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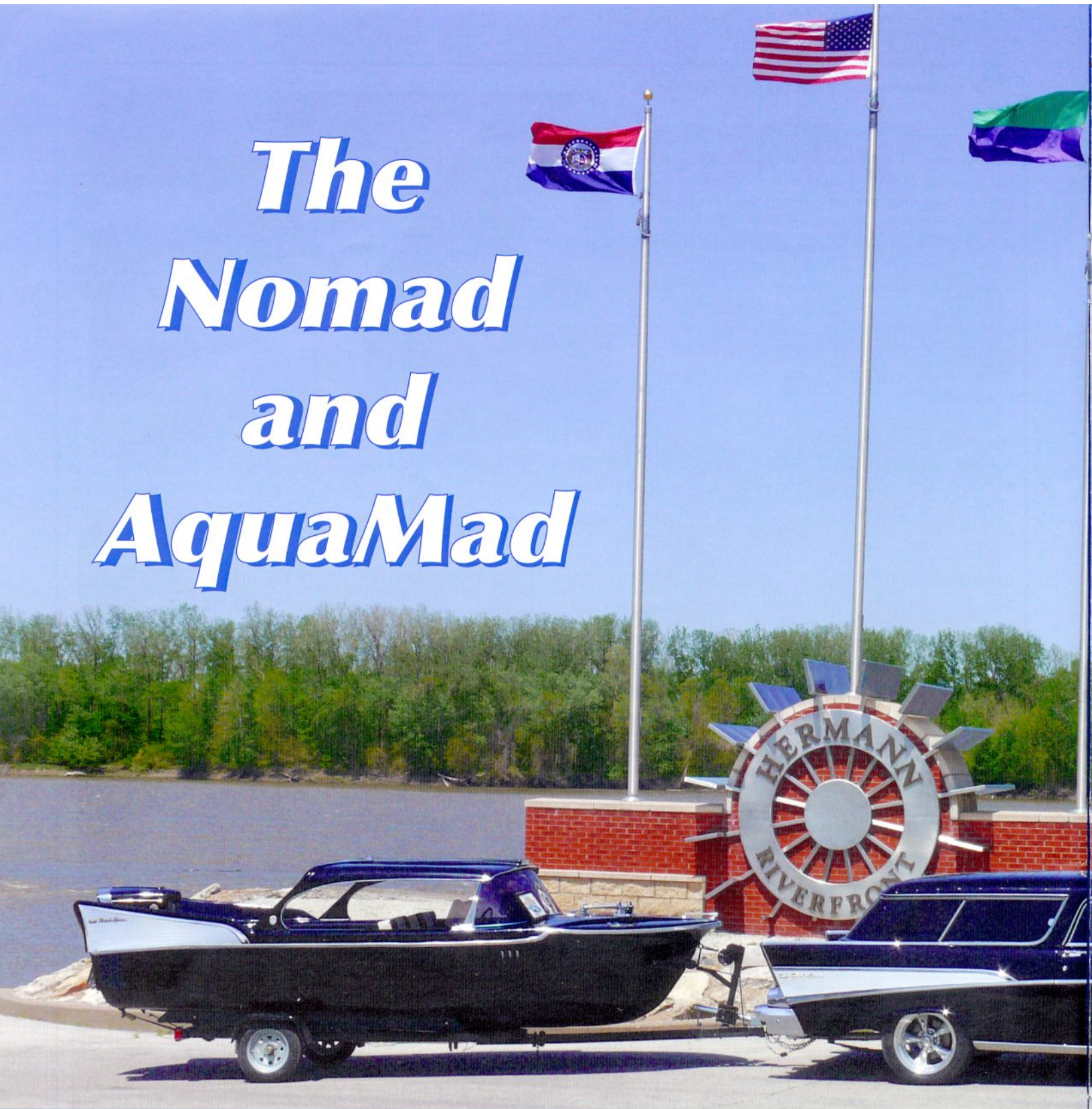
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# The Nomad and AquaMad



What do you do after you've restored your Nomad?  
**AQUAMAD!**

*By Torrie Roodhouse ‡  
In memory of the late John Topel*

It all started a long time ago ... when Dave Roodhouse was a young boy and was introduced to his first 1957

Chevy, owned by now lifelong friend Jerry Steele. While growing up he was intrigued by Tri five Chevys, and it wasn't long before he owned his first one, a two-door '57 with a six-cylinder engine. That soon came out and a small-block Chevy engine was put in its place.

Now it was time to try his luck at the local drag strip. That soon became an every-weekend event. Dave would work all week fixing what he had broken at the drag strip and



*Owners: Dave & Vickie Roodhouse  
Rhineland, Missouri*

*Photos by John Mead  
River City Cruisers, Hermann, Mo.*

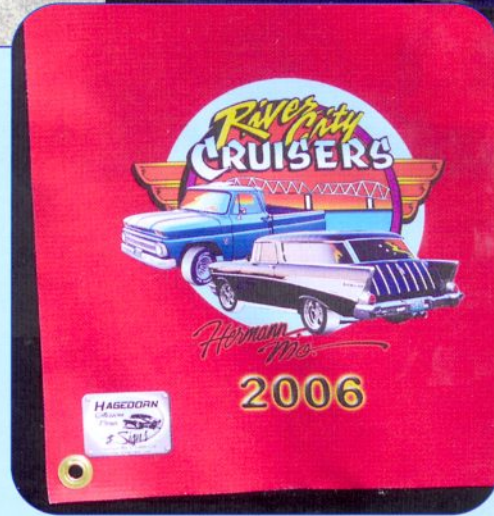


going to junk yards looking for performance parts – heads, posi rear ends, anything that would make it go a little faster the next week. They were great days indeed!

In March of 2004 Dave purchased his dream car, a 1957 Chevy Nomad, from Golden, Colorado. It needed a lot of attention and he knew he had plenty of work in front of him. With a lot of help from his brother-in-law, Calvin Stiers (Out of Town Autobody and Exhaust), he managed to

repaint most of the car while keeping the original ghost flames.

It has an old-school performance 355 Chevy engine with approximately 425 hp., a 700R4 transmission, 9-inch Ford Positrac rear end with 4.10:1 gears, four-wheel power disc brakes, modified suspension and front end, and power steering. There's much more to mention, but it runs great and is a blast to cruise in.





With the '57 Chevy shaped up as he wanted it, Dave said, "I wanted to do a project that I could use with my Nomad and keep the same theme."

"As luck would have it," he continued, "I ran into a friend, Ronnie Weber, who had a vintage Glass Craft boat with fins on it like a 1957 Chevy. They called it the Gasconade Queen, I assume after the old classic movie, 'The African Queen.'"

The boat needed a lot of work but it was structurally strong and was a doable project. He started by completely stripping the boat down to just a fiberglass shell, then started the sanding and filling. "I completely wore out one sander after many, many hours of use," he said. Finally ready to start the

paint process, he first used fill primer, then epoxy primer with lots of sanding between coats.

The finish coats of black Imron paint were completed with help from friends, John Topel and Jerry Steele. Then the process of reassembling the boat began. There was lots of chrome to polish, and fabricating and reupholstering the entire inside of the boat.

The difficult phase of the project was simulating all the chrome trim following the design of the 1957 Chevy fins, the rear Nomad tailgate bars, and even the three gold pieces on the front fenders. That's where Larry and Rebecca Hagedorn from Hagedorn Collision Repair & Signs came to the rescue. They did an unbelievable job

creating and designing graphics with shading to create a three-dimensional effect that looks like the original chrome and moldings on a 1957 Chevy Nomad. Working with Photoshop, they took actual elements from the Nomad along with custom artwork to create the effects. They are truly artistic at what they do.

After a little more tweaking on the boat, Dave had to totally refabricate and rebuild the boat trailer from the ground up.

Now Dave and Vickie (and me, too!) enjoy pulling the AquaMad boat full of kids behind the Nomad in parades. They plan on attending a lot of car shows and charitable events with their car club, the River City Cruisers in Hermann Missouri.

**# Story by Torrie Roodhouse  
(Dave's 14-year-old daughter)**

