



Seaway Cruisers Classic Car Club

March 2015

News letter

Valve Cover Races

Thursday

March 19th, 7 pm

Automotive Classroom

SUNY Canton

Rules

- No propulsion weights
- No moving weights
- Valve cover must have four wheels contacting the ground
- Wheels can be attached in any manner but cannot extend past front of cover
- Covers must be actual valve cover from an automobile engine
- Appearance alterations encouraged

SPECIFICATIONS:

30 inch max length

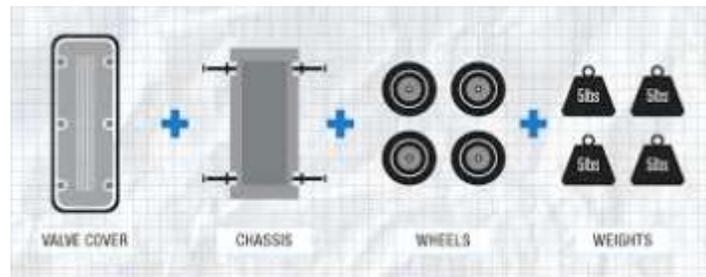
15 inch max width

11 inch max height

10 pounds max weight

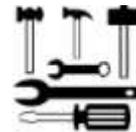
3/4 inch ground clearance

How to Make a Valve Cover Racer



Supplies needed:

- valve cover
- wheels
- chassis
- weights
- paint and other cosmetic supplies (optional)



Valve Cover – A valve cover can be acquired from a junk yard, repair shop, a car guy or gal, swap meet, or flea market.



Wheels – roller skate, skateboard, and roller-blade wheels are all popular for use as valve cover racer wheels. Some people make their own wheels and get creative in the process. Check with family, friends and neighbors if you are looking for wheels from the skate family. Thrift stores, garage sales and flea markets are other good sources.

Chassis – commonly made out of plexiglass, strap metal or wood, plus some bolts, screws, shelf brackets or other hardware. Give some thought to where to place the wheels in relation to the valve cover so they are not too high or too low. The most important factor when making a valve cover racer is that it rolls in a straight line. Spend time aligning the wheels. The key is to make your racer roll smooth and straight – consistently.

Weights – Magnetic strips or fishing weights work well. They heavier the car, the faster it will go – but check race rules for the weight limit and be sure your racer stays under the limit.

To view a video workshop, go to You Tube and search for How to Build a Valve Cover Racer or www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFXpiU1a5EO



Submission Deadline

March 27, 2015 for April

**Seaway Cruisers
Classic Car Club, Inc.**

~ Established 1986 ~

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From the President

John Miller III

Pizza Party and the Great Valve Cover Race

The meeting will be on Thursday, March 19th at 7 p.m. at SUNY Canton at the Auto Tech Lab. The Club is providing pizza and soda. Some members are providing other refreshments too.



There will be first, second and third place trophies for the valve cover races. The Seaway Cruisers are providing a \$50 cash prize for the SUNY Canton student with the fastest racer among student racers.

If you don't yet have a valve cover racer there is still time to make yours and join the fun for bragging rights and a few trophies. If anyone needs a valve cover let me know. If you don't have a racer, come to the meeting for the pizza and the fun.



Hope to see you there,
John Miller III

Posters now available

Download at <http://seawaycruisers.com/car-show>

Or ask President John Miller III

***55th Annual Seaway Festival Car Show
and Flea Market***

Sunday, July 26, 2015

VENDORS WANTED

Share the news of this great opportunity with those you know or meet who sell their crafts, collectibles, etc.

ENTRANTS WANTED

Cars 🏆 **Motorcycles** 🏆 **Trucks**
Pedal Cars 🏆 **Bicycles**

IDEAS WANTED

Please share your thoughts and suggestions for the car show — or anything else regarding our car club.

ARTICLES AND BY-LAWS — All members are invited to review the Seaway Cruisers Articles and By-Laws which are available on the club's website or by asking President John Miller III. John asks you to check them over and let him know if you suggest any changes or updates be made.



From the Secretary

Brandon Baldwin

2/15/15 Meeting minutes

Our Car Show:

- New this year: Raffle Theme Baskets, including kids ones
- Vendor area to be "garage sale like"
- Need someone to sell old dash plaques at Car show
- Sally Hartman had done the new flyers for show and vendors, and goodie bags letter, soon to be on our website

Studebaker meeting the end of March that Frank and Casey plan to attend.

7 members in attendance on this extremely cold night

Potsdam car show is July 11th

March 19th : our next meeting at SUNY Canton along with the Valve cover Races

Next "You AUTO Know" session will be the last week of April on car technology history including examples such as Frank Howie's Studebaker

Name that State #1

Do you know which states used these slogans on their license plates back in 1955? The number combination on each plate represents an engine size offered by a car maker back in 1955. Identify the brand.



1. _____



3. _____



2. _____



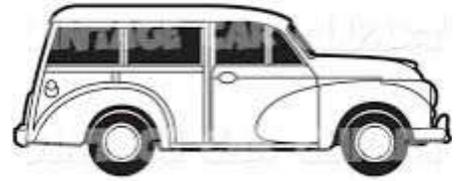
4. _____

Affordable Classic: 1961 Morris Minor Traveller

(From http://www.motortrend.com/classic/features/12q4_affordable_classic_1961_morris_minor_traveller/)

By Todd Lassa *This article originally appeared in the Winter 2012 issue of Motor Trend Classic.*

You might recognize the Morris Minor as the car "Monty Python's Flying Circus" illustrator Terry Gilliam cut from old magazine ads for his surrealist cartoons bridging live-action skits. What became the British Motor Corporation built the Minor from 1948 to 1971 and imported it to the States from 1949 to '67. It was designed for a flat-four, though ultimately postwar Morris couldn't spend the funds necessary for such an engine, says John Voelcker, editor of High Gear Media's Green Car Reports (GreenCarReports.com) and the founder, when he was in high school, of the Morris Minor Registry and its monthly newsletter. "This was Britain's Volkswagen Beetle. In 1961, it became the first British car to reach production of one million," he says. Proving an exception to the shibboleth that young people don't drive their parents' cars, Voelcker's 1961 Morris Minor Traveller has been in his family since new. It's perhaps the most valuable of Minor body styles, built a decade after the last American woodies gave way to all-steel bodies. Cabinetmakers in Coventry, England, built the wood bodies from the B-pillar back with seasoned ash. Morris shipped them to the Minor assembly line in Cowley. The Traveller accounted for 280,000 of the 1.6 million Minors produced. "It was the last car in production in the world that used wood as a structure [except Morgan sports cars]. Take off the back, you have a chassis cab." Voelcker's parents bought the left-hand-drive Traveller in London when his father was finishing his doctorate there. They drove it around Europe before shipping it to the States. When they returned to the U.K., John's granddad kept the Traveller in Northern Michigan for the next 15 years.



In 1982, when Voelcker's grandfather ran the car across a railroad track, the crossmember of its longitudinal torsion-bar suspension shattered, and the mounts punched through the floorpan. John inherited the car after his grandfather died and replaced the floorpan, doorsills, chassis legs, and crossmember. There's pale gray overspray from the body shop that did the repairs, Voelcker says. Patina. You can find a decent Morris Minor Traveler driver for less than \$10,000. Buy one with little rust and good wood, Voelcker advises. Replacing the wood requires a lot of disassembly and hand-fitting. Better examples can reach \$15,000 to \$20,000, but fixer-uppers are easy to repair and restore. You can see the ground from either side of the engine, and you can buy complete wood sets from suppliers in the U.S. or England for about \$3000. "As with a Beetle, you can get pretty much any part of a Morris Minor." The owner's manual recommends sanding off the varnish every two years, then applying a new coat of boat wood varnish.

Cruiser Roger Bailey
owns a 1961 Morris
Minor Traveller

Voelcker's has 54,000 "hard miles, after road salt" and retains its original 37-hp, 948cc A-Series four, an engine commonly replaced in such cars as the Austin-Healey Sprite and MG Midget. The four-speed manual has no first-gear synchro and, typical of the Minor, "little remaining of the second-gear synchro." The BMC 1098- and 1275cc engines and gearboxes are easy swaps, and Datsun 1200 and 1400 engines are "almost clones." But the Minor's engine compartment is short and wide, limiting engine-swap choices. Finding a notch cut in the firewall crossmember means a previously owner hot-rodged the car. A bad notch can affect the top suspension mounts. "The Minor pretty much outhandled any British car that wasn't a sports car, though it'll axle-hop if you breath too hard." Aftermarket anti-rollbars are available. The cars even compete in vintage races. Voelcker upgraded to Spridget front discs, which have the same front bolt pattern. "Mechanically, it's pretty original. It runs comfortably all day at 50-55 mph." Here's what makes the Morris Minor Traveller perhaps the most affordable classic from Old Blighty: "It's the most reliable British car of the 20 or so I've owned -- and the easiest to work on." Brush up your varnishing skills.

My Classic Vehicle

By William Arnold

I own a 1966 MGB . I have owned it since August 1975.

How I got it was found in a field.

What is noteworthy about it is MK1!.

Classified Ads



For Sale: 1930 Model "A" Ford completely restored trophy winner. \$20,000. Call Pat Bartlett (315) 323-5076

Give Away: If anyone is interested, I have about 200 issues of *Speed Sport News* 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991, 2004 to give away. (315) 386-3341 Bill

My First Vehicle

By Bill Barren

What was your first vehicle? *1963 Falcon convertible*

How did you get it? *Bought it in Eden, NY from a small used car dealer for \$200 plus \$8 tax*

What became of it? *The unibody was rotten and in 5 years I put the body on a 1963 Galaxie frame, put a roof on the body and ran the stock car at Holland and Perry Raceways, finished 7th in points.*



2015 Event Calendar

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
Thursday	Mar. 19	7 p.m.	Meeting, Valve Cover Races and Pizza Party, SUNY Canton Automotive Classroom
Sat. & Sun.	Mar. 28-29	10-10 & 10-5	Syracuse Motorama, Center of Progress Building, New York State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY
Fri.-Sun.	May 15-17		5th Annual Two Nations 1000 Islands Extravaganza, Clayton, NY. Hosted by the Highway Legends Car, Truck and Bike Club.
Sat. & Sun.	Jun. 13-14		33rd Annual Antique Gas & Steam Engine Exhibition, Madrid, NY
Saturday	July 11		48th Annual Potsdam Antique and Classic Car Show, Ives Park
Fri-Sun	July 18-20		Syracuse Nationals; visit www.rightcoastcars.com for details
Sat. & Sun	July 18-19		Malone International Auto Show & Flea Market, Malone Recreation Park
Sunday	July 26	9-4	55th Annual Seaway Festival Car Show, Bridge & Port Authority grounds
Sunday	August 30	9-3:30	Golden Gears Car Club Fall Car Show, Seaway Locks, Iroquois, Ontario-- Eddy & The Stingrays perform

Answer to puzzle on page 3

NAME THAT STATE #1
1. Alabama—Chevrolet
2. Montana—Lincoln
3. Maine—Pontiac
4. Kansas—Studebaker

Seaway Cruisers Classic Car Club , Inc. promotes interest in antique, classic and customized vehicles and aids in the restoration, preservation, and enjoyment of these vehicles. The Club is organized exclusively for social and recreational purposes including the increase of communication and fellowship among persons interested in these objectives through social activities. Annual membership is open to anyone who supports the organization's mission and submits an application.

Car Show Television



Car Show Television is available at www.carshowtv.com or through the app for Android, Roku or Amazon Fire TV. The App is free but there is a \$1.99 monthly subscription fee after the free trial unless you cancel before the end of the trial period.

Car Show Television is a weekly show that covers car shows across the country including muscle cars, street rods, exotics, antiques and collectables. The reality show takes you to 2-4 car shows looking for the most interesting, unique, custom, and historical cars.



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