



# Tinkering Times



Volume 49, Number 10

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## Denali Adventure Cool and Scenic



Photo: Scott Hulse

*Gwyn and Mike Wiedmer's 1949 Ford convertible and Sheryl and Scott Hulse's 1959 Rolls Royce rest at Stony Hill Overlook, mile 61, Denali Park Road, during the September 20 AAMA tour of the park. Denali (Mount McKinley) was out in all its glory for most of the day. Road conditions were perfect, with no dust or mud. (Also, see pp. 3&5.)*

by Bruce Campbell

On September 20, seven AAMA cars braved the elements and took off for Denali Park to attend the last day of the Park road opening. The usual delays, late arrivals and problems were again in the vanguard of our departure. Art Isham tried 3 cars before he found one that would at least make the starting line. Tam's T bird was just too tired to make the trip and the second choice Mercedes had a bad case of the hic-ups. After moving 3 other cars, Art finally got his Volvo out and in shape to attempt the trip. Only one further problem for Art: in the process of scurrying around to make the take off, he lost his wallet. It turned up in one of the cars he had to move to access the Volvo. Poor Tam.

Our "devil may care" member, Barry Fowler, brought his Model A to make the journey. In his usual non-

chalance he decided to drive it on the 700-mile escapade with a non-working generator. When questioned about the wisdom of this decision he replied "no problem I have a battery charger." The lack of any electrical outlets in the park to power his charger did not faze him. He made it; he but had to violate a Park road rule to "drive with headlights on at all times." Barry also neglected to pay the restaurant for dinner on Sunday night. Poor Doris.

By the grace of God, we all made it to the park Sunday evening and collapsed into our waiting hotel rooms. That evening, the entire group dined at the Black Diamond restaurant. It looked bleak for our Park adventure, as the trusty weatherman was forecasting rain and snow.

Monday morning, our voyage into the park began in fog, but to our de-

light the weather later cleared for most of the day. Mt. McKinley was visible in all its glory! There was no dust and no mud, a first in our 9 years of Denali visits. Animals were pretty scarce, but we did see moose, bear (at a distance), fox, caribou and eagles. On Tuesday, as we returned to Anchorage, we encountered a snowstorm from Healy to Cantwell. All travelers, got through unscathed and arrived home in time to get tucked into their little beds.

The players were: Allens, Campbells, Chaces, Fowlers, Hulses, Ishams, and Wiedmers---The group gets smaller each year. A special thanks to Ray Kreig for getting passes to visit his mining claim at Kantishna.

### Reminder!!

*Pay your AACA Dues now. The bill is included in your September-October issue of Antique Automobile.*

### October Meeting

The October 14, 2009 business meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Robbie and Marianne Robinson, 3318 Jerde Circle, Anchorage. We will not have a drive-around, since most of our cars are stored for the winter. For Directions, call Robbie, 333-0693 or Tom, 694-7510.

Refreshments will be supplied by Tom and Marcy Cresap.

# Running Board Reflections



Photo: Tom Cresap

*That's our president, Donn Reese, behind the Foster-Grants and in front of Anchorage's historic 4th Avenue Theater at the Alaska 50th Anniversary Statehood celebration June 27th. That blue sky and warm sunshine will be but a memory for the next few months.*

October has arrived and the snow line is creeping down the Chugach

Mountains, so you know it's PFD Season in Alaska. If you're having trouble spending all that loot, remember both the AAMA and AACA club dues are coming due. Getting your check in before December 31 always puts a smile on our treasurer's face.

Members attending the October meeting will be establishing our annual nominating committee for the 2010 board elections in November. Robbie has agreed to chair the nominating committee, however he will need two others to help with the nominating process. It's an easy way to be involved.

If you're feeling you want a little more long-term involvement, consider putting your name forward as a board candidate for 2010. To paraphrase the National Guard recruiters, it takes just a couple hours a week and one day (evening) a month.

See you all at the next meeting.

Donn Reese



## 2009 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)

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## Theresa Elizabeth Green 1966-2009

Theresa Elizabeth Green died on October 2, 2009 in Eagle River, Alaska. She was 42 years of age.

Theresa was born on December 16, 1966 in Eugene, Oregon and came to Anchorage in 1975. She had worked for Laidlaw in Anchorage and Eagle River. She also worked for Laidlaw in Seattle and Tacoma from 2001 to 2005 and for Laidlaw/First Student in West Linn, Oregon from 2006 to 2009.

She earned a Culinary Arts Degree from UAA and a 4-year Business Administration from Washington. She was a member of the Willamette Christian, West Linn, Oregon and the Anchorage Baptist Temple.

According to her family, "Theresa was devoted to her chil-

dren and family. She loved the Lord and always saw the good in others. She sought out the less fortunate to help them any way possible."

She is survived by a son, David Green, of Tacoma, Washington; a daughter, Kylie Green, of Eagle River; her mother and stepfather, Carol and Ron Watts, of Eagle River; her father, Jay Green, of Bend, Oregon and a brother, Philip Watts, of Eagle River.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, James and Dennis and a by sister, Carolyn.

Memorial services were held at 12:00 noon Monday, October 5 at Anchorage Baptist Temple with Reverend Tony Smith officiating. Private Burial was Saturday, October 3 at Angelus Memorial Park.

## One Man's Treasures



**For Sale:** 1942 Chevrolet, Master DeLuxe, 6-cylinder, 216 c.i. with 3-speed manual transmission; good driving condition. Black interior, front bench seat cloth. Body is in great condition, all factory. Extra parts included. Must see. \$7000.00, Joe or Wendy Rath 344-0747

**For Sale:** 1981 HMV Freeway 3 wheeler. Less than 3300 miles. Too many rare and spare parts to list. Great condition plus lots of documentation. Call Doug at 345-9015 for more info.

**Mustang Parts:** '65-'69 Mustang parts. Doors, Mirror, free. Cathy Olander, 351-6902.

**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. 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.

Price is \$10.00 per bottle. Buy 2 or more for \$9.00 each.

Check out [zddplus.com](http://zddplus.com) for complete information.

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

## Schedule of Events

- **October 14**—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting, nominations for officers (Refreshments: Tom and Marcy Cresap)
- **November 11**—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting, vote for 2010 officers (Refreshments: Lee Truesdell and Gwyn Wiedmer)
- **December 13**—4:00-8:00 p.m. Christmas Party (Tam and Art Isham, 688-3671)
- **January 13**—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting, installation of 2010 officers (Refreshments: Howard and Barb Hansen)
- **February 10**—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (Refreshments: Frank Neary, Sara Stoops)
- **March 10**—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (Refreshments: Art and Tam Isham)
- **April 14**—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (Refreshments: Dennis and Diane Allen)

## Denali: A Different Perspective

*Dennis Allen and Daisy pose by the Allens' 1934 Ford somewhere between Eielson Visitor Center and Wonder Lake. They didn't have much time to watch for wildlife due to tough navigation through snow and clouds.*

How many time have Diane and I driven the Denali Park road? More than I can count but each time brings new surprises. This trip we were privileged to see a gray wolf loping along the road in addition to the usual bears, sheep, moose and ptarmigan.

What was really different and exciting was the cloud bank that settled in between the Eielson Visitor Center

**For Sale:** 1/2-ton Apache 3100; 235 with one-barrel, 225 miles since overhaul, burgundy color. Cracked windshield, needs interior. Make offer. Bill, 677-9906.

**Auto Body:** "Tin Lizzie, specializing in Antique Autos, custom paint and body work; free quotes; 50 years experience. Lee Truesdell, 907-745-4404 or [ibbusv2@yahoo.com](mailto:ibbusv2@yahoo.com)

**Wanted:** 1939-48 Ford transmission case, internals not important. 27 fiberglass T body tub and deck. Call Dave Syren about leads. 440-2982, cel, 274-9046, office. Leave message, please.



and Wonder Lake. Some of the narrowest road with sheer drop offs can be found in this area, and driving through the fog with the possibility of on-coming traffic more than made up for being unable to see any wildlife! Most people must have been going the same direction we were because we met very few heading back to the park entrance.

Diane and I stayed near the park entrance at Riley Creek Campground in our motor home and went to sleep Monday night with the pitter-patter of rain. Some time during the night we noticed it had stopped raining. In the morning, we discovered the pitter-patter of rain had turned to snow! We drove "Little Red," our '34 Ford, about 12 miles out toward Savage River and found several inches of snow with more falling.

Reports in Wednesday's paper reported 2 feet of snow fell at Eielson Visitor Center on Tuesday.

# The Legend of 'Lead Foot' Continues

by Jeff Hassler

Interest in the ongoing exploits of the iconic Kenny "Lead Foot" Holland and his explosively fast Model A continue to escalate, especially since Kenny spent the last year hopping up his motor to better his last year's drag strip performance.

To heighten anticipation among his fans, Kenny challenged a new Model A club member, Joe "Bigfoot" Beaucamp, an unknown in Model A racing, to a shootout on Labor Day weekend. By the looks and sound of his A, formative competition was at hand.

Those who came to the event included Howard "Mopar" Hansen, Jim "I will find every Model A in Alaska" Fredenhagen, Jeff "Mine will be finished next year" Hassler, Jim "Model A/Harley" McCubbin and Bob "Pick Up" Bartlett.

Finally the moment was at hand. Lead Foot and Big Foot went to the line, motors revving as the Christmas tree lights went down. Lightning take-offs by the competitors ensued. Suddenly a bad-sounding bang erupted from Big Foot's car, and his take off was drastically hindered (partial rear



Photo: Jim Fredengagen

*Kenny "Lead Foot" Holland and Joe "Big Foot" Beaucamp prepare for their recent showdown at Alaska Raceway near Palmer.*

suspension failure.)

Lead Foot Kenny streaked to the finish line first, unbelievably bettering his last year's time by 10 mph and 2 seconds (60 mph/20 seconds to 70 mph/18 seconds.) Big Foot Joe got to the finish line soon after. Lead Foot was overheard saying, "When he gets that suspension figured out, I've got

trouble."

Big Foot just smiled when next year's race was mentioned. The saga of Lead foot, and now Big Foot, continues!

In a postscript, Ken is wondering how he can modify the 1929 Model A sun visor to handle 70+ mph.

## Christmas Party: A Modest Proposal

### Editorial

A number of AAMA members have made a modest proposal to change the format of the club's annual Christmas party: replace the "Chinese Auction" gift exchange with a donation by each member \$15 to \$20 (the amount we usually spend on a gift.) Proceeds will go to a charity (such as Clare House) to be decided by the club. A power point show and an awards presentation can recognize members and highlight the year's events. The family-style potluck should, of course, remain the same.

Although this change represents a departure from a tradition dear to

many of us, it also provides a vehicle through which our organization can sacrifice to make a responsible contribution to a community beset by hard economic times.

Anchorage Daily News headlines such as, "People want work; companies not hiring" conjure 19<sup>th</sup> Century Charles Dickens tableaux; but "City's lone methadone clinic halts admissions" reminds us that the jobless are not always possessed of the loyalty and temperament Bob Cratchet displayed with his wife and Tiny Tim. Financial woes turn to domestic violence, and families are torn and broken—sometimes violently. In these times of stress, family tragedies have

multiplied, and the agencies that minister to the results of those tragedies are overloaded.

As responsible members of the Anchorage community, we have an obligation to contribute in some way, and our small sacrifice this Christmas could prove to be significantly helpful. Sitting back and allowing the victims of these unfortunate times to suffer while we go on heedlessly with our daily lives is unthinkable.

Can we turn this year's Christmas party into a meaningful gift giving? See you at the October meeting, where we can have a discussion and make the final decision.

# 'Last Hurrah' Car Show at City Diner



by Donn Reese

AAMA held an informal "Last Hurrah" car show at the City Diner on September 19, taking advantage of an event planned by the restaurant and sponsored by Coca-Cola and Budweiser. A total of eight member cars made it to the show. The weather on Friday had been steady rain, however Saturday cleared off very nicely and it was warm all day.

City Diner provided periodic milkshake and root beer float "shots" throughout the day, and they offered a reduced price special menu for those that brought a vintage car to show.

There was a nice selection of vehicle types and everyone seemed to enjoy the event. City Diner called it their "1st Annual Hot Alaskan Nights" event, and we hope to see it again next year.



Among the AAMA entries at the City Diner Car Show were: (upper left) Jerry Roach's 1949 Cadillac convertible, (upper right) Scott Hulse's 1959 Rolls Royce flanked by Henningsens' 1956 Thunder Bird and 1956 Crown Victoria and (above) Donn Reese's 1960 Imperial and Jack Rathert's 1959 Lincoln Premier. (All photos by Donn Reese)

## More Denali Park Photos

We couldn't resist these nice photos Scott Hulse sent of the Denali adventure. Below left, a Toklat Grizzly is seen feeding in preparation for winter hibernation. Below right, some of the precipitous and un-guard railed road near Polychrome Pass; a 1959 Rolls Royce hood and front fender are seen in the foreground, and Allens' 1934 Ford is up ahead.





*The last AAMA Adopt-A-Road clean-up crew for 2009 gets ready to hit the road. Left to Right are: Mike and Gwyn Wiedmer, Howard Hansen, Dick, David and Barb Henningsen, Marcy Cresap, Scott Hulse, Jerry Roach, Donn Reese, Sara Stoops, Robbie and Marianne Robinson, and Tom Cresap (behind the camera.)*

## October

### Birthdays

Jeff Hassler–5th  
 Ken Stout–5th  
 Bill Waldron–5th  
 Sara Stoops–6th  
 Donna Waldron–9th  
 Christine Dennis–12th  
 Fred Scharper–12th  
 Michael Leal–12th  
 Cindy Hulse–13th  
 Donn Reese–31st

### Anniversaries

Fred and Janet Schurman–4th  
 Fritz and Diane Wohlwend–13th



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