

# IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

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## Minnesota Welcomes Spring and Plans for August

**P**lanning has begun for the **28th Annual New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run on Saturday, August 9, 2014.**

Pre-tours, August 6-8, will give drivers 3 extra days to put about 150 miles on their cars before the grand tour. Needless to say, the Board of Antique Car Run, Inc. and old car owners in Minnesota are excited to welcome spring and start their engines for touring!

Minnesota is emerging from a long winter. For those of you who winter where snow and cold are the norm, you will be able to relate pretty well to the following. For those of you who live in southern climates, you may not comprehend how we survive Minnesota winters.

In just the month of January, the Minnesota Governor canceled school on 5 occasions because of -12 to -22 temps in Minneapolis-St. Paul, with out-state temps ranging from -23 to -33. Wind chills in the Twin Cities ranged from -28 to -48, with out-state wind chills at -50 to

-63 (that takes your breath away, people!). Now Minnesotans are hardy Norwegians and Scandinavians, (yah sure u betcha), but this winter had even them wishing for another log on the fire, another layer of long johns at night, and another nip of schnapps in their coffee!

To give you another perspective, how many

states do you know have a "WMI" (Winter Misery Index)? The MN DNR keeps weather records assigning points for temperatures, inches of snow, etc. As of April 4<sup>th</sup>, this winter has been given the declaration of the 9<sup>th</sup> most severe winter on record with a WMI of 207 (the worst winter, 1916-17 had a WMI of 305)! February was the 6<sup>th</sup> snowiest

*(cont. on page 3)*



*Bruce Van Sloun, newest ACR Director, went through the engine and transmission of his "new" 1908 Ford S this winter and was itching to test it. He picked the first "nice" day, fired up the Ford and went for a spin about town. He declared "It's a much easier car to drive than my Auto-car!"*





## From the President, Bill Dubats

The Minnesota “Winter Without an End” is finally letting go of its icy grip on the land. Robins and tree buds have me fondly looking forward to a summer filled with old car touring.

Of course the ACR is the Prince of antique car tours, because it is limited to the oldest of the old cars in the USA. This results in an amazing variety of brands from yesteryear, (REO, Maxwell, Oldsmobile, Brush, Overland, etc) and several brands that have survived the test of time in the competitive auto market (Ford, Cadillac, Buick).

My favorite time is the Friday brunch at the American Legion. The parking lot is filled with beautiful and precious

autos. I hope I never become jaded with the incredible sight of nearly 60 of these gorgeous old cars in one place.

The ACR has so many great things going for it. Last year we hosted nine “First Timers,” piloting eight different car brands. With 20 different brands from 16 different states, the run was enjoyed by antique car enthusiasts from Oregon to Connecticut and Texas to North Dakota.

On a personal level, I am really looking forward to driving my “new” 1911 Maxwell (Max) this year. The 1908 single cylinder Cadillac (Victoria) which I have driven the past seven years has been great, but I can’t wait to try the smoother twin cyl-



*ACR President Bill Dubats, in his 1908 Cadillac Victoria with his faithful navigator Steve, was captured in a photo a few years back during the countryside tour.*

inder auto.

But, Shhhhhh ! Let’s not mention this to Victoria. She is very sensitive, and might weep oil on the floor if she finds she has been left in the garage in

favor of a three day affair with Max. I’m counting the days!

Bill Dubats  
President  
Antique Car Run, Inc.

## Ten Things Special about the NLNB (there’s more but we’ll start with 10)

**1. The Antique Car Run Board:** They are an enthusiastic group of volunteers that has promised to put on an interesting and challenging 4 days of tours through the Minnesota countryside.

**2. Area Interests:** Come for the pre-tours. You’ll enjoy getting to know New London and the little communities that are around it. They hold all kinds of spots of interests and treasures that only locals may know about. And don’t forget the lakes, lakes and lakes!

**3. Volunteer Tow Drivers:** If you are one of the first 50 to register for the

Run, you will be guaranteed a local volunteer to drive your car/truck/motor home and trailer to the finish line. We really appreciate these special volunteers (and Coordinator Mary Kuperus, 320-212-3278) and you will too.

**4. “Informal” Camp Grounds:** For those of you who drive or tow your accommodations behind you, we offer a great place to park and even stay if you are so inclined. The parking lot of the local high school is always ready to “put you up” for your stay. The grounds become the informal place to gather,

polish, fix and even tip a few. And even better no reservations are required. There’s also plenty of space at local motels and Bed & Breakfast places, too.

**5. Food, Food and More Food:** You won’t go hungry on the NLNB. There will be homespun meals offered while on the pre-tours, including a special “Shore Dinner” this year which, of course, means pan fried walleye and all the fixings. Along the route on Saturday’s Grand Tour, you’ll be offered more food than you can eat by the local clubs and organizations that host our rest stops.

**6. Support Trucks with Handy Drivers:** Don’t worry for a moment about being stranded out in the middle of a Minnesota corn field. For starters, the sweet corn is excellent! And, we also have a fleet of 3 support trucks and very capable drivers who are there for you. They will do their best to keep you on the road. Many a driver owes at least a small piece of their medallion to a support truck driver!

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## Warm-Up Tours Promise Miles & Area Interests

**D**rivers come to drive! Many have already made the commitment to come across the country so they might as well have as much fun as they can with their cars. Ed Walhof, our Director in charge of pre-tours, has put together a series of tours on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which will provide over 150 miles and some spots of interest to put you on the road before the Grand Tour.

- Wednesday, 45 mile morning tour ~ Tour to Grove City and visit a personal collection of Classic Cars housed on two floors. Lunch at a local spot of interest.
- Back by popular demand, the “Shore Dinner” returns to the schedule this year. This Minnesota classic (panned fried walleye and the fixings) will be served up for dinner at Neer Park in New London on Wednesday evening. Drive over in your old cars.
- Thursday, 65 mile morning tour ~ Head to Litchfield where you’ll visit a manufacturing facility and factory outlet for exhaust accessories. Lunch stop in Mannanah, a location that some past participants will remember as a welcoming rest stop in our early years.
- Thursday evening “meet, greet and eat” will again take you to Neer Park in New London. We’ve invited our volunteer tow drivers to

join us so you have a chance to meet and exchange information.

- Friday, 36 mile afternoon tour ~ Pre-Run Get Ready Day offers a warm-up tour around scenic Nest and Green Lakes after morning brunch and drivers’ meeting.

- Gather in the early evening to show off your cars to the residents at the Glen Oaks Nursing Home before you parade down Main Street. A Community Chicken & Rib Buffet will be offered at the Legion following the parade before drivers head home to prepare for the early morning start.



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month on record and tied for the 7<sup>th</sup> coldest! Just to keep us on our toes and our shovels close at hand, we had two April snowstorms that dumped 7-15 inches of snow each time, depending on what snow bank in what city you were stuck in!

The point of this missive is to help you understand why Minnesotans celebrate the coming of Spring, a time when ice leaves the lakes in the state (averages between April 1 – 15 around the metro area, later outstate). They are happy to say good-bye to the last ice fishing contest. Impatient souls can even be

found shoveling snow into the street for it to melt. They get excited to start up the lawn mower or tractor. And, of course, they are extremely excited about getting out their calendars to start planning their car tours.

The NLNB was scheduled in August because it offers some of Minnesota’s best weather. With lows in the 60s and highs in the low 80s, you will start the 120+ mile tour in a light jacket or fleece and end in a tank top (don’t forget your sunscreen!). Aside from the glorious weather, Minnesota Nice is second to none

and can be experienced in every town we stop at along the route. Food, fun and fellowship are hallmarks of our Minnesota tour so we invite you to join us.

Registration forms have been mailed or can be found online at [www.antiquecarrun.org](http://www.antiquecarrun.org). Call Katie at New Brighton City Hall if all else fails, 651-638-2100. Register early so we can plan for you. Make hotel reservations before you forget. Call or email if you have questions. And don’t forget to mark your calendars for August 6-9. Come join us in Minnesota as we cele-

brate antique cars and wonderful summer weather!

FYI: Find helpful phone numbers and email addresses for all Board members on the website, [www.antiquecarrun.org](http://www.antiquecarrun.org)





## Meet Director Bruce Van Sloun

**B**ruce Van Sloun is the newest Director on the 12 member Antique Car Run, Inc. Board. Bruce brings two decades of interest in brass cars with him. He began coming to the NLNB in 2009 with his 2004 Autocar and has been crossing the finish line ever since.

We introduce you to Bruce in his words: "I've long had various sports cars, but had a fascination with these early cars. Another car guy and dear friend, Wes Johnson, lived in Northeast Minneapolis. We annually went to see the NLNB cars come into the finish line in the early years at the American Legion. Wes and I would examine all these strange contraptions and were simply amazed at the wide variety of engines, mechanics, speeds and automobile designs. I saw these crazed

people coming in, smoke spewing, oil spewing, parts spewing, their jaws set, at blistering speeds of a dozen miles an hour and knew I had to do this. Knowing nothing about early cars, I found a lead on one and looked for someone with some experience to advise me. I was guided to Tom Reese who steered me away from the car I had found (a 1916 Studebaker with likely cracked cylinders) but found a car that I should get instead, a 1913 Overland roadster. When I found that the car was too new for the Run, it set me on the path to find a car that did qualify, a 1904 Autocar. I've made the run 5 times in the car now. Although I do still have my sports cars (3 of which belonged to Wes) and do belong to various clubs, my true love are these early cars and their funky



quirks. I really enjoy running about town in anything from my 1904 Autocar, to the "new" 1908 Ford to one of the "modern" cars like my '52 MG-TD or '65 Austin Healey. This has proven to be a very engaging hobby, with so many helpful people across the country. Helping out with the NLNB Run not only is a slight return to the hobby, it's also my favorite event!"

plenty of fun doing it! Join us and see.



*No cats died or were injured in the pursuit of keeping Gregg Lange's 1904 Autocar from breaking loose at one of the rest stops. Some eyebrows were raised, however.*

*(cont. from page 2)*

**7. Ham Operators:** We still use them and they do a great job of keeping track of you. We aren't suggesting you throw away your cell phone, but the hams are almost as good as the government keeping you on their "radar."

**8. Commemorative Items:** Don't leave New London without an ACR hat, T-shirt, jacket, etc. A variety of stuff with our logo on it can be bought for a song (not literally!) and helps the bottom line of this great tour.

**9. Specially minted medallions:** Every finisher is

rewarded with a medallion that commemorates accomplishing the goal of driving from New London to New Brighton within the appointed times and making the required stops.

**10. Fun and Fellowship:** The NLNB has long been known as a "driver-friendly" tour and that's still true. "Minnesota Nice" is not just something that's given lip service. You'll run into friends you know and will make plenty of new ones as you put almost 300 miles on your old cars. We're committed to helping everyone who starts, finish and have

**Antique Car Run, Inc.**  
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For information, visit  
[www.antiquecarrun.org](http://www.antiquecarrun.org)  
or call 651-638-2100

Antique Car Run, Inc.  
is an independent,  
non-profit corporation  
that has a  
501-3c designation.  
The mission of the  
organization is to foster  
an appreciation of the  
beauty and endurance of  
vintage automobiles.

**28th Annual  
New London to New  
Brighton  
Antique Car Run  
Saturday, August 9, 2014  
Pre-Tours, August 6-8**  
  
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