MIT Club of Southeastern Michigan
Sunday June 3, 2007
4:30 to 8:00 PM

Orphan Car Show "Afterglow"

The MIT Club of Southeastern Michigan will gather at Frenchie's (next to the Sidetrack) in Ypsilanti's Depot Town on Sunday afternoon, June 3, from 4:00 until 7:00, following the Ypsilanti Orphan Car Show in Riverside Park.

Admission to the MIT event is $10.00 per person for MIT Club members and their families, and $15 per person for non-members, to cover munchies (chips and salsa, etc.). Real food (sandwiches, etc.) will be a la carte; so will beverages. At Frenchie’s, the Sidetrack serves the best hamburgers in Southeast Michigan according to many surveys, as well as an impressive array of sandwiches and other food, including excellent hummus. There is an astounding collection of draft and bottle beers. The adjacent train tracks provide regular excitement, as they cross through the intersection just outside the front door (the entrance is between the crossing gates and the tracks), and the engineers love to use the whistle as they pass through. Not to worry; the last time a train hit the building, they tore down the affected area and put in the patio.

Take a Sunday drive to Ypsilanti, learn something about cars, walk around Depot Town, and mingle with MIT friends. Cars, trains, great food, and interesting conversation in an authentic, quintessentially Michigan small town - what better way to have an MIT event?

To make reservations, please respond to Art Cole:
art.cole@alum.mit.edu
or call at (734) 995-5003.

Csabe Csere (Course II, 1978) will be on hand to talk about cars and the automotive industry in a very informal setting. He might talk about energy impacts of various propulsion alternatives, or share insights into why products become successes or orphans. Csaba is editor of Car & Driver magazine, and a frequent guest discussing things automotive on National Public Radio. After graduating from MIT and before beginning his career in journalism, Csaba was an engineer at Ford.
What is the Orphan Car Show? It’s an annual event created by the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Collection to educate the general public about the 99+% of American auto makes that are no longer built, and the hundreds of foreign auto makes that are no longer imported. This is not a high-toned concours d’élégance, like the one at Pebble Beach, where perfect examples of rare million-dollar cars are featured, and men wear blue blazers and women large picture hats. This event is like the “Our Gang” comedies where the kids go to the barn and say, “Let’s put on a show!”

The Show begins at 9:00 AM, with the narrated “Pass in Review,” where expert narrators will describe the vehicle and a bit of the history of the make, beginning at 11:00 AM. Admission to the Orphan Car Show is $6.00 for anyone who looks old enough to think about driving – basically anyone age twelve and up. With more than 300 vehicles in the show, you might decide to spend the entire day, or just a part of it, at the show. Walking around to see the cars on display is a good way to grow hungry and thirsty.

What is an Orphan Car? For the show, it’s a car or truck at least fifteen years old that has not been produced for at least seven model years. It includes American names like Hudson, Packard, Kaiser, Studebaker, and DeSoto, and foreign makes like Trabant, Borgward, and Riley.

For information about registering one of your cars in the show, please call the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum at (734) 482-5200.

Ypsilanti, Depot Town, the Automotive Heritage Collection, and Miller Motors (Washtenaw County’s largest Hudson dealer*) are parts of Americana and Michigan that you should experience. The community is informal, unpretentious, and fun for the entire family.

Directions: Take I-94 to Exit 183 (Huron Street). Go north to Cross Street, which is just past Michigan Avenue. Turn right on Cross Street; Riverside Park and the Orphan Car Show will be on your right. Just across the bridge is Depot Town. The Sidetrack is at the railroad crossing and the traffic light, and Frenchie’s is next door. Enter Frenchie’s from the parking lot at the rear (south), or through the Sidetrack. Parking is available north of Cross Street behind the buildings, along River Street, or in the lots marked for the Sidetrack on the west side of River Street.

*Since Miller Motors is the only Hudson dealership in the world, it follows that it is also the largest Hudson dealer in Washtenaw County.