



# Tinkering Times



## 50th Jubilee Was One Elegant Celebration



Photo:D.Jensen

AAMA members listen to a presentation by former club president, Donn Reese, during the celebration of the club's 50th Jubilee. The celebratory dinner took place in the Kahiltna Court at the Alyeska Resort in Girdwood on July 8.

by Marcy and Tom Cresap

What can be said about the 50th anniversary celebration? Only that it was perfect.

The venue and the food were excellent for the auspicious occasion of our Golden Jubilee. Alyeska Resort provided the necessary setting, and the service and other accommodations were impeccable.

The program included a look back at fifty years of history and entertaining facts presented by former club president, Donn Reese, and inveterate MC, Robbie Robinson.

Donn's history (which showcased his extensive and on-going club research) reminded us of the various personalities and actions that made up the early fabric of the organization. Robbie presented club statistics with his characteristic wit and panache. His

anecdotes were fun: for example, how many cars do AAMA members own, how many cookies have we eaten in 50 years, how much trash have we picked up since we joined the Adopt-A-Road program? Donn's and Robbie's presentations were perfect.

We gave away 35 door prizes and Diane Allen's organization and distribution went smoothly and quickly with the help of Madeline Dennis and Harry Turner.

Len and Margarite Grau, original members, were in attendance, and in researching club history we discovered that Hank Raymond has been a member for all of the 50 years AAMA has been in existence.

Club members drove up in their most elegant cars—making for one of the finest car shows in memory—and everyone was dressed to the nines.

Members helped make the planning for the celebration perfect. Thanks to all 76 of you for coming.



Photo:D.Jensen

As a part of the re-telling of the history of the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska, Robbie Robinson, in his inimitable style, arranged and delivered a gaggle of esoteric statistics about the club.



Photo:D.Jensen

Diane Allen, Harry Turner and Madeline Dennis distributed the door prizes at intervals during the program.

### August Meeting

Our regular business meeting for August is planned as a rolling meeting and will begin at Robbie and Marianne Robinson's clubhouse at 6:30 p.m., August 8.

Many thanks to Mike and Gwyn Wiedmer for planning the enjoyable cruise to Potter's Marsh and the Peanut Farm after the July meeting.

# Running Board Reflections



*President Howard Hansen opens the program at AAMA's 50th Jubilee celebration at the Alyeska Resort in Girdwood, Alaska.*

I'd like to thank the committee again for putting on a great 50<sup>th</sup> celebration. I know it's a lot of work to organize something like that, and I realize the success of any organization depends on hard working, dedicated people.

As we were celebrating the past, thoughts of the future of our hobby came to mind. What will the next 50 years be like? Will fuel for these cars still be available at a reasonable price? Will anyone even care about our cars?

## Hulse, Reese and Isham receive kudos

by Mary Bettis

Scott Hulse and Donn Reese put together a wonderful article last year for the July 2011 issue of the Tinkering Times. It just seemed to capture the air of festivity at the auction and gala celebration for Alaska Pacific University.

What Scott did not say was that he appeared like a knight in shining armor to help Floyd awaken our Rolls Royce after a 2-year slumber. Scott magically appeared on Sunday morning with a bundle of metric nuts and bolts—professing to know nothing about pre war cars—and rolled up his sleeves to help. His help on that and following days was invaluable.

We know that it's hard to interest young people in the hobby. How many people in our club are under 40? In another 50 years most of us will be gone.

Then there's the problem of expense. Parts are becoming more scarce and expensive, and storage will become an even bigger problem than it is now. Some of our cars will end up in museums, but what about our beloved "drivers?" Will they end up in the crusher?

Then there's another problem. These modern high tech cars with all their computers: will it be possible to restore them back to original?

People tend to collect the cars they remember from their youth. I can't imagine anyone wanting to collect cars from the 80's on, can you?

Don't get me wrong. In many ways, modern cars are far superior to our old ones, but they're not as much fun to drive and they have no style. They look alike, and some are just plain ugly.

Howard

When it was discovered that the right rear inner tube was a total loss, Scott got on his phone and made several calls to locate a possible replacement.

In the meantime, Floyd and Scott read the owner's manuals. Removing the tire from the wheel in order to replace the inner tube could be tricky. One manual described the process with the caution that "if you find the procedure difficult, you are probably doing it wrong."

Enter Art Isham, another knight in shining armor. He had the inner tube, the equipment, the knowhow, and most

(See p. 3, "Members. . .")



[www.antiqueautomustersak.org](http://www.antiqueautomustersak.org)

### 2012 Officers

President: Howard Hansen 345-1268

Vice President: Scott Hulse 349-8106

Secretary: Gwyn Wiedmer 243-7005

Treasurer: Donn Reese 245-7203

Sergeant at Arms: Sara Stoops

### Members at Large

Ken Stout 337-7047

Tom Cresap 694-7510

Tam Isham 688-3671

### Past Presidents (10 years)

Donn Reese (2009–2011)

Jeff Hassler/Donn Reese (2008)

Jim Fredenhagen (2006–2007)

Fred Schurman (2005)

Diane Allen (2004)

Fred Schurman (2001–2003)

Peg Stout (2000)

### 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](mailto:tmcresap@mtaonline.net)

The Tinkering Times is published monthly by Alaska's premier classic and antique automobile club, Antique Auto Musters 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 Musters of Alaska.

# One Man's Treasures

*Our ads are intended for members and others who wish to sell cars and related items. There is no charge, and the ad will run for three consecutive issues before being removed. To pull an ad, extend it or to place a new ad, contact Tom, 694-7510.*



**For Sale:** 1956 Pontiac Star Chief Custom hardtop; 62+K mileage; 316 V8 with hydramatic, leather seats; lots of literature; April, 2012 Classic Motion appraisal, \$28,000, asking \$25,000 or best offer; Tim, 338-8885 (9)



**For sale:** SBC 3 X 2 Complete System; includes electric fuel pump, fuel pressure regulator, fuel pressure gauge, fuel line manifold, 3 stainless steel fuel lines, Edelbrock 3 X 2 aluminum manifold for SBC, matching air cleaners, progressive linkage and a Factory matched set of GM Rochester 2GC, 2 barrel carburetors from a 1961/3 348/409. Front 7013015, Center 7013016, Rear 7013017

Contact Ben Holeman 337-7345 or 250-8196 \$1700.00 firm. (10)

**For sale:** 1952 Ford Mainliner 2-dr. business coupe; gray with white top; \$5,000 OBO. Bill Palmer, 727-2504. (10)

## Schedule of Events

- July 21—Adopt-A-Road (Sara Stoops, 345-5992)
- August 5—Jay Ofsthun Show and Shine (Kurt Rein, 344-5554)
- August 8— 6:30 p.m. Rolling Meeting (Scott Hulse)
- August 7-12—Long Distance Tour to Prudhoe Bay (Tam Isham, 688-3671)
- August ?—Alaska State Fair Parade, Palmer (Chair?)
- September 1— 9:00 a.m. Adopt-A-Road (Tom and Marcy Cresap, 694-7510)
- September 12—6:30 Rolling Meeting (Cresaps, 694-7510)
- September 14, 15, 16—Denali Tour (Tam Isham, 688-3671)
- October 10—7:30 Regular meeting: Nominations
- November 14—7:30 p.m. Regular meeting: Elections
- December—Christmas Party

## Members receive Thanks and Kudos

(continued from p. 1)

importantly, the generosity to devote his Sunday afternoon to helping us.

Scott came by again on Monday. He found a loose tube on the vacuum generator and reconnected it, solving a lot of problems. At one point, he called a technician in Ontario familiar with pre war Rolls Royce fuel lines to inquire about the type of gaskets needed for a particular location. Aluminum, as I recall. Scott and Floyd finally got the car started and drove it around the block a couple of times. They developed sequences and procedures in starting up

**For Sale:** 1929 Ford Coupe; built flat-head, stock drive line; 2" chop, boxed frame; car painted and near completion. 90% of parts are on hand. It's an excellent value at \$16,000 OBO. Call Jeff Hassler, 907-230-1290. Leaving Alaska. (11)

and shutting down the engine.

Scott took off work again Wednesday morning to help start the engine and follow Floyd down O'Malley, up Minnesota to Raspberry, and west all the way to the hangar—the location of the gala and auction.

Without Scott's help, we probably would have had to get the car to the auction on a carrier. (Robbie Robinson had called to offer his rig!)

Because of these gentlemen, the Rolls was able to take its place in the show like the "Lovely Lady" she was.

Note: Throughout the years when Floyd wrote to London for parts, about the trunk that he ordered for the car—or for other information—the return correspondence, usually hand written, often would end with the words, "Regards to your Lovely Lady." They were not referring to me.

## AAMA Contingent Joins Hope Citizens:

# We Still Have Hope Each Year

by Diane Allen

Dennis and Diane Allen arrived at the Methodist Retreat in Hope at 3:05 on Thursday, July 12. We got our motor home parked and Dennis cleared out some weeds to make room for the five other motor homes and one camper van that were scheduled to attend. This and included antique cars would be the most vehicles we had ever had for the Hope Weekend.

The Hope Wagon Trail Days celebration was begun in 1988, several years after AAMA started visiting the little town as an annual event. So this would be Hope festival's 24<sup>th</sup> year and an even longer tradition for the Antique Auto Musers. To celebrate, local folks sell crafts, a band shows up for a dance in the social hall, they serve pancakes on Saturday morning, and have a raffle of some pretty interesting items. The proceeds go to the local fire department and EMT's. Sunday sees a 3.5-K run with about 300 runners vying for the title in their age group.

Ken and Peg Stout arrived with their motor home about 6:30 with their wonderful yellow lab, Oliver, and Dennis helped them get parked.

Friday, July 13, it was a beautiful day in spite of the rain, and we went to the museum for a couple of hours. Peg and I took some seeds from about 7 or 8 different colored columbine plants at the Museum, with intentions of growing some in Anchorage.

Dick and Barb Henningsen arrived with their motor home and 1966 Mustang. Kim, Brett, Sarah, and David Henningsen with two dogs (Bear, a very large six-month-old puppy, and Lena a two-year-old Siberian Husky) arrived in the *fourth* motor home.



Photo: A. Christensen

*Some of the participants at the 2012 Hope Weekend were (back row) Debbie Hansen, Mathew Joseph, Rick Henningsen, Laurie Schleuter, Donn Reese, Kim and Bret Henningsen, Dick Henningsen, Gwyn Wiedmer (holding grandson, Kayden) Christy Cresap, Sara Stoops, Mike Weidmer, Ken and Peg Stout, (middle row) Diane Allen, Eleanor Hansen, Barb Hansen, Sarah and Joseph, Hershey and Howard Hansen, Marcy Cresap, Sarah Henningsen, Barb Henningsen (lower row) Dennis Allen, Daisy, ?, ?, and Joseph, Tom, Hannah and Sophie Cresap, David Henningsen and Heather Schleuter.*

We had several parades throughout the day, and about dinnertime, Howard and Barb Hansen arrived with their poodle, Hershey, and Howard's sister, Eleanor. This added a camper Van and a 1977 Volkswagen convertible.

The Cresaps arrived about 7:10, with the *fifth* motor home and their recently restored 1938 Chrysler Royal 4-door sedan. The added antique car was an excuse to have another parade, and we went up to the Davidson's for candy bars.

Then, Christy, Anton, Hannah, and Sophia, some of Cresaps' family, arrived.

Some time that evening, Mike and Gwyn Wiedmer and their new grandson, Kayden, arrived in their 1949 Ford convertible and drove directly to Sara Stoops' Cabin, where they spent

the night. Sara also arrived at her cabin in her 1958 Chevrolet Impala.

Saturday, July 14, sixteen of us from the Retreat walked to the Social Hall in beautiful downtown Hope for a pancake breakfast put on by the Hope Wagon Trail Committee. We had plenty to eat and a great time!

I continued to sell raffle tickets and wound up selling 240 tickets for \$480.00 dollars before Saturday afternoon.

That day, five additional relatives of the Henningsens, and seven additional relatives of the Hansens joined us in the afternoon. Mike and Gwyn Wiedmer, with new baby grandson Kayden, and Sara Stoops and her son Ethan and wife Dawn's dog, Angel showed up. Donn Reese and his Black Labrador Retriever Hamish  
(See p. 5, Hope. . .)

## The Little Mustang That Could

It was Hope's 25th anniversary of the Wagon Trail Days and Saturday was Dick Henningsen's 75th Birthday – AAMA members and almost all of Dick's children and grandchildren were there to celebrate.

Everything went great until Monday, when we were ready to leave, and Henningsen's 1966 Mustang wouldn't start. This was *not* a good birthday present. Dennis, Tom and Dick couldn't figure it out - the car had run fine all weekend, but it suddenly had no spark. Tom, the previous owner, had a Malory distributor installed some years ago when the engine was rebuilt. No one present knew what goes on inside an electronic ignition.

Willy Davidson - a local man who is familiar with older cars stopped and  
(See p. 6, Mustang)

## Tidbits

### Home From Hospital

Clare Bachelor, who has been hospitalized for a couple months, is home now and feeling much better. We certainly missed Clare at the Hope Weekend, where for years we celebrated her birthday (She is 92 on July 19.)

She would undoubtedly enjoy some cards and notes from all her friends in the club.

### Denali Trip

Everyone should know by now if they won a ticket in the Denali lottery or not. As soon as you are notified of your status in the lottery, call Tamea Isham, chairperson for the tour at 688-3671.

If you want to go on the tour, Tam needs to hear from you by August 15. Please let her know your plans before then. This is important, since she is responsible for coordinating park entry tickets.

### Jay Ofsthun Show N Shine

Kurt Rein has announced that anyone wanting to help at the 2012 Jay Ofsthun Show and Shine should be at the Park Strip before 8 a.m. to direct traffic and hand out bags. Help is also needed at the end of the show.

Dennis Allen will cook hot dogs for an AAMA club potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share.

## Scenes From the 2012 Fourth



Photo: R. Robinson

As usual, AAMA was represented in at least two parades for the Fourth: Anchorage and Chugiak. Above, Tom and Marcy Cresap's 1938 Chrysler, which had been newly running for only about a week, and Mike and Gwyn Wiedmer's 1949 Ford are seen in the Chugiak line up.

## Hope at The End of The Road

(Continued from p. 4)

arrived in the *sixth* motor home shortly before dinner, making a total of 38 people for hamburgers Saturday night. We also had six motor homes and six antique cars parked in the little parking space in front of the Methodist Retreat House. That took some creative planning and arranging by Dennis Allen.

After cleanup, Tom played his guitar and we sang a lot of the old songs, before trickling out to our respective motor homes to crash.

Sunday morning, July 16, Dennis fixed pancakes. It was a potluck breakfast, including many types of rolls, fruit, juices, and capped off by Marcy Cresap's wonderful egg casserole.

After breakfast and cleanup the runners for the Wagon Trail Race went down town to get their bibs and numbers. The Henningsens moved their shade tent out to the street and added festive decorations to it. This

protected our cheering section from the occasional sprinkles.

The race was over in a little more than an hour, and we all walked down to the social hall to hear the race and raffle results. Our group did pretty well in both. Dennis Allen won third place in the 70-year group and Howard came in first in the 80-year-old division. Dennis and Diane won a night at the Dacha hotel in Hope, and Gwyn Wiedmer won the grand prize, a 30-30 Rifle.

Victoria (the Cresaps' Granddaughter) and her friend Travis stopped by the Retreat, joined us for lunch and finished off their visit with a jam session featuring Travis and Tom.

Monday morning, Henningsens, Cresaps, and the Allens planned to meet at Tito's for breakfast before leaving for Anchorage, but Henningsens' 1966 Mustang had other plans. (See Dick Henningsen's article, *The Little Mustang That Could.*)

## Mustang Problems

(Continued from p. 5)

offered his assistance, but still no solution. Willy then called his nephew - Dean Davidson, who is a mechanic and owns Fords. Within another 45 minutes Dean had the Mustang purring.

Dick became convinced that not all angels wear wings and have halos. Some have facial hair and wear Carharts. Not only did Dean correctly diagnose the problem—a faulty distributor module within the Mallory—but just happened to have an identical Mallory ignition system on his Mustang Boss 302. He willingly removed the part from his car, put it on Dick's to solve the problem.

What were the odds—that in a village of 100 people—someone would have the correct aftermarket ignition system on his personal car and give it up. We are convinced that the Antique Auto Musers know some of the best people around.

## August

### Birthdays

Julia Ede—1<sup>st</sup>  
 Margaret Heaven—2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Sandy Severson—4<sup>th</sup>  
 Fritz Wohlwend—4<sup>th</sup>  
 Marianne Robinson—6<sup>th</sup>  
 Doug Smith—8<sup>th</sup>  
 David Tullis—8<sup>th</sup>  
 Dave Beck—11<sup>th</sup>  
 Debbie Smith—11<sup>th</sup>  
 Lawrence  
 Aschenbrenner—16<sup>th</sup>  
 Scott Grundy—25<sup>th</sup>  
 Bill Chace—31<sup>st</sup>

### Anniversaries

Judy & Donald  
 Morfield—19<sup>th</sup>  
 Barbara & Howard  
 Hansen—20<sup>th</sup>  
 Julia & Jim Ede—23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Marcy & Tom  
 Cresap—31<sup>st</sup>

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

