FARES

Internet Checker Taxicab Archive



Volume 7 Issue 3 May – June 2021

"Annual Dues......Your Friendship"



Editor's Notes

Welcome to our third issue of 2021, the ICTA newsletter, "FARES".

Free of charge, feel free to print this Newsletter and place in your own binder. Please forward to all your Checker friends and share the fun.

In this issue we are presenting some great Checker content. First up, ICTA member photos. We have some great photographers in our group who have captured some pretty interesting photos.

Its official, this year the annual Das Awkscht event in August in Macungie, PA is on, and the ICTA will be there. Show information can be found in this issue.

Also in this issue is photographic presentation of all known running or restorable Checkers that still exist.

As our Checkers age and we move far away from 1982, it have become very hard to find Checkers still owned by their original purchasers. In this issue, we'll present Herman Pfauter's story.

Remember the world famous Ultimate Taxi? We have an update, in this issue.

As usual, you'll find classifieds ads, but in the issues, we have a surprise! A rare one!

Coming in our July-August issue we'll present early Summer show coverage and Checker participation. We also may have a surprise, regarding another scheduled event later this year. We'll keep you posted.

Please enjoy issue: volume 7 issue 3.



Editor: Joe Fay
Drivermatica8@yahoo.com
Owner 1949, 1950, 1952, &
1957 Checkers

Cover Photo: Checker Cab Services NYC circa 1980



Chris Monier's A11 tear down

ICTA Members
Photos



Joe Fay's vintage collection



Ross Gabrick's Photo of Emerson Zentz's and David Joel's Checkers



Scott Garnett "I guess she wasn't ready for spring after all..."



Adam Keith Cleans up well



Dave Kniffen



Stephen M Fiorenzo "!! OUT OF STORAGE!!"



Its official!! The ICTA will be meeting up in August at Das Awkscht. For 58 years, Das Awkscht Fescht has been a summer tradition for all ages. Offering three fun-packed days in the great outdoors, it's been a perfect way for families to celebrate summer and see some of the finest antique cars from the east coast.

Members of the ICTA have been participating in this event for a least 20 years! Long time Checker fan Don McHenry first started attending Das Awkscht pulling his antique show car with his family Checker back in the 70's. Purchased new in 1961, by the 1980's Don's trailer pulling Superba wagon ultimately became a show car too!

Through the years more Checker fans have joined the Checker fun in Pennsylvania. Checker fans like Christian Hutter and Bruce Uhrich have made the Sunday show a significant Checker event. Over that last three years, ICTA members have had a big impact and each year this event has increased in Checker participation. More importantly, the ICTA now dominates this event with active Checker taxicab owners.

This year the event is being run on the weekend of August 6-8th. Let's make the Sunday August 8th event the official ICTA annual event. Like last year, we can also attend the the Saturday night Musikfest in downtown Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Musikfest is an American music festival that has been held annually in Bethlehem, since 1984, and it claims to be the nation's largest non-gated free music festival.



Christian Hutter's Pristine Checker

Please click on the link below to download a registration form. Form and the \$15.00 entry fee have to be submitted no later than by July 1st.

Please click on the link below to download a registration form. Form and the \$15.00 entry fee have to be submitted no later than by July 1st.

Please note the form and date is August 8th, the link below for the registration form is dated for the 6th... the link name is wrong. The form is behinds the classifieds in the Newsletter

AUGUST 6, 2021 3.jpg (awkscht.com)

Here's a link to the Das Awkscht website.

Home – Das Awkscht Fescht

To watch last years fun, just click on the Youtube video below.













Aspen Colorado's The Ultimate Taxi

Since 1984, Jon Barnes has been carrying tourists through Aspen in the back of his 1978 yellow Checker cab. Now he's carrying thousands more virtual visitors online. The vintage taxi is enough to stop traffic. But over the years, Barnes has been accumulating more and more cool stuff — electronic keyboards, drums, lasers, lights — until by the early '90s, it became more a vehicle for entertainment than transportation.

Now, the Ultimate Taxi is on the Internet, broadcasting images of passengers and Aspen scenery through a cutting-edge wireless network, designed by Harvie Branscomb with Sun Microsystems Aspen research lab funding the wireless broadband project.

From the Ultimate Taxi's website the following is listed as features on his classic Checker!

The taxicab is a 1978 Checker Model A11 with 541,061 miles on the odometer. The taxi has been modified with 900 RGB LED lights, lasers, two Wildfire black light effects, color kinetics LED lighting, a Mackie 402-VLZ3 four channel compact audio mixing board, mini strobes, color changing fiber optics, mirror ball, dry ice fog, 8 mini par stage lights, a killer 900 watt sound system, including a Bazooka BTA8100 8-Inch 100-watt amplified tube subwoofer, the PSR-620 Yamaha keyboard, Yamaha DD-55 digital drums, a Nikon 3100 digital SLR camera, the Behringer RV600 reverb machine, a Lenovo

notebook computer, an American DJ haze machine, an HTC Droid DNA and 100 feet of cool neon EL Wire. Additional features include the Ultimate Taxi music synthesizers, The SU-10 Midi sampler and all of the batteries in the trunk. For Information, Call or Text Jon, at 970-404-1290





Herman Pfauter and the Checker he purchased new in 1971!!! by Herman Pfauter

Herman Pfauter was a student at Northeastern University and to help defray his college expenses he started working the night shift at the Checker Taxi Company whose garage was located next to the university campus on Huntington Avenue in Boston, across the Charles River from MIT and Harvard.

He was impressed by the 1959 and 1960 Checker models he drove for a couple of years and when he needed a reliable car in his job ten years later he purchased the brand-new 1971 Checker shown here. He used it as his personal car and decided to restore it as a Taxi

Checker Taxis were for many years the vehicle of choice for cab operators and a familiar sight all over the United States and Canada owing to their simple and durable construction, their roominess (a wheelchair could fit into the back seat) and their ease of maintenance. Most mechanical components were from GM or Chrysler, the fenders bolted on for ease of replacement. However, stricter safety requirements, tighter emission rules and the energy crisis of the seventies ultimately spelled the end of the line for an American icon whose production had begun in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1922.

During the last years of its existence the Checker Company produced fewer than 3,000 vehicles annually and shut down the assembly line in 1982 for good. It continued for more than 20 years as a subcontractor to GM producing metal stampings. It finally went bankrupt in January 2009 after 87 years!

The Checker shown here was purchased by its original and present owner in August of 1971 in Chicago and has just completed 100,000 miles. It was never used as a taxi which accounts for the low mileage and its overall good condition. It came equipped with the Chevrolet 350 CID V-8 rated @ 245



HP(SAE), a Ford 2-speed Cruisomatic transmission, GM power front disc brakes and power steering and it still has the original AM radio.

The original purchase price in 1971 was \$3,600 including tax and license. From 1975 to 1985 the vehicle was stored and in 1986 it was refurbished as a taxi with new tires, new paint, new chrome, new brakes and a new exhaust system. In 2004 the engine developed a noise that

that nobody could diagnose and it was decided to rebuild the original engine after 33 years of service.

Otherwise the vehicle is in its original condition, especially the interior. It is driven regularly and exhibited in car shows and has won quite a few awards despite the fact that it is a driver and not a 100% show car.

In 2007 the owner took it on a Route 66 Fun Run of 1,300 miles and won a trophy for "BEST SPECIALTY VEHICLE" out of a total of 800 cars competing.

Today few of this American classic still exist. Most ended up on the scrap pile after a rough life on the deteriorating streets of America. A handful is still in service today and used for special occasions. Most survivors are in the hands of collectors. There are several active Checker clubs and some even have found their way to Europe. Checker also built Limousines, Station Wagons and the 8-door Aerobus in limited numbers.

How much is a Checker worth today? The older models up to 1972, the more desirable ones because they were not "cheapened" like the later ones, are valued by the current authoritative "Old Cars Price Guide" as follows:







Checker Survivors 1947-1958

A short photographic blog that documents the known intact Checker survivors produced from 1947 thru 1958. The ICTA is aware of an additional half dozen Checker survivors in Finland but from this blog perspective, we'll cover know "intact" units that are restored, operational or undergoing a restoration.

An interesting list, at least on model exists for all A2-A9 models with the exception or no none A7 pleasure cars. A brief narrative will augment each photo, A total of 13 vehicles are documented, owned by 7 people or organizations.

This blog is just limited to A2-A9 Checker automobiles, there are other known Checker vehicles, buses and military equipment not covered in this blog.





1948 Checker Model A2 Restored by Finland Checker Ry (Finland Checker Association) former Chicago and Helsinki Taxicab

1948 Checker Model A2 owned by Hannu Kyttänen former Checker of Chicago and Helsinki taxicab



1948 Checker Model A2 owned by Hannu Kyttänen former Checker of Chicago and Helsinki taxicab currently under restoration



1949 Checker Model A3 Former Oklahoma City Yellow Taxicab owned by Joe Fay





1950 Checker Model A4 former NYC taxicab and MGM Pictures prop owned by Joe Fay

1952 Checker Model A2 former NYC taxicab own by Joe Fay restoration should start in 2022





1952 Checker Model A5 South American Hearse conversion. Original Condition

Checker Model A6 former New Jersey Taxicab owned by Hannu Kyttänen restoration potential





1958 Checker Model A8 Standard restored by Doug Klauck

1956 Checker Model A8 Standard owned by Bruce and Majorie Uhrich. Currently For Sale, check out the classified advertising in the back of this Newsletter





1957 Checker Model A8 Special owned by Joe Fay

1957 Checker Model A8 Standard owned by David Sunstein



owned by David Sunstein.
Serial number 6! Important to note that at being the 6th Checker Model A9 produced, this vehicle was manufactured on Day1 production.
Additionally, this would also be the oldest surviving Checker representing the last generation Checker Cab produced from 1958-1982

20h · 🚉

Apparently there is a Friends (TV show) exp. in NYC that has Phoebe's Checker.



The Good People of the ICTA

Its Spring and we're ready to get our Checkers out! Actually some have actually got their Checkers out already, Recently on another Facebook Checker group, a lot of drama has been posted about our club. To set the record straight, these people are not real Checker fans, there just posers.

We at the ICTA thought it would be smart to just to provide a sample of the daily Checker dialog going on, on our drama free site. So here are a few of the posts generated since Easter.

Our members are well balanced normal people, we have removed all the misfits, the litigators and malice found on other Checker Facebook groups. We are happy with the experience created.

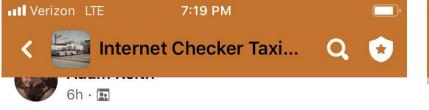












Cleans up well





2 Comments



Comment



Stephen M Fiorenzo Wow! That is a beautiful burgundy, what color is your interior?



Write a comment...































*





• Verizon LTE

Stephen M Fiorenzo shared a link. 23h · 📴

7:19 PM

So who ended up with it this time!?

https://www.ebay.com/itm/1960-Checker-Superba-/184733837410? _trksid=p2349624.m46890.l49286&fbclid=lwAR1u Hk5361JNj4nfSzYyzMYqkQ4sXUiEZrtXx3vrhfhXD 4W4jAD1lKUK0RY&autorefresh=true



EBAY.COM

1960 Checker Superba | eBay

Find many great new & used options and get the bes...

2 Comments









• Verizon LTE

Joseph A. Fay shared a link.

Internet Checker Taxi...

Admin · 7h ·

The current inventory of used Checkers is very low nationally. This one just popped up today.

7:19 PM



ICTA.CLUB

1975 Checker Marathon For Sale - Internet Checker **Taxicab Archive**

Stephen M Fiorenzo and 6 others

4 Comments























■■ Verizon LTE



Sorry we missed Kenneth Mastrodomenico birthday on Sat. Happy Birthday! https:// www.facebook.com/kenneth.mastrodomenico





Connie Powers and 7 others

2 Comments





Comment



Stephen M Fiorenzo Happy Birthday Kenneth Mastrodomenico! I hope you... See More

















8:26 PM

Emerson Zentz ▶ Internet Checker

The old 11E had a small sag that always bugged

that, plus lots of folks in the back didn't help the

me. Years of her sitting on the orginal leafs can do

A buddy had these "add a leaf" on his truck and he

swore by them so I picked up a set. Eas... See More

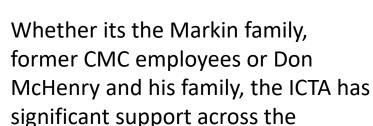
Taxicab Archive

4m · 💽

situation either.







Checker Cab fan base.

Our members are top quality Checker fans and we are very proud of the Checker experience we have created on the internet. All of the posts above represent true Checker fans and are clearly supportive of Checker restorations and collection of our favorite car.

Don't be confused by the litigators or the folks who have been exited from this great experience.

Cover Photo by Emerson Zentz









24

1956 Checker Standard Taxi Model A8 – Restored \$49,900 OBO (received by April 30th)



The History of the Model A8

A rare Checker vehicle, this A8 is 1 of only 3 restored of this model in the US. Approximately 10,000 were produced between January 1956 and September 1958 by the **Checker Cab Manufacturing** Company of Kalamazoo, MI. By definition, the vehicle is an assembled car rather than a manufactured car. Checker made the body and frame and purchased mechanical parts from other vendors. This makes the car unique. This first model of the iconic modern Checker design had single headlights, and with only minor body changes, it lasted through the end of production in 1982.

Restoration and Maintenance

This car was purchased in 1996 and was professionally restored in a local shop between 1999 and 2004. It has been garage kept and driven regularly. The PA Historic license plate exempts the vehicle from inspections and qualifies for antique automobile insurance. • The Continental F226 6-cylinder engine is original to the car, as are the interior door panels, hood ornament, and hood and trunk emblems. • New matching vinyl material was used to recover the front and back bench seats as well as the jump seats. • The headliner was replaced with period materials. • The car was kept original with a 6-volt battery. • The roof light is "CHECKER" and works off a dash switch. • A Viking taxi meter in the dash is authentic to the period, but not connected. • The hard-to-find wheel covers are unique to the A8 model. • A stainless-steel gas tank was installed in 2014. The engine runs well on premium fuel. • The headlights were upgraded to 6-volt

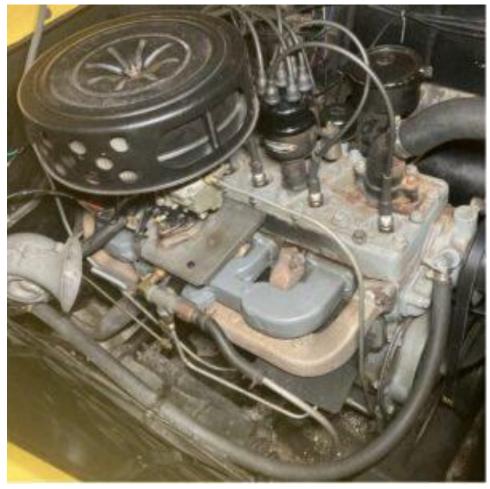




sealed beam halogens (high and low beam). • Recent maintenance and repairs include tune-up, brakes, radiator, clutch (rebuilt) and carburetor (rebuilt). The complete history of the restoration and repairs is documented, as well as mileage from 2004 to present. The taxi is painted in the classic two-tone Checker factory photo colors of bright green and yellow and features NYC rates of the period. (Taxi cabs in the 1950s through the late 60s were many colors which indicated fleet ownership and independent ownership. The NYC Yellow law did not go into effect until the late 1960s.)

Sale Information

Included with the sale of the car: • A very rare 1955-56 NY Taxi license plate • An authentic early 1960s NYC Medallion • A 6-volt Battery Tender • Extra A8 front and rear outer fenders • An original Parts Catalogue for Checker Model A8 Car • A cotton car cover. The vehicle is located in the Philadelphia area and is available for inspection. Asking price is \$49,900 OBO received by April 30th. Payment is requested by cashier's check and/or cash. Contact Bruce Uhrich buhrich56checker@gmail.com













1982 Checker, model A-11, never used commercially, 39,823 miles, V-6 engine. Originally used natural gas, converted to gas, but still has natural gas equipment to convert back. Interior in excellent condition. If you have any questions here is a link to the Facebook Advertisement

1969 Checker Cab VIN A[hidden information]. Project vehicle. Clean title. Unknown mileage. Offers welcome. Smitty's Auto Inc, 4631 W. Cardinal St, Homosassa, FL 34446.

(1) Marketplace - 1969 Checker Cab | Facebook





This is a Project car 1979 Checker Marathon sat for. 10 years. Had a 350 chevy engine put in last year has Turbo. 400 transmission runs good. Yard drives needs brake work. And to go. Thru the car as it has sat no it can't be driven. Home it is a project. But it's in nice shape. 5000.00 cash. Clean title in. Link to the Facebook advertisement

One owner, original 1979 title, one of a kind will be very valuable in the near future, drives unbelievable and cold air! Link to the Facebook Marketplace Ad

(1) Marketplace - 1979 Checker Marathon Limo | Facebook

(1) Marketplace - 1979 Checker Checker marathon | Facebook



1972 Military / Checker Cab M-105 · Driven NaN miles Nice enclosed, lockable Field kitchen mess trailer original.

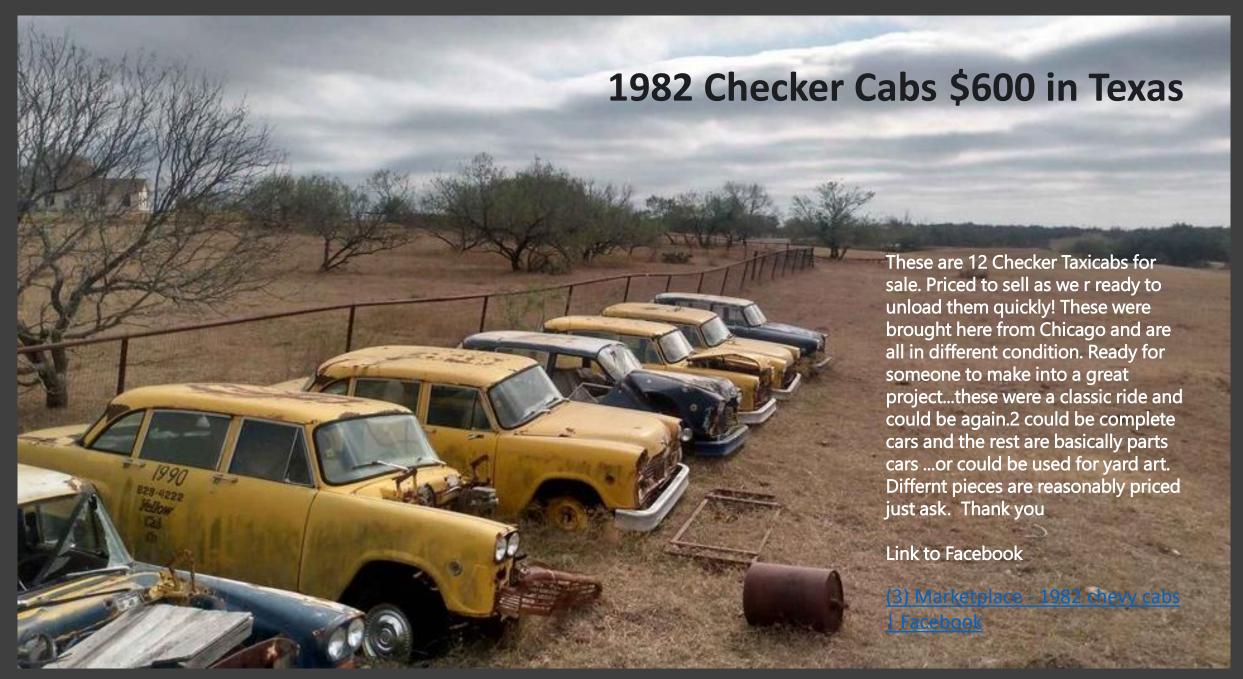
Link to Facebook

(1) Marketplace - 1972 Military / Checker Cab M-105 | Facebook



I have Checker Cab parts for sale. 9 pieces total. 2 front driver side fenders with inner fender, 1 rear drivers side fenders, 4 rear passenger side fender, 1 rear glass and 1 grill. Some of the fenders are better than the others. Some may be used as parts to make yours better. Will take additional pictures if needed. \$100 each piece or make offer on the whole package. Link to Facebook

(2) Facebook



1981 Checker Marathon Extended Wheelbase Sedan

The Checker Marathon was produced by Checker Motors Corporation in Kalamazoo, Michigan between 1961 and 1982 and was offered for both personal use and as a taxi. You may remember the famous Checker Taxi from the streets of New York, Chicago, and even Boston. Known for their durability and capacity, Marathons drove the streets of New York and Chicago for over five decades. Production of Checkers ended in 1982 when Checker Motors ceased automobile manufacturing.

This is a rare example of a well-running passenger Marathon. Features a very clean interior. Nicely done superior glossy black respray. Mechanically sound. Chevy V8 engine. Possibly the best example currently for sale in the country! Don't miss out on your chance to own this great piece of motoring history.

All proceeds benefit the Larz Anderson Auto Museum. Asking \$18,000. OBO.

Price: \$18,000 OBO

Contact

Anne Marie Goguen, Education Manager

Larz Anderson Auto Museum

617-522-6547 ext. 21



Cruisers Specialty Autos LLC Atlanta, GA 30341

1-877-421-7521

The A11 Taxicab was produced by Checker Motors Corp., Kalamazoo MI from 1962 to 1982; about 90% of production was for taxi and other fleets This car was bought new in Atlanta and always a private vehicle, not a taxi; originally had a Chevy 305 Had a full frame-off restoration in our shop in 2016/2017 and made to replicate a NYC taxi, including period correct taximeter and roof light (both functional). Some upgrades include a LS1 (LM7) 5.3 LS motor and 4l60e transmission, front & rear Vintage Air units, suspension rebuild with upgraded anti-roll bars, custom exhaust, hidden stereo, power windows & locks, power seats, and seat heaters,. Also set up for towing including trailer brake controller and rear air bags for load leveling. Custom leather checkered seats, high grade carpets with full Dynomat, and suede headliner are big upgrades from the Spartan interiors usually found in these cars At least 6k miles since build completed in 2017, including the 2017 & 2018 Hot Rod Power Tours. This is a six figure build so far, and improvements are made regularly as the car is entered in more events. Current pricing dependent on current state of vehicle, but expect it to be the highest priced modified Checker you've ever heard of.



This A12 Marathon was produced by Checker Motors Corporation in Kalamazoo MI and titled as a 1975. Approximately 90% of Checker production was for taxi and other fleetsdesigned for hard work and good service to the Corporate owners. Our sellers are antique collectors and have had fun with this one since they purchased it about six years ago. They only know of two previous owners. Although it has been repainted, they state that it has never been in an accident. They tell us that the mileage on the odometer is original at 47,632 to the best of their knowledge. This A12 is powered by the 350 Cubic Inch V8, and our sellers have indicated it is the original engine and it, and overall, they do not know of any mechanical problems. This Checker will serve its new owner well for fun events like cruise-ins and local shows. It has had a repaint during our sellers' ownership in "Taxi Yellow", and Ithough not cosmetically "perfect", it is a good, sound driver that is "bargain-priced at only \$7,950.

VIN A12695552056

Price: \$7,950

Troy, Michigan, 48083 Classic Auto Showplace Phone: (866) 968-9337





4k with all the parts. The title is a little issue right now but its being worked out. It has a 6.2l diesel engine. I have all new weather striping and had the rear seat redone Contact Darryn S Shipton via Facebook.

I am parting out this '74 Checker Marathon. Contact me if you are looking for any parts. I will sell the whole car if you are interested (after I take a few parts off for myself). I would like \$650 for it. The car does not have an engine or transmission but I have a 327 and powerglide out of my 69 Checker for \$500 (trans needs rebuilt)

Link to Facebook Marketplace

Marketplace – Checker Marathon Parts | Facebook









Link to Facebook (3) Marketplace - Checker marathon taxi | Facebook



1976 Checker is my daily driver. Original Chevy V-6 and drivetrain. Runs great, new master cylinder, alternator, belts and relays. New ignition (in box). Body straight, but needs TLC to be a show stopper. Garage kept. Interior is in great shape. It needs driver side floor, rockers and some bodywork.

Email via Craig's List 34b6b9108d3931d3a63e80a88391dae8@sale.craigslist.org



You are looking at a very rare and hard to come by 1979 CMC Checker motor corporation, Marathon car. The car comes with a Factory original chevy 350 motor with 4 barrel carb. The car has automatic transmission. The car has a salvage title for minor fender bender accident. As you can see in the pictures, there was no major damage done to the car. The motor and transmission are in great condition. The car runs and drives and has 23k miles. Will come with custom 22" rims. The body does need tlc as the paint job is not the greatest and has come surface rust that needs attention, but overall its a great car. The car is nice and has that classic 1950s style. Very big and roomy inside. If your looking for a rare classic car, then this is the car for you. Im looking for serious buyers with cash on hand. So

SUNDAY

AUGUST 8, 2021

Pre-Registration Form Only - No Day of Show Registration

USE GATE #1 ONLY

Post Mark Deadline: July 1, 2021 NEED NOT BE A CLUB MEMBER

NEW ADDRESS: Q YES Q NO (TYPE OR BLOCK PRINT, PLEASE)

OFFICIAL I	JSE ONLY
F.S.	
S.	
s.s.	

NAME		YEAR MAKE	
STREET		MODEL	
TOWN		BODY STYLE	
STATE	ZIP +4	CLUB NUMBER (FROM LIST BELOW)	
PHONE/AREA CODE ()	Sunday	
Make checks or money	order only, payable to: Das Awkscht Fescht	Pre-Registration thru December 31, 2020:	\$12.00 per car No Refunds
Mail to: Box 127, Macun	gie. PA 18062-0127	Sun. Pre-Registration Jan. 2 thru July 1, 2021:	\$15.00 per car No Refunds
PLEASE DUPLICATE TH	IIS FORM FOR ADDITIONAL VEHICLES.	ONLY ONE TENT PER CLUB ALLOWED	
		FOUR (4) PERSONS PER VEHICLE	
		U ENTERING - BY NUMBER 4 FOR INFORMATION	PERSONS PER VEHICLE
No Street Roo	ds - No Street Machines - Custom or Modified	[2] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1	
Chrysler Products Chevrolet Pontiac Corvette Studebaker, Avanti Corvair Metropolitan Buick Cadillac & LaSalle - Early Ford V-8 A - Ford	11 - Model A Ford 12 - Thunderbird 13 - Willys 14 - Nash & Rambler 15 - Chev. Nomads, Pontiac Safari 16 - Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg 17 - Shelby Mustang 18 - Franklin 19 - Hudson 20 - Dodge & Graham	21 - Edsel, Mercury, Lincoln 22 - Checker 23 - Nat. Woodie Club 24 - Ford Falcon, Fairlane 25 - Kaiser, Frazer, Henry J., AllState, Darrin 26 - Packard 27 - Mustang 28 - Rolls Royce 29 - Foreign Cars 30 - All 1927 & Earlier Cars	31 - Oakland 32 - Crosley 33 - Mercedes Benz 34 - Oldsmobile 35 - VCCA 36 - VW 37 - Mopar Madness 38 - British Car Club 39 - Happy Motoring 40 - Truck Club

REGISTRATION BY ONTELAUNEE CAR CLUB, PARKING BY THE INDIVIDUAL CLUBS.

All units registered must be on showfield to receive Participation Award.

FOR CONFIRMATION, PLEASE SUPPLY SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE WITH REGISTRATION



End Photo

Daily News photographer Tom Baffer next to one of the Daily News Checker Model A8 Radio Cars. At one time, the paper sported ten such cars. Note the Checker Model A8 in service taxicab in the background. Checker clearly owned the streets of NYC back in the late 50's Daily News Archives