



Tinkering Times



Volume 49, Number 8

August 5, 2009

2009 Jay Ofsthun Show:

Originator's Legacy Honored



Photo: Tom Cresap

Ben Hollman, Susie Holly, Howard Hansen and Fred Stauber pose with the Jay Ofsthun Trophy and Susie's 1955 Ford Thunderbird, which garnered the overall show award for 2009.

The Jay Ofsthun Show, at one time called the Show & Shine, is Alaska's finest and best attended annual car show. This year, an estimated 350 to 400 vehicles graced the show area on the Park Strip.

Every imaginable style was represented: restored antiques, custom, street rod, dragsters, low riders, funny cars and even new cars.

The show is named in honor of Jay Ofsthun, who loved all sorts of

cars, and who in the mid 70's envisioned just this sort of show that would be held on the Park Strip. In 1979, Ed Park, of the Midnight Sun Street Rod Association, organized the first show.

On May 26, 1986, Jay, his wife Lori and their nine year old son, Joshua, died in the crash of their light plane in Lake Clark while on a weekend fishing trip. That year, the show was renamed in his honor.

AAMA Hope Weekend Part of History

The 2009 Hope weekend took place July 17-19, and it provided the same relaxing getaway the Antique Auto Musers have enjoyed for the past twenty-four years or so, certainly giving us "historic" status.

Hope and once-neighboring Sun-

rise were part of the Alaska Gold Rush phenomenon, which happened over a hundred years ago. The two towns were booming centers of activity as gold poured from mines in the Resurrection and Palmer Creek val-

(Please see p. 3, Hope History)

The show is more social event than competitive car show. Two awards, however, are presented. First is the coveted Jay Ofsthun award—sponsored by the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska—which consists of a traveling trophy carrying names of each year's winners and a personalized plaque that goes to the winner. That award goes to a vehicle at least 25 years old. The second is the Mr. Ed's Pick, named in honor of the cofounder of the show, Ed Park. Due to Jay's interest in Senior Citizens' Rights, the Ofsthun award is the pick of either a resident of the Pioneer Home or a senior citizen chosen by the Midnight Sun Street Rod Association. The "Mr. Ed's Pick" is done by a person MSSRA deems able to choose something Mr. Park would like.

This year's Jay Ofsthun Award went to Susie Holly for her 1955 Ford Thunderbird. Mr. Ed's Pick went to K.B. Bettisworth for his 1940 Chevy custom rod.

August Meeting

The August 12, 2009 business meeting is planned as a rolling meeting and will start at 6:30 p.m. Meet, as usual, at the home of Robbie and Marianne Robinson, 3318 Jerde Circle, Anchorage. For Directions, call Robbie, 333-0693 or Tom, 694-7510.

Our drive-around will be to the late Bob Brown's museum.

Running Board Reflections



Photo: Tom Cresap

President Donn and his dog, Hamos, pose in front of Ken Evans' 1942 Chevy at the July 25th Trinity Presbyterian Church car show, which benefited local fire fighters and Huffman Elementary School.

You know it's getting to be late summer when Show'n Shine comes around. As I write this it's pouring rain and one can only hope it will clear up in time.

We've had great attendance at events this summer with several members that own multiple cars mixing

things up by driving different vehicles, sometimes more than one at the same event. Thanks to everyone for helping keep the club so fun.

Many of you know by now that Sara sold the '36 Cadillac to new club members Mike and Stacy Leal. Please join me in welcoming them and wishing them many fun experiences with their new old car. Welcome aboard!

Coming in the September *Tinkering Times* is a condensed version of our club history. It's a mildly edited version of what was sent to AACA for their book to be published next year celebrating the 75th anniversary.

The drive-around after the August meeting will take us to the late Bob Brown's museum in Muldoon. The Brown family has graciously invited us to tour their great collection of vintage vehicles, equipment, motors, and memorabilia. An event not to be missed, join us on August 12.

Donn Reese



Photo: Tom Cresap

Our July drive-Around was planned Gwyn and Mike Wiedmer. Here, Cresaps' 1931 Model A Roadster, Campbells' 1957 Ford, Bob Bartlett's 1930 Model A, Hulses' 1954 Rolls Royce and Stouts' 1966 Mustang convertible park briefly at Centennial RV park in north Anchorage. Each driver got slightly different directions, so we all took different routes to get to Country Kitchen for dessert.



2008 Officers

President: Donn Reese 245-7203

Vice President: Ron Watts 622-1931

Secretary: Sara Stoops 345-5992

Treasurer: Howard Hansen 345-1268

Sergeant at Arms: Fred Scharper

Members at Large

Tam Isham

Ken Evans

Robbie Robinson

Past Presidents (10 years)

Jeff Hassler/Donn Reese (2008)

Jim Fredenhagen (2006-2007)

Fred Schurman (2005)

Diane Allen (2004)

Fred Schurman (2001-2003)

Peg Stout (2000)

Ken Stout (1999)

Tinkering Times Staff

Editor: Tom Cresap

Proofing: Marcy Cresap

Please send correspondence, articles or ads to:

Tinkering Times

Tom Cresap, Editor

P.O. Box 770703

Eagle River AK 99577

or e-mail:

tmcresap@mtaonline.net

The Tinkering Times is published monthly by Alaska's premier classic and antique automobile club, Antique Auto Musers of Alaska, P.O. Box 232086, Anchorage AK 99523-2086.

Opinions expressed by authors who contribute to Tinkering Times are their own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska.

One Man's Treasures

For sale: 1927 Nash. Vehicle is in good condition. Have receipts for upgrades and restoration work done by Dan Unsicker of Classic Auto Rebuilding of Anchorage. Over \$22,000.00 invested, \$12,000.00 Negotiable. For a firm \$22,000.00 package deal, I will sell my 1960 Nash Metropolitan. I will not sell the Metro separately. Pictures available. James David Mackey, 907-272-2370 or doodlebug1@gci.net

For sale: 1975 U-Haul Van; big 20' box with grandma's attic; ramps for car loading, extra man door and "D-Track" tie-downs. Ford 600 V-8 engine—runs great. Good for transporting cars, storage, mobil garage. Carried my '26 Packard to Warren, Ohio in '99. \$6,000 OBO Kurt, 344-5554

For Sale: 1955 Pontiac Star Chief, 4-dr, complete frame-off restoration, 1000 miles since restoration, cruise control, burglar system, seat belts; car show winner at Bear Paw and Jay Ofsthun. Rebuilt in 1992, stored indoors on jack stands. Lots of parts, \$25,000 negotiable. Alan Beckett, 771-9910 or abeckett@gci.net

Auto Body: "Tin Lizzie, specializing in Antique Autos, custom paint and body work; free quotes; 50 years experience. Lee Truesdell, 907-745-4404 or ibbusy2@yahoo.com

Zinc Replacement: After 70+ years of trouble-free, metal-to-metal engine protection, the E.P.A. is forcing ZDDP (Zinc Dialkyl Dithio Phosphate, containing both Zinc and Phosphorus) from domestic motor oil. If your engine was designed prior to the 1990's, your non-roller lifters require ZDDP in your motor oil to avoid premature deterioration. Don't let your lifters run metal-to-metal.

Schedule of Events

- August 12—6:30 p.m. Rolling Meeting (Trip to Browns' Museum)
- August 29—Palmer State Fair Parade (LeRoi Heaven, 907-376-5679)
- September 9—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (Cresaps)
- September 12—Adopt-A-Road (Sara Stoops, 345-5992)
- October 14—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting, nominations for officers (Refreshments ?)
- November 11— 7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting, vote for 2010 officers (Refreshments?)
- December?—Christmas Party (TBA)

Hope History:

AAMA Joins Tradition in Hope

Continued from p. 1

leys. In those days, the two towns saw bustling business as ships arrived with supplies for miners and left with the gold extracted from area mines. Since then, almost all physical evidence of Sunrise has vanished. You can't even visit the town site without permission of the owner, and then only by guided tour. Reportedly, there is not much to see anyway, just some impressions in the ground where buildings once stood and a scantily marked graveyard.

The town of Hope, on the other hand, still exists. Many of the ancient cabins remain, even after the catastrophic earthquake of '64, which lowered the property some nine feet and allowed high tides to wash up Main Street. Although a few miners still muck for gold in the area streams or down hard-rock shafts, mining is a

thing of the past, and Hope's driving force of a century ago is lost. All that remains is a ghost town kept alive by a few permanent local residents and some seasonal ones who maintain recreational cabins in the area. The town now boasts a post office, a library, a museum, a school, two cafes, a bar and an art gallery.

Hope Wagon Trail Days Festival was initiated in 1988, a couple years after AAMA started to make the little burg a destination. To celebrate, some local folks sell crafts Saturday afternoon, a band shows up for a dance in the evening and curious campers try their luck at pulling salmon from Resurrection Creek. Sunday morning, however, things come to life when some 300 runners converge in front of the social hall to participate in the Wagon Trail Days 5k run.

Some AAMA members run, and the rest cheer from their campsite at the Methodist retreat house. This year, Howard Hansen, a regular, took the first place ribbon for his age group. Other runners were Dennis Allen, new member, Michael Leal, and Heather Schlueter and David Henningsen (Dick and Barb Henningsen's grandchildren.)

Among other activities, we did several parades and mini tours. We called it terrorizing the tourists. They seemed to love it. We certainly did.

Keep ZDDP, via ZDDPlus, in your motor oil. Add 4 oz. of ZDDPlus a every 4- to 5-quart oil change.

One bottle of ZDDPlus contains more ZDDP than two bottles of GM's EOS, which is designed for break-in use only.

As a service to the various car clubs in town, I received a new shipment of ZDDP. I was able to get a better deal on the freight this time. Price is \$10.00 per bottle. Buy 2 or more for \$9.00 each.

Check out zddplus.com for complete information.

Call Scott Hulse (240-4028, cel, or 349-8106, home)

4th Parades Keep Club Spread out



Photo: Carol Connell

Tom and Marcy Cresap's 1925 Model T provided conveyance for the Chugiak parade Grand Marshal, Tom and Maxine McKinley.

AAMA's July 4th parade schedule was full and fragmented. The club was represented in at least three parades: Anchorage, Chugiak/Eagle River and Willow.

Kurt Rein reports that 20 AAMA cars participated in the Anchorage parade, and two of those cars wended their way out to Chugiak, where six

cars made the three-mile parade route.

Peg Stout ventured to the Willow event and "brought back many memories of such parades in my youth—almost as many participants as spectators. There were dogs, horses, bicycles, ATV's, walkers, automobiles—all led, of course, by the local fire equipment." Peg says AAMA was well represented by Donna Waldron, looking very smart driving a 1939 Ford convertible and Bill Waldron, looking very focused, driving a 1939 Plymouth truck. Waldron's grandson, Jason Marten, appeared very sophisticated in a 1960 DeSoto convertible.

Meanwhile, back in Eagle River, 19 participants from the Anchorage and Chugiak parades converged at Tom and Marcy Cresap's house to top off the celebration with a barbeque.

Bottom line: the Antique Auto Musers proved it possible to take part in most of the local 4th of July parades.

Steve Beck and Jana McBroom Wed in Anchorage

Steve Beck and Jana McBroom were married on June 13, 2009 at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Anchorage.

Steve is the son of David and Peggy Beck and the grandson of Jim and Joyce Swanson.

Jim Swanson chauffeured the newlyweds to the reception at Tanglewoods Golf Course Chalet in his 1949 Jeepster, at the request of Steve. The grooms brother Jim, drove Jim and Joyce's 1929 Model A to the reception with the maid of honor and grooms-men.

Steve is completing his last year of residency in pediatric dentistry at Ohio State. They are looking to settle on the west coast after they finish their schooling in Ohio.

Benefit Show at Trinity Church

Trinity Presbyterian Church on Huffman Road was the site of an AAMA car show on Saturday, July 25. The event included live music, food and other entertainment and was a benefit for the local firefighters and Huffman Elementary School.

Dick Henningsen, coordinator of the car show asked for six or eight cars. Fourteen showed up, and the weather cooperated to make for a successful event.



Photo: Tom Cresap

Show coordinator, Dick Henningsen, discusses the intricacies of his two '56 Fords with visitors at Trinity Church parking lot.



Photo: Dave Beck

Model T's Take a Little Jaunt

On July 13–16, a group of five AAMA model T's made a four-day, 500-mile trip encompassing four highways. The itinerary led the group from Anchorage up the Glenn to the Richardson, across the Denali and back to Anchorage via the Parks.

The event, planned by Bruce Campbell, included his 1915 Touring, carrying Bruce and Marl, Fred Keller and Judy Foster in their 1916, Ted and Colleen Kimzey in their 1922 Roadster pickup, Tom and Marcy Cresap in their 1925 Touring and Ken and Peg Stout in Campbell's 1926 Touring. Ken Evans piloted a sweeper truck and trailer.

During the first half, the tour played out under beautiful, clear, warm and sunny skies. Touring cars ran with tops down, and their occupants happily soaked up the rays. Part of the smoke of some 500 fires that have burned about two million acres of forest and grassland in the interior then teamed up with a few minor rain clouds to provide about a day-and-a-half of overcast, cool weather and rain.

The Model T's easily traversed the old Denali Highway, which supplied about 120 miles of dust, gravel and a bit of mud. Midway on that leg of the



Photo: Butch Gratias

Model T's line up for a morning parting shot in front of Gracious Lodge before heading out for Cantwell and the end of the Denali Highway. Left to right, Fred Keller and Judy Foster (1916 Touring) Ted and Colleen Kimzey (1922 Roadster pickup) Tom and Marcy Cresap (1925 Touring) Bruce and Marl Campbell (1915 Touring) and Ken and Peg Stout (1926 Touring.)

trip, the group was hosted by Butch and Carol Gratias and their grandsons, Dalton and Austin at Gracious Lodge. Besides providing dinner, a night's lodging and breakfast, the Gracious Lodge staff (teens, Dalton and Austin) patched a flat on Campbell's 1915. The boys seemed to enjoy the diversion and the experience of fixing the

only tire casualty of the trip. The lodge, virtually closed down due to lack of tourist traffic, was "gracious," indeed, to provide a place to stay. The only other tenants were members of a Forest Service Crew that was abating illegal structures within local National Park boundaries.

July Adopt-A-Road



July 12 trash pickers: Tom and Marcy Cresap, Ken Evans, Jerry Roach, Gwyn Wiedmer, Ralph Centoni, Jim Fredenhagen, Diane Allen, Dennis Allen and Sara Stoops. Continental breakfast was supplied by Gwyn and Mike Wiedmer. Thanks!

State Fair

The Alaska State Fair is on the horizon. Event chairman, LeRoi Heaven, has announced that we should show up at the usual place by the police station in Palmer at 10:00 a.m. on August 29 for judging. The parade will begin at 11:00.

After the parade, we will proceed to the fairgrounds for our annual car show. We will be required to buy tickets, but antique cars will be admitted free to be placed in the show.

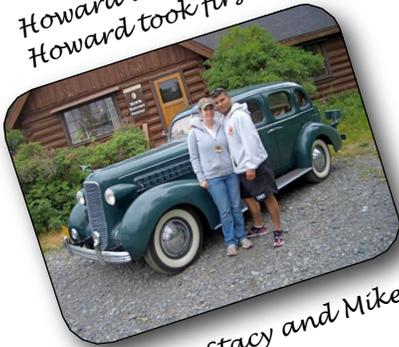
LeRoi suggests that we bring car magazines to give out to those who are interested.

Denali Park Tour

Bruce Campbell will attempt to get passes for AAMA members who applied for a lottery permit to Denali Park and were unsuccessful. Those who did not apply and now wish to go will be on a lower priority list but he will try for passes. Those interested should contact him at 345-3129 or mcmarl@alaska.net with the year, make and license number of the car they will be driving and indicate whether or not they applied. Tour date will be Sept. 21; driving up on the 20th and back on the 22nd. You should make your reservations ASAP at Denali Park Hotel for the 20th and 21st. 1-866-683-1800.



*Howard and Dennis finish the 5k run.
Howard took first in his age group.*



*New members, Stacy and Mike Leal and
their 1936 Cadillac*

August

Birthdays

Julia Ede-1st
 Margaret Heaven-2nd
 Fritz Wohlwend-4
 Marianne Robinson-6
 Doug Smith-8
 David Tullis-8
 Jimmy Beck-9
 Max Stoops-10
 Dave Beck-11
 Debbie Smith-11
 Scott Grundy-25
 Jenna Fredenhagen-26

Kelly Karcz-27

Bill Chace-31

Anniversaries

Jim & Victoria
 Fredenhagen-15

Donald & Judy
 Morfield-19

Howard & Barbara Han-
 sen-20

Jim & Julia Ede-23

Tom & Marcy
 Cresap-31



AAMA
 P.O. Box 232086
 Anchorage AK 99523-2086