



Tinkering Times



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Denali Delights During Annual Tour

The AAMA trip into Denali occurred on Monday, September 20 on a fantastic day that was absolutely clear and HOT. Everyone in the park that day was amazed that Mount McKinley was visible from all angles at all times and perfectly clear.

Bruce Campbell, who chaired the event said, "I spent 3 years in the Park, 1954 -1956, and never saw a day like the 20th or that many views of the mountain."

Since it was so warm and dry, the road was quite dusty, but no one complained because of the incredible surrounding beauty.

Since passes for the day were available through the annual lottery only, the club teamed up and everyone pooled the tickets they received. For those who ended up lacking tickets, Bruce garnered in-holder passes from a friend. He also regaled us with some of his personal lore resulting from experiences in the park in the 1950's.

The lucky participants were Dennis and Diane Allen (1934 Ford) Bryan Anderson and son Will (1975 Jeep CJ) Bruce and Marl Campbell (1957 Ford) Bill and Joyce Chace and son, Clint (1952 Plymouth) Tom and Marcy Cresap (1966 Mustang) Margaret and Le-



Photo: Tom Cresap

The combined Anchorage (AAMA) and Fairbanks (VLNAAC) Denali tour group enjoyed spectacular views of Mount McKinley when they made the 2010 trip. In this photo taken from the north McKinley viewpoint along the Parks Highway, McKinley (r) and Foraker (l) show off. Of the thirteen cars and their passengers that made the trip, twelve actually entered the park.

Roi Heaven with Scott and Sheryl Hulse (1958 Rolls Royce) Tam and Art Isham (1968 Volvo) Rick and Jill Larrick (Modern car) David Nolta, Donna Oines and Donn Reese (1960 Imperial) Ken and Peg Stout (1984 Mercedes) Sara, Ethan and Dawn Stoops (1958 Chevrolet) Ron and Carol Watts (1966 Mustang) and Roger and Sandy Severson (1957

Chevrolet convertible) who drove up with us on Sunday but had to return to work on Monday.

The group dined at the Totem Inn Sunday evening.

Everybody offers a huge thanks to Bruce for his expert planning and for his background information about the area.



Photo: Tom Cresap

The morning of September 11, the AAMA Adopt-A-Road crew completed the last of this summer's three cleanup obligations on East Northern Lights boulevard in Anchorage. At left, co-sponsors, Robbie Robinson and Sara Stoops give each other sustenance before venturing out onto the busy thoroughfare.

October Meeting

The October 13, 2010 business meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Robbie and Marianne Robinson, Nominations are on the agenda. 3318 Jerde Circle in Anchorage. For directions, call Robbie, 333-0693 or Tom, 694-7510.

Running Board Reflections



AAMA president, Donn Reese and Fairbanks VLNAAC president, Rick Larrick enjoy the weather and the view at the Eielson visitors center in Denali Park during the September 20th AAMA trek into the park.

We're all saddened by the sudden passing of LeRoi Heaven, the second such loss to the Auto Musers this year (the first being Jim Swanson). LeRoi was warm and friendly to all, and I especially enjoyed discussing

Mat-Su and Anchorage history with him. I was surprised by how much work he put into the Palmer State Fair Parade this year, but due to his diligence everything (for us at least) went off perfectly. Even in smaller communities it takes more effort than one realizes to keep folks corralled - good thing he was a farmer.

Most of you have known the Heaven's for many years. However, I asked Margaret to let me know if there is anything club members can help out with.

At the October meeting we'll be forming the annual nominating committee to fill the ballot for elections to the 2011 Executive Board. Now is your chance to become "The Leader of the Pack". Please consider serving on the nominating committee or stand for election on next year's board.

Hope to see you all at the next club meeting.

-Donn Reese



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2010 Officers

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Vice President: Ron Watts 622-1931

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Fred Schurman (2005)

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Fred Schurman (2001-2003)

Peg Stout (2000)

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A Short Missive and Modest Request from Margaret Heaven

LeRoi's memorial will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 7th at Wasilla High School.

I know it's late in the season, and many cars are put away for the winter; but do you think some of the members would like to drive their cars up for the memorial? I could have a special parking area for the cars. I don't know what I need yet.

I told Diane and Dennis that I know I will be selling the Studebaker so may need help with that. Larky

was our "courtin' car" and much more, and while I can and do love to drive it, I know I will not. So I would rather sell her to someone who will appreciate her.

She was LeRoi's first car and everything, and though rough with age, is original (except the seat belts).

I plan to be at the Christmas party. I'm headed Outside to see Troy (by plane this time :)) but will be home next week.

Take care, Margaret

One Man's Treasures



For Sale: 1963 or so Ford Thunderbird on our property at Kenny Lake; no engine; will take offers. Linda Lohse Email: kopperkupboard@gmail.com



For Sale: 1966 Thunderbird; 51,650 miles; one owner; always garaged. Must sell due to health. Jeanne Edwards, 272-0060

Free: Jaguar engine; 6-cyl, 3.5 liter; serial No. 28/1390/338; twin overhead cams; no carbs. Includes transmission with Laycock de Normanville overdrive unit. All garage stored. Kathleen Kritchen, 907-424-3517 (Cordova)

For Sale: 1949 Packard 8 cylinder, 4 door sedan, dark green, new tires, standard transmission; good condition; has been stored inside for several years. Price: negotiable, Jon Lillevik, 37325 Cetacea Lane; Kenai, AK., 907-398-4611

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

Schedule of Events

- **October 13**—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (Nominations) (Refreshments?)
- **November 10**—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (Elections) (Refreshments?)
- **December ?**—Christmas Party (TBA)



Photo: Robbie Robinson

The September 11 Adopt-A-Road clean-up crew were: Tom Cresap, Sara Stoops, Ken Evans, Jerry Roach, Ralph Centoni, Marcy Cresap, Howard Hansen, David, Barb and Dick Henningsen and, of course, co-host, Robbie Robinson, who was behind the camera.



Photo: Carol Watts

During this year's AAMA Denali trip, club members were treated to gloriously clear, sunny and warm day, lots of views of the Big Mountain and some very nice wildlife sightings. These rams were feeding along the road with Watts' 1966 Mustang in the background.

LeRoi Heaven, April 10, 1939–September 26, 2010

Longtime AAMA member, LeRoi Heaven died on Sunday, September 26 on the Alaska Highway between Tok, Alaska and the Canadian border when his small SUV skidded out of control on an icy patch of road and careened into an on-coming U-Haul truck.

LeRoi was born in Seldovia, Alaska on April 10, 1939 and was adopted by Foster and Daisy Heaven of Anchorage.

LeRoi lived in Anchorage until 1953, when the family moved to Kings Lake Camp near Wasilla. He lived there a year while the family fixed up the farm house his parents had purchased at mile 3 on the Fairview Loop Road.

From an early age, LeRoi was involved in agriculture. He attended school in Wasilla until his junior year, but transferred to Palmer High so he could participate in the agriculture and shop classes and the Future Farmers of America program.

He was active in 4-H, earning awards in home improvement, gardening and livestock management. He and his sister sold radishes and lettuce to earn money for their school clothes, and he earned two trips in 4-H: one to Chicago, Illinois and one to Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

After high school, LeRoi worked at Teeland's Country Store in Wasilla and joined the U.S. Army reserves.

In late 1960, he became the contract mail carrier for Wasilla, delivering mail for Fishhook, Pitman-Schrock, Knik and Fairview Loop roads and all the way up the highway to Trappers Creek. He loved delivering mail to those outlying areas and said the people appreciated getting their mail. They sometimes greeted him by dog sled, snow machine or even small plane. During this time, he also raised potatoes.

He drove his mail route until 1972. This was shortly after the Parks Highway was completed all the way to Fairbanks, and he said there was too much traffic and the cars drove too fast.

In 1961, while on the mail route, LeRoi saw a "for sale" sign on a 40-acre parcel of land at mile 2 on Fairview Loop. He took the sign down, called the realtor and bought the property. In 1965, he began building a home there. His friends called it his "wife trap." That year, he also became an Amway distributor.

In 1968, the wife trap worked and he married Margaret Johnson, a teacher.

In 1977, the couple adopted Troy, and LeRoi loved being a dad. His favorite memory was the day his 4-year-old son "helped Daddy" by painting his tractor with creosote, trimming the tomato plants in the greenhouse and spreading fertilizer on the floor of the tool shed—all within an hour.

LeRoi was a member of the Christian Science Church in Wasilla. He loved life and people, and he loved to travel, garden, restore historic buildings and farm.

A driving force in the Wasilla Historical Society, he was instrumental in preserving and restoring the Herning-Teeland-Mead building, which was the original store built in Wasilla by O.G. Herning when he moved his mercantile business from Knik to Wasilla in 1917.

In 1981, LeRoi and Margaret purchased the 40-acre hayfield just south of their home and began raising hay. LeRoi also began acquiring and restoring endangered homestead cabins in the area. In 2008, LeRoi achieved a dream when his hayfield was preserved in the Alaska Farmland Trust so that it would always remain farmland.



Through the years, LeRoi was involved with many organizations and community activities. He was an enthusiastic member of the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska, and he drove his 1961 Studebaker to many club events. He was also a member of the Pioneers of Alaska, the Wasilla-Knik Historical Society, the Palmer Historical Society, the Borough Preservation Board and the Alaska-Yukon Pioneers. He established and ran the Wasilla Farmers' Market for 15 years. He gave hay rides at the Wasilla old-time Christmas events. He hosted school and Scout groups at his hayfield.

LeRoi is survived by his wife, Margaret; son, Troy of Denver, Colorado; sister, Wythle Gershmel of Wasilla; sister-in-law, Barbara Johnson of Anchorage and special daughter, Deborah Harrison of Fairbanks, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

For more information about LeRoi or to leave a comment, visit the website, <http://rememberingleroi.wordpress.com/>



Photo: Tom Cresap

View of Mt. McKinley from Eielson Center



Photo: Tom Cresap

At the end of the Anchorage International Airport runway on Point Woronzoff during the September 8 rolling meeting cruise: Fred Scharper, Ken Stout, Donn Reese, Sara Stoops and Diane Allen



Photo: Tom Cresap

Friends lunching at Eielson Center: Margaret and LeRoi Heaven, Dawn Stoops, Sheryl and Scott Hulse and Bill Chace



Photo: Tom Cresap

Marl and Bruce Campbell and Marcy Cresap enjoy the weather and each other's company Eielson Center.



Photo: Tom Cresap

Ken and Peg Stout wait on the front deck of the Totem Inn restaurant in Healy for dinner Sunday evening.



Photo: Donn Reese

Dennis Allen, Daisy and LeRoi and Margaret Heaven visit before entering Denali Park.

In Memory

Photo: Scott Hulse

LeRoi and Margaret Heaven pose with Hulse's 1958 Rolls Royce just before being chauffeured into Denali Park by Scott and Sheryl during this year's Denali tour.

*October***Birthdays**Jeff Hassler-5thKen Stout-5thBill Waldron-5thSara Stoops-6thDonna Waldron-9thFred Scharper-12thMichael Leal-12thCindy Hulse-13thDonn Reese-31st**Anniversaries**Fritz and Diane Wolwend-13thDave and Marilvn Chiotti-16th

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