



# CarClub



## The Monthly Planet

### *The Sky's The Limit*

**F**ebruary. Yes, it is the shortest month, but we do add a day this leap year. As I am actually writing this article in January, it just happens to be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the blizzard of 1978. For some of us, it meant days stuck in the house with no way of getting anywhere. Take a moment and share within your family where you were at that time, and, if you lived in an area affected by the blizzard, how the storm affected you.

One activity that many people can but don't think about doing is donating blood. The annual Saturn National Donor Day is February 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Saturn West in Hilliard. One pint of blood when processed saves three lives. For CarClub members, you can gain a point toward active membership by donating. It is best to call the Red Cross ahead of time to set up an appointment to give blood. That number is 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. This will assure you of having the supplies on hand to donate your blood. Yes, I am a donor. I just rolled up my sleeve on a recent Monday.

The group that went to Detroit for the International Auto Show had a great trip. I have heard from several of them how much there was to see and do again this year. Look for the article on page 2 in this issue of the Monthly Planet.

While our General Meeting falls on Valentine's Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have a meeting. The mini event this month will be in two parts. First, we will take a tour of Saturn North. Then, for those who have not had a chance to see the new Astras, we will have a "walk-around" of these new vehicles from the other side of the pond (i.e., from Europe). Base pricing for the 5-speed manual is \$15,995.00 for the 5 Door XE, \$17,545.00 for the 5 Door XR., and \$18,495.00 for the 3 Door XR. The 4 speed automatic starts at \$17,320.00 for the 5 door XE, \$18,820.00 for the 5 door XR, and \$19,920.00 for the 3 door XR. Optional feature packages are available for both XR vehicles. There are six snazzy colors to choose from. They are Arctic White, Star Silver, Twilight Blue, Silver Sand, Black Sapphire, and Salsa Red. There will be some fun activities both before and after the mini event.

Our monthly activity is a winter walk at Highbanks MetroPark. The exact date and meeting place are being selected. There is no cost for this except for your gasoline to get there and back, and any food you choose to purchase. This is for those who are getting cabin fever and need to get out and do something other than going to work or clearing snow off of driveways and sidewalks. It would also be a great activity for children as it would give them a chance to burn off a lot of that excess energy that many of them seem to have.

Last month I mentioned the Oil Change Coupons. Saturn of Columbus has asked that those coupons with expiration dates up to and including 2007, be used by March 31, 2008. They will not be honored after that. Those Oil Change Coupons with an expiration date of March 31, 2008 (signed by Cheryl Lutman) will be honored until December 31, 2008. If you have extra Oil Change Coupons that you will not be able to use, consider giving them to other CarClub members to use.

Looking ahead to March, not only will we have a great General Meeting with mini event, but the Columbus International Auto Show takes place from March 8 to 16. If you talk with those who went to Detroit, they may just give you a hint of what will be on display in Columbus.

Our CarClub web site is one of several ways to contact us ([www.centohiocarclub.com](http://www.centohiocarclub.com)). It not only has lots of pictures, but it has links to other Saturn related sites, and links to e-mail your ideas to the officers. We also have the Yahoo group being run by Lowell Lutman, our Membership Officer. If you are the type of person who needs reminders of upcoming events, this is a great way to keep informed. If you are not signed up for this yet, see Lowell at a meeting and ask him about it.

That's it for now. See you at a meeting soon.

*Ruth L. Albert*

You're not just in the club, you are the club!

# The North American International Auto Show Or, How To Have A Good Time in Detroit When It's Cold

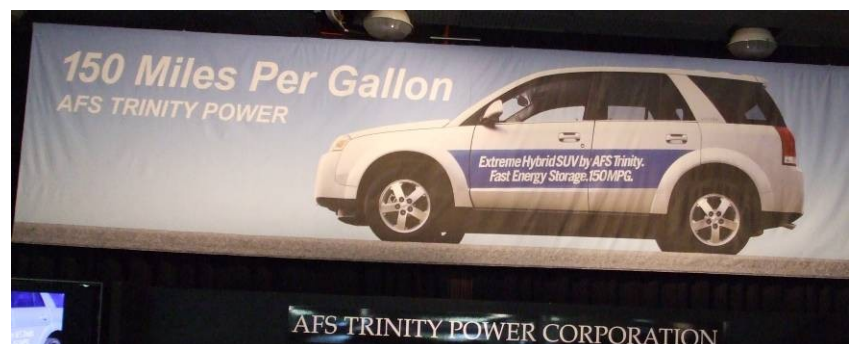
Thanks to the bitterly cold weather, both here and in Detroit, a furnace that only blew cold air, and a car that wouldn't start, it was a very small group that went to Detroit for the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS). However, it was still an amazing trip. For those of you not familiar with the auto show, here are a few facts to consider: More than 75,000 yards of carpet are used for the exhibits and aisles – that's enough to cover 750 football fields! It takes more than 1,500 carpenters, stagehands, electricians, Teamsters, riggers and ironworkers, working full time, to construct and dismantle the show. Plus, there are 1,732 folks handling daily operations during the show. But where else can you go to see not only the latest from General Motors, Ford, Toyota and Honda, but Porsche, Ferrari and Maybach? Where else can you see the Mach 5 from the new Speed Racer film?

Yes, we did all that and more. But because a



picture is worth a lot of words, here are some photos from the show. Saturn was debuting their Flextronic plug in concept car. Although it didn't have a spare tire, it did have a place to keep your Segway.

Then, there was a company called Fast Energy. They developed an Extreme Hybrid drivetrain, then to test it, they installed it in a new SUV, fresh off the showroom floor. Does anyone recognize it? Yep – that's a 2007 Saturn VUE.



According to their information, it gets 150 mpg in all-electric mode, goes 40 miles on one charge, or 400 miles in hybrid mode, accelerates from 0-60 in 6.9 seconds (all electric mode), and has a top highway speed of 87 mph. Lowell did an interview with the makers, and one of the questions they were asking him about is plugging the car in at night. Well, let's see, we plug in our cell phones, our PDA's, our laptops, our iPods and other devices. This is just one more thing to plug in. And they stressed this is not a concept – it's a fully functional prototype. Their hope is to license the technology to automakers, so how about it, Saturn? If you want to learn more, their website is [www.afstrinity.com](http://www.afstrinity.com).



And there's one more thing I have to mention. There was an old fire truck there, in the process of being restored. The Detroit fire fighters are rallying to retrofit this 1940's era truck as an "honor escort" for fire fighters killed in the line of duty. It's interesting to note that the truck was built by the Seagrave Company, located in Columbus, Ohio! It looks like they still have some work to do, but it's a very neat idea!

We also picked up several ideas for places to go and things to do when we go back to Detroit in August for the Woodward Dream Cruise. We're considering a return visit to Greenfield Village, visiting a couple of historic homes, checking out the new Detroit Historical Museum, or perhaps the Motown Museum. We hope you'll make plans to join us either at Woodward in August, or the Auto Show next January!

## Central Ohio Saturn CarClub Activities Calendar

Date	Meeting / Event	Location	Time
February 14	Regular Meeting	Saturn North	7:00 p.m.
February 21	Bingo	Villa Angela	7:00 p.m.
February 23	Winter Hike	Battelle-Darby Creek Metro Park	10:00 a.m.
March 13	Regular Meeting	Saturn SouthEast	7:00 p.m.
March 20	Bingo	Villa Angela	7:00 p.m.
March 29	Air Force Museum	Fairborn, Ohio	9:30 a.m.

### 2008 CarClub Officers

President:	Ruth Albert	centohiovp@mail.saturnfans.com
Vice President:	Peggy Williams	centohiovp@mail.saturnfans.com
Secretary:	Doug Dunham	centohiosecretary@mail.saturnfans.com
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Events:	Becky Harrass	centohioevents@mail.saturnfans.com
	John Williams	centohioevents@mail.saturnfans.com
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Newsletter:	Bill Smith	centohioeditor@mail.saturnfans.com
Champion:	Al Clapsaddle	centohiochampion@mail.saturnfans.com

If you have ANY problem with the above E-mail addresses, please let us know by calling our Hotline at (614) 470-3517.

### CarClub Hotline

Need information about the Central Ohio CarClub meetings or activities?

**Call our hotline at  
(614) 470-3517**

An officer will call you back, usually within 24 hours. If you don't hear from anyone within that time, please call back and leave a second message. Occasionally a message is hard to understand or gets deleted unintentionally.

### CarClub Website

<http://www.centohiocarclub.com/>

<http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/centohiosaturncarclub>

# Upcoming Events

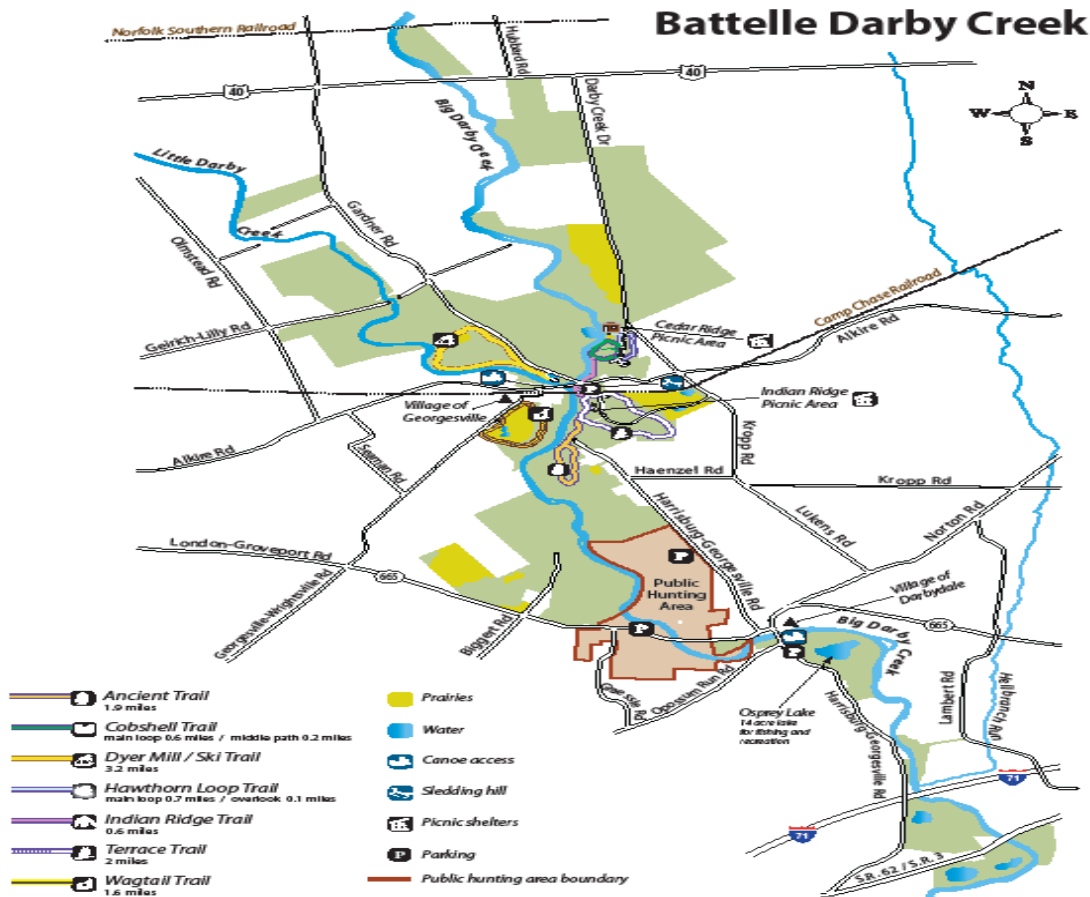
Greetings from John and Becky, the new Events Chairpersons,

We are thinking ahead to the coming months for some fun activities to do.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we are planning to participate in the Metro Parks 35th Annual Winter Hike Series at Battelle-Darby Creek Metro Park, 1775 Darby Creek Dr., Galloway, OH. The hike starts at 10:00 am from the Naturalist Office, so plan to arrive a few minutes early to get your bearings and be ready to depart at 10:00 am. Enjoy a 2, 4, or 6-mile trek along the banks and bluffs of Big Darby Creek. From I-270 take I-70 west to the Hilliard/Rome exit (91a), go towards New Rome and travel south to West Broad Street. Turn right onto Broad Street (U.S. 40) and travel approximately 4 miles to Darby Creek Drive. Turn left on Darby Creek Drive and proceed 3 miles. The main park entrance is on the right. We are looking forward to a nice day, sunny or snowy, for the hike. Please come and join us. Bring some liquids and snacks along since you will be excising.

On March the 29<sup>th</sup>, we are planning to go to the Air Force Museum in Fairborn. We will plan to meet at the Meijers parking lot on Hilliard-New Rome Road at 9:30 am and leave there as a group. If this is not convenient, you can meet us at the museum about 11:00 am. There is a cafeteria there for eating lunch. If you have not been to the museum, it is well worth the time. No matter how many times you have gone, there is always something new to see. There is no admission cost but lots of history to see.

Those are the events we have planned for now. Put these on your calendar and plan to join us. See you then!





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