



WAM NEWS LETTER January 2017

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Next WAM Membership Meeting
January 17th. 6:30 PM - 7:59 PM at
Davis Moore Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and
RAM Dealership E. Kellogg Drive.

www.wichitamopar.com

Facebook group - Wichita Area Mopars

2017 WAM Events -----

* January 17, WAM membership meeting

• **Starbird-Devlin: January 19th thru 22nd 2017 (Century II)** WAM Club participating, with 11 WAM members Mopars. Load in 2:30 PM Thursday, Show is Friday to Sunday. Discount tickets at Quick Trips. Coordinator Rick A 990-2727 www.starbirddevlin.com/event

• **Sun Flower Swap Meet: February 3rd, & 4th 2017 (Park city)** www.wichitaas.com/swapmeet WAM is at the same building spot as last year per event manager. Load in Thursday afternoon. Friday & Saturday event. Must take all stuff out by 4 pm Sat. Note: WAM has 5 tables for members to bring any kind of auto parts to sell at no charge. However; you should be present to sell your item. For the most part there is a WAM member present most of the time. They can help. WAM coordinator Rocky Slagel

February 21st WAM Membership meeting
March 21 st, WAM Membership meeting
April 18th, WAM Membership meeting

Facebook group -

Wichita Area Mopars WAM.

Current Mopar & WAM events & Pics.

Start your 2017 Cruise & Show Plans

April 21 – 23rd MATS, Las Vegas NV Drag Strip.

Special events for Scat Packs n Hellcats. Drag & SCCA Racing, Show, Swap area, Vendors & fun. WAM has several members interested in going with their Mopars. Coordinator TBA. Please let us know and cruise to event and motels can be coordinated. 12 WAM members attended last year.

JUNE 24th, WAM ALL MOPAR MEET Sedgwick County Park, Wichita, KS.

Same \$20 Preregistration until June 1. \$25 at the gate. www.wichitamopar.com website will have forms and more information soon. SPONSORSHIIPS available by contacting Ron Mayes charger@advcom.net

Area Cruse Nights

Friday Nights —Central and West Street, April through September. After depending upon weather. Ray Wagoner, 316-295-7600

Saturday Nights: Spangles, Pawnee & Seneca, Year' round.

2016-17 WAM Officers & Board Members

President - Rick Aldrup

Vice President - Kade Krenke

Secretary /Membership Director— Sam Shoffner

Treasurer - Mike Saville & Mike Sage

Newsletter/MEDIA- Ron Mayes

At Large Board members: Wayne Jamis, Tim

Bonnell, Art Leger, and Jason Leger, Bill Hartman

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 WAM ALL MOPAR MEET SPONSORS

- * **Davis-Moore Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM**
- * Champion Windows and Home Improvement
 - * Clean Rite
 - * Penta star Performance
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New bill aims to preserve Route 66 ahead of centennial celebrations in 2026

[Daniel Strohl](#) on Jan 12th, 2017 Hemmings News

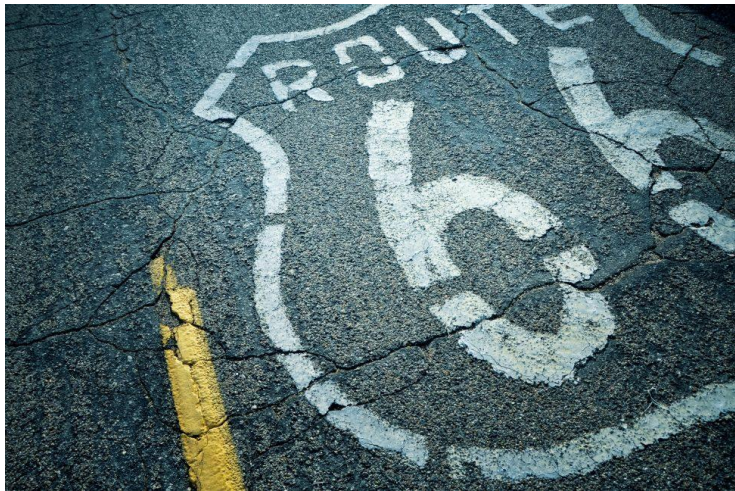


Photo by [Jannes Glas](#).

While much of Route 66 remains in existence and in use, its decommissioning more than 30 years ago has left its fate largely to the various states through which the Mother Road passes, but a new bill proposes to not only coordinate the preservation of the highway on a federal level but also to provide federal funds for that effort.

The [Route 66 Centennial Commission Act](#), also known as H.R. 66, which Representative Rodney Davis of Illinois introduced in Congress last week, not only proposes the formation of a commission tasked with celebrating the road's centennial in 2026 it also directs the U.S.

Department of Transportation to prepare a preservation plan for Route 66.

What exactly of the route would be preserved would be up to the USDOT and the relevant states, according to Miles Chiotti, Davis's assistant in charge of the legislation.

"There's a big desire to preserve it so as not to disturb the roadbed as much as possible," he said. "But we made sure to word it to leave it up to the DOT and the states to determine the course of action."

Bill Thomas, president of the [Route 66: The Road Ahead Initiative](#), which worked with Davis's office to draft the bill, said the road itself could indeed benefit from preservation in some places, as could the route's many bridges, what Thomas described as "architecturally iconic."

"You hate to see them get torn down because what goes up to replace them these days doesn't have a lot of character," he said.

However, preservation of Route 66 should extend beyond the highway itself, he said. "There's a healthy interest in preserving the idiosyncratic local character of Route 66: the mom-and-pop cafes, the weird roadside attractions, the wonderful neon signage."



Brick section of Route 66 in Auburn, Illinois. Photo by [Jim Grey](#).

Current preservation efforts fall to the National Park Service's [Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program](#), initiated in 2009. According to Thomas, the program distributes about \$100,000 per year to local or state projects, based not on any sort of route-wide priority list, but on which projects have sufficient matching funds. However, that program is set to end in 2019, with no similar program scheduled to replace it.

As proposed in the Route 66 Centennial Commission Act, the Secretary of Transportation and the governors of all eight states through which the highway passes would prepare a route-wide preservation plan due no later than three years after the passage of the Act (2020, should it pass this year). The bill doesn't provide any specific funding for the preservation plan, but Thomas said the Road Ahead Initiative is working on other federal legislation that would.

In addition, the Road Ahead Initiative has worked with Illinois legislators to introduce a [similar Route 66 Centennial Commission bill](#) there, and Thomas said he hopes to leverage that effort to get state-level centennial commissions started in the other seven Route 66 states. Decommissioned in 1985, Route 66 [remains more than 85 percent intact](#), according to the NPS, though as Thomas pointed out, little remains of the original 18-foot-wide poured concrete roadbed that hasn't been paved over or widened, and signage varies widely from state to state along the route. In 2008, the [World Monuments Fund](#) added Route 66 to its watchlist, noting that the highway's "surviving businesses are struggling, and its roadside architecture—a tapestry of 20th-century Americana—is deteriorating. Some places are threatened by development. Others are falling prey to vandals, decay, and abandonment."

As for centennial celebration events, Chiotti said those would be entirely up to the committee, though the bill did float the idea of a conference on the U.S. Numbered Highway System. Thomas said it's way too early to plan any such events, but said it would be a nice centennial

present to the nation to ensure that Route 66 is still there for the anniversary. A number of celebrations – most along the route, but also as far away as Germany – [marked the highway's 90th anniversary last year](#).

In addition to the preservation effort and centennial planning, backers of the [Route 66 Experience](#) in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Route 66 founder, Cyrus Avery, was based, said they expect groundbreaking for the \$23 million museum to take place in the spring, with the grand opening anticipated for fall of next year.

H.R. 66 is currently in the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.



AWESOME FOURSOME

The Dodge Brand is launching four new special-edition models for 2017: the Charger Daytona, the Challenger T/A, the Journey GT and the Durango RT with Brass Monkey appearance package. Get an up-close look at all four by visiting our dedicated site featuring videos, stills and product details.

FIA joins effort to demand restoration of the Bonneville Salt Flats

[Daniel Strohl](#) on Jan 13th, 2017 at 8am Hemmings News

As racers and supporters of land-speed racing at Utah's Bonneville Salt Flats prepare to go to Congress with demands for the restoration of the racing venue, the international racing organization that oversees land-speed records has thrown its support behind those demands. In a [letter to the Bureau of Land Management](#) sent earlier this month, Dennis Dean, president of the Land Speed Records Commission for the [Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile](#) urged the BLM "to take immediate and



Photo by [Tom Kelly](#).

dramatic remedial actions to not only ensure the Bonneville Salt Flats do not deteriorate further, but more appropriately, are set on a course to restore them to the pristine condition they were in when originally placed in the Bureau's care."

Dean noted that the salt flats – recognized internationally as a place of great importance to the racing community – have been designated as both an Area of Critical Environmental Concern and a Special Recreation Management Area but that the Bureau has appeared to ignore and perhaps has encouraged the ongoing shrinking of the salt flats.

"There is more than 50 years of history that leads one to believe that the Bureau's lack of action has been a direct enabler of the continued deterioration of this international treasure to the point where it may be irreversibly damaged," he wrote. "We sincerely hope that is not the case."

Bonneville racers similarly [accused the BLM of dragging its feet](#) in regards to forming an action plan to address the shrinking salt last year. Their comments came after a summit in Salt Lake City that elicited agreement from BLM officials on the scope and importance of the issue but no promise to remedy the situation beyond the commissioning of a study into the causes of the salt shrinkage.

Like the racers involved in the [Save the Salt](#) coalition, Dean said in a telephone interview that he believes the best course of action is to return the salt currently on the south side of Interstate 80 – deposited there as a byproduct of industrial potash production taking place on lands leased from the BLM – back to the north side, where the speedway lies.

"They've made some efforts toward that in the past, but at the end of the day if they're going to reverse what's going on there, they need to be more aggressive in adding material back to the salt," he said. "If they let the salt flats continue to deteriorate, then aside from losing a natural resource and a national treasure, they'll also lose the racers to places like Hakskeenpan in South Africa, where the

Bloodhound team plans to run. It would be a shame to lose the tradition of Bonneville simply because we weren't tuned to these environmental impacts."

Established in 1904 and headquartered in Paris, the [FIA oversees land-speed record attempts](#) (except those contested by motorcycles) around the world and, as Dean put it, is "quite familiar with the venues used for those attempts."

Dean said he has yet to receive a response from the BLM, though after seeing the [Utah state legislature call on the BLM to restore the salt flats](#) last year, he said he is "cautiously optimistic" that the BLM will at least respond generally to the restoration pleas.

BLM officials have yet to respond to a request for comment on the letter.

Meanwhile, Save the Salt officials have prepared legislation due to be introduced later this year that would provide federal funding for such restoration efforts. To represent their interests, Save the Salt – with financial support from SEMA – has hired lobbyist Michael Swenson, who [told the Salt Lake Tribune](#) that he's already been in touch with officials in Washington, D.C.

For his part, Dean said that he's not sure legislation will force the BLM to act. "I think what will work is putting public pressure on the BLM and being the squeaky wheel when working with the entities involved."

While the annual Speedweek – along with several other racing events – returned to Bonneville last August, racing there was canceled the prior two years due to flooding and poor salt conditions, leading racers to start looking for solutions to the diminishing salt situation.

A University of Utah study of the flats, which is expected to provide data that could answer that question and which the BLM wants to review before determining how to fix Bonneville, isn't expected until 2018

WAM WEBSITE NEW CHANGES TO BUY & SELL area - check it out!

www.wichitamopar.com

Got anything interesting to present our MOPAR membership. Please send it to WAM@advcom.net. This includes pictures and details of your winter Mopar projects, car shows with Mopars, Cruises, etc.



Ron's 68 engine is back together and running in time for Devlin Starbird. Come down and see our WAM display of 11 Mopars Jan 20 – 22,

2017.

Chrysler Looking to Return to NASCAR!



FCA Chief Sergio Marchionne Discussed with Jim France and Lesa France Kennedy

Lesla France Kennedy to discuss Chrysler's return to NASCAR, according to the Daytona Beach News-Journal. The dinner took place Saturday night December 3, 2016 while Marchionne was in town for the Ferrari World Finals and Formula One exhibition. Says Marchionne about a possible return, "Yes, I talked to Jim France about this Saturday night. I was the one who made the decision to pull out of NASCAR—I'm the guilty party at the table." He went on to say that the decision was due to Chrysler coming out of bankruptcy in 2009 and needing to remain able to pay their bills and payroll. Continued Marchionne, "We are in a different place now. I think it is possible we can come back to NASCAR. I think we need to find the right way to come back in, but I agreed with both Jim and Lesa we would come back to the issue." France confirmed the meeting, saying, "He's a very intelligent man—we had a good discussion." Wow!

See a Chicken Corn Chowder Recipe

Keeping our fingers crossed for a NASCAR Chrysler Christmas comeback in the very near future.

More than just a rumor, Fiat Chrysler Chief Sergio Marchionne is reported to have had dinner with both NASCAR Vice-Chairman Jim France and International Speedway Inc. CEO

WAM Newsletter is a Membership Benefit. Please attend WAM meetings and contribute to our event staff and newsletter news! Rick Aldrup President wam@advcom.net.