-Head Get Together. The American Motor Drome Company Wall of Death will put on shows throughout the day, Saturday, Aug. 17 on the north end of the City Lot in Maple Lake. Photos from Messenger Archives

By Brenda Erdahl

The motorcycle thrill show that wowed Gear-Head goes in 2021 and 2022 is back for a third season. Throughout the day Saturday, Aug. 17, the American Motor Drome Company will perform daring and death-defying feats on what has been dubbed the “wall of death.”

Held up by centrifugal force, it will appear as if the motorcycles are stuck to the wall of a silo-shaped wooden cylinder as they race 25 to 30 mph around and around.

The act debuted in Maple Lake in 2021 and was so popular five more performances had to be added to the nine-show schedule because the crowds just kept coming. Kids and adults alike were wowed when the thrill riders snatched dollar bills from the hands of audience members or performed tricks while racing against the forces of gravity. The show was just as popular in 2022.

“It’s hugely popular,” Gear-Head founder Scott Chantland said. “There is not a wall of death that performs anywhere around us within hundreds of miles - the closest is Sturgis, SD – and it hasn’t for years. All day long the performers hear over and over again from people ‘last time I saw a Wall of Death I was 13 at the State Fair.’ They hear that story over and over again. The Wall of Death strikes a chord with a lot of our people, there are a lot of memories.”

In days gone by, the thrill show was a regular at carnivals and state fairgrounds like the one in St. Paul. That was back when entertainment was live and in person. The idea originated in the early 1900’s as mile long board racetracks

with turns that went into long, steep, almost vertical sweeps around the racetrack. The long straight ways allowed the riders to reach very high speeds while riders fought for position. The sport was very dangerous and was eventually outlawed. The solution was to take out the straight ways and make the track 90 degrees perpendicular to the ground. Riders then worked together instead of competing to entertain crowds.

According to Wikipedia, the very first carnival motordrome appeared at Coney Island amusement park in New York in 1911. The following year, portable dromes began to appear on traveling carnivals. By 1915, the first “silo-dromes” with vertical walls began appearing and were dubbed the Wall of Death.

Today there are only four motordromes traveling the U.S. Built in the traditional drome style, the American Motor Drome Company is the largest of the four. The company strives to keep its history alive by traveling all over the United States, from April through November, performing the show as it would have been 100 years ago.

“There is nothing like it in the world. It has to be seen to be believed,” said Corinna Mantlo, a member of the American Wall of Death crew.

The American Motor Drome Company features antique Indian and Harley-Davidson motorcycles and 4-wheeled racing machines and sometimes machines and riders will tackle the wall two at a time. Spectators will get a thrill as they look down from the top of the 14-foot board wall where they will smell the rubber burn and feel the wind as the motorcycles race past them mere inches away.

Each show will last about 20 minutes and will take place on the north end of the City Lot in Maple Lake during Gear-Head, Saturday, Aug. 17.



Riders defy gravity during a Wall of Death show at Maple Lake’s 2022 Gear-Head Get Together. The American Motor Drome Company returns to this year’s Gear-Head Saturday, Aug. 17 with performances throughout the day.

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History of Gear-Head

(From Page 1)

smalltown summer festival, he said. The car show was extremely small to start, just a few of Chantland's friends with collectable cars parked by his business, Olde Town Creamery. Eventually Taste of Maple Lake evolved into Days of Old, and the car show was its centerpiece. When the Chamber cancelled Days of Old, Chantland presented an idea to continue the car show under a separate subcommittee, and the Gear-Head Get Together was born. That first event in 2011 attracted enough car enthusiasts to fill up the City Lot, and when those numbers doubled the next year and the year after that, that's when they knew they really had something great here.

Today Gear-Head is the community's largest event of the year and one of the most unique "car shows" in the state and perhaps the country.

The 2022 the Gear-Head Get Together drew the biggest crowds yet with more than 1,500 vehicles, rat rods, motorcycles and gear-head oddities on display for state-fair sized crowds that filled the city streets, parking lots and parks in and around downtown Maple Lake.

"The first year we filled up the City Lot with cars that day and I thought 'this is awesome.' Then it doubled and doubled," Chantland said.

What makes the Get Together so remarkable is its philosophy of no plaques, no trophies, just a bunch of mechanical-minded folks getting together to talk about a common interest and maybe see

something they don't see every day.

"The idea of no plaques, no trophies really struck a chord because that's what car shows had been built up to be, all about awards," Chantland said. "We were part of the next generation. To me our name says it all. Anything gear-head is welcome and just getting together to enjoy it. I don't think we could have come up with a better name."

The committee didn't initially plan on including a swap meet with the event, Chantland said, but a few weeks before that first Get Together they decided to work it in. It seemed like a natural fit and had been on the back of everyone's mind, he said. The first swap meet was set up in The V's parking lot. It started small but grew enough that it had to be moved to the parking lot by the ballpark. A couple years ago the committee decided to move it again. Today vendors sell their wares on city streets south of the railroad tracks with public parking available in the stadium lot.

Music was another part of the Get Together that was included right from the get-go. A variety of musicians have entertained the crowd over the years and set the soundtrack for the day. Today, multiple acts perform on the mainstage in the City Lot.

Entertainment has evolved and grown as well. The 2019 get together featured a car-crushing performance by Everett Jasmers's USA1 Monster Truck. In 2021 and 2022, America's original extreme motorcycle thrill show, the American Motor



This picture was taken at the very first Gear-Head Get Together in 2011. Organizers were thrilled that enough car enthusiasts participated to fill up the City Lot. The event grew about five times larger the next year and then doubled in size again its third year.

Drome Company Wall of Death, wowed crowds with their gravity defying tricks. Last year the Powerhouse Mobile Dyno measured the torque and RPM of 30 some cars for 30 some, horsepower loving, gear-heads. This year, the Wall of Death returns.

Although it has grown and changed over the years, in the end the Get Together is still primarily about the gear-heads and their collections, creations and passions. Over the years the Get Together has seen a lot of oddball items from the fire engine that was turned into a car to the 1939 motorcycle built entirely out of car parts. A working aircraft engine made for a loud spectacle one year and it's not uncommon to see an assortment of souped-up

lawnmowers. Airplanes, tractors, boats and more are welcome - even refurbished, gas-powered washing machines.

Gear-heads come from all over the state and beyond to see these collectables, wonders and oddities. In year's past, folks have flown in from as far away as Tennessee, Indiana, and Florida.

"No one ever thought it would be this huge. It's our committee that's really behind it all and it's nice to have a chamber and city so accommodating," Chantland said.

This is the Gear-Head Get Together's 13th year and it looks like it's going to be another good one.

- Continued on page 14

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History of Gear-Head

(From Page 12)

Volunteers also counted close to 200 motorcycles -2019 drew closer to 150- and 125 swap meet vendors compared to 2019's 90. Since the total number of people isn't counted, event founder Scott Chantland could only guess that there were thousands who came out to see the most unique "car show" in all the state and perhaps the country.

This year's 2022 event on Saturday, August 20, has all the signs of equal or greater success.

Besides hundreds of cars, boats, bikes, trucks and tractors, this year's event will feature a swap meet, the musical stylings of Robby Vee and Pullstart Diesel on the main stage, plenty of food vendors and the event of the day, the American Motor-drome Company Wall of Death.

What makes the Gear-Head Get Together so different from other car shows is its philosophy of no plaques, no trophies, just a bunch of mechanical-minded folks getting together to talk about a common interest and maybe see something they don't see every day.

Although it has grown and changed over the years, in the end the Get Together is still primarily about the gear-heads and their collections, creations and passions. Over the years the Get Together has seen a lot of oddball items from the fire engine that was turned into a car to the 1939 motorcycle built entirely out of car parts. A working aircraft engine made for a loud spectacle one year and it's not uncommon to see an assortment of rat rods put in an appearance. Gear-heads come from all over the state and beyond to see some of these mechanical oddities.



This birds-eye view of Birch Ave in Maple Lake shows a small portion of the crowds and vehicles on display at the 2023 Get Together. Photos from Messenger Archives

PowerHouse Mobile Dyno

(From Page 1)

30 cars were put through their paces.

"There are garages around the country that have in-house dynos, but to have one that's mobile is pretty unique," Gear-Head organizer Scott Chantland said. "It was really popular last year, especially for it's first time being here, and I think it will be even more popular this year now that people know it's coming and have experienced it."

The Dyno can run at 200 mph, 2,000 horsepower all day long, which means

it can handle big cars and a lot of them. That's fortunate because the Dyno will be available at Gear Head all day long. In between pulls, owners are allowed to make quick adjustments to get their most out of their engines. Individuals can schedule their time slots directly with the Dyno operators on site.

The Dyno will be staging in the alley behind Sunfish Dental. Vehicles should enter by Barthel's Augo Glass on Division Street across from the fire department.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 4: 1. 140, Top end floored 2. Born in 32, Detroit City 3. Nothing 4. Fuel Injected Sting Ray and a Super Stock Dodge 5. "Rhumba in a Sports Car" 6. A ragged sweatshirt 7. A barrel of monkeys 8. to the "Drive-In." 9. that quarter mile 10. white gardenias 11. at Doheny 12. He pulled out of Pittsburg. 13. Old Joe was older than time. 14. The Hairpin Hill 15. an M-60 Tank 16. Hopped Up Model Ford 17. "left foot in the grave." 18. At the Drive-In Movie 19. Go to school. 20. "Stop Jivin', Start Drivin'" 21 "Pop, Let Me Have the Car" 22. Way out in the kokomo 23. He couldn't unfasten her safety belt 24. Highway Patrol helicopter. 25 County Sheriff in an unmarked car.



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