

Hartleb's classic hot rod

A Nederland classic man and his toys

by Dave Gibson

You may know Tom Hartleb through his years of service with Nederland Fire and Rescue. More of you might recognize his VW-powered yellow "trike." Seen at

this year's 4th of July Parade in Nederland, with Tom aboard sporting his infamous red white and blue shorts, it is a familiar sight around town. He has racked up half a million miles on the "trike" and leaves for Sturgis this weekend for the 24th year in a row!

Tom's other vehicle is a blue 1931 Ford 4-door with a body by Murrey. Purchased through the

Internet, he drove all the way to Memphis, TN, only to find it in disrepair dilapidating in a farm field. He has since made the fixes, while adding chrome rims giving the old Ford a special flair. The grouse on the radiator cap now shines proudly flying down the road.



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Hot Rods & Classics Car Show



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Front Range Hot Heads Car Club at Kwik Mart in Nederland

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Last Sunday at the Kwik Mart in

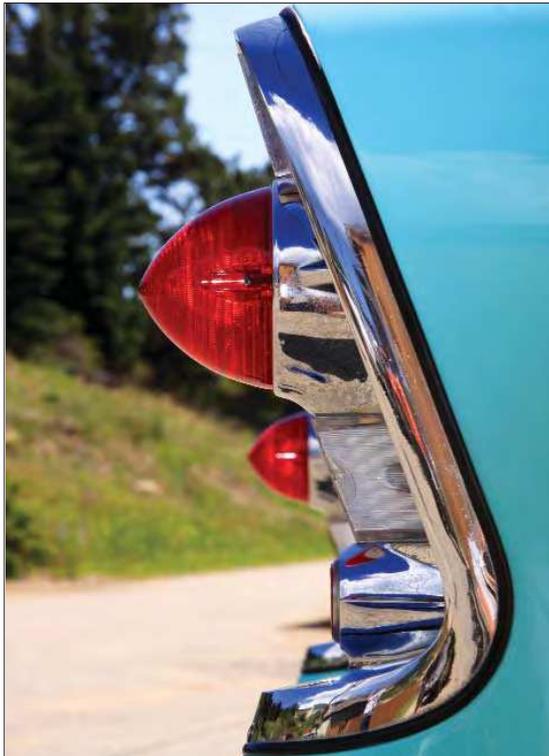
Nederland the annual Hot Rods and Classics Auto Show was held once again. Pieces of rolling metal art from days gone by, the owners of the vehicles sat or stood nearby happy to share information about their particular pride and joy. One man scrubbed the whitewall tires on his canary yellow classic Buick to the whitest white I've ever seen.

As he bent over, his bald head shined almost as brightly as his tires! His date sat comfortably in her shaded lounge chair. Two Corvettes parked backed to the roundabout. The Kwik Mart, street behind the Kwik Mart, and realty parking lot were lined with muscle cars, antiques autos, and hot rods of every shape and color. The flames on an old Ford hot rod gave the car motion even though it was standing still. Distinct ruby red rocket-shaped taillights on a mid-fifties Bellaire told of where the driver had been. Another Bellaire's chrome grillwork was almost

blinding. Reflections caught my eye from a smartly polished jet black Chevy Super Sport as I watched people stroll by.

When heavy rain hit at about noon, delaying the national anthem, everyone sought cover.

Happily the storm didn't contain every classic car owner's nightmare – large hail! After an hour it passed and car enthusiasts went back to the serious business of admiring a great American love – the automobile.



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