

The AHOOGAH HORN

Volume 26 Issue 02

Watchung Valley Region of the Model "A" Restorers Club

February 2006

Meet the Member - Me!

My name is Dick Bettle and I'm a Auto-aholic!

PRE CAR DAYS

My first motor vehicle, when I was around 12, was a 1/4 midget that my father built for me.

FIRST CAR

Knowing I needed something roadworthy, my father gave me his 1951 Chevy Deluxe Hardtop Convertible. As a body man when he started his garage, he showed me the proper way to do custom bodywork on this car. Over the next two years, I customized it, nosed and decked, removed the door handles, tunneled the antenna, etc... eventually changed the engine to a 265 cu. in. V8 with 2 - 4 barrel carbs and then converted it to a standard transmission.



NEXT CAR



When one of my father's customers blew the engine in a 1957 Chevy Bel-Air 4-door Hardtop, I bought it for \$100. The '57 later got an

aluminum flywheel, 3-speed overdrive transmission with Corvette gears, Hurst shifter, a 4.56 posi rear, traction bars, Sun tach.... By split shifting the trans and overdrive, this was a 5-speed trans with full throttle kick-down.

AND THEN

Shortly before graduating from college, I wanted a convertible. I really, really wanted a Corvette, but the only car I could find (and afford) was a '59 Chevy Impala Convertible. It was all black, and huge.

SPORTIER THINGS



After graduating and getting married, I talked Barb into buying me another car to use while I looked for a job. This turned out to be a red 1962 Corvette

with two tops. For our third anniversary, we sold the car to buy our first house. For a while we drove a beat-up old '56 Chevy sedan. This was soon replaced with another '57 4 door hardtop. Looking for a less expensive sports car, I found a 1960 Triumph TR3. This was fun for a while, until I took off from the light, feeling really great and guy in a newer Corvette went by like I was standing still. Barb then got the Triumph and I got the '57 Chevy.

The hunt was now on for another Corvette. One of the

Reminder: \$10 Annual membership for 2006 is due!

Check out our new web site at www.heavenlymud.net/AhoogahHornWeb

The Ahoogah Horn is a publication of the Watchung Valley Region of the Model "A" Restorers Club, a non-profit organization established in 1980, and is dedicated to expanding and maintaining interest in the Model A Ford.

The Watchung Valley Region of the Model "A" Restorers Club is an affiliate of the Model "A" Restorers Club. Membership in the club is open to all. Ownership of a Model A Ford is not a condition of membership.

members in the Jersey Corvette Club was a dealer for Wallace Chevrolet in Linden. I mentioned to him I was looking for another older Corvette. He said he had a '56 Corvette that needed some work and to make him an offer over \$500. So, for \$501 I had another Corvette.



I ran some autocrosses in this car and eventually took it to Watkins Glen with the Corvette Club. The car now took me to work during the week and spent

many weekends on the track. As it got older, parts for the suspension got increasingly harder to obtain. By 1979, the chassis was cracking faster than I could weld it up.

ENGLISH SPORTS CARS

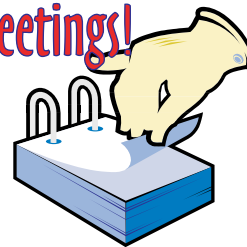
I wanted another sports car that didn't rust, but was somewhat lighter to drive. A friend had an old 1965



Lotus Elan sitting out open behind his house and asked me if I would be interested in it. When I first drove up to look at it I said no-way! After looking at other cars and seeing the prices, I went back

and bought it. It took about 2 years to make it a driveable car. When the chassis on this car started to fall apart, however, I purchased a Spyder space frame chassis for

Upcoming Meetings!



Meetings: 8:00pm
Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home
303 Rock Ave
Green Brook, NJ

March 14 th	June 13 th	September 12 th	December 12 th
April 11 th	July 11 th	October 10 th	2007
May 9 th	August 8 th	November 14 th	January 9 th

it. With the new chassis in, I built a 1780cc tall block engine for it and bought a Quaff differential. It now has a 170 HP engine in street trim powering a 1700lb car. It was wrecked on the street about 15 years ago.

THE MINI

While my daughter and I were at the TR Club picnic and show in Morristown, we met Tim Sweeney. About one week later, Helen bought a '66 Mini from him. A real road burner at 0-60 in 15 minutes. While doing the body work on it, I converted the front to a tilt nose. Later I bought it from her. I repainted it in the blue and white many of you probably remember. Last year, I sold it on ebay.

MY "A"

About 8 years ago, I started to fix up the Lotus, when I got a great deal (\$200) from my next door neighbor on a very rusty 1930 Model A Ford Sport Coupe. My father had always said he would like to rebuild an old Model "A" Ford



Watchung Valley Region of the Model "A" Restorers Club / 2006 Officers

Director:	Lou Della Vecchia	973-476-4619
Vice President:	Bill Koeth	732-752-6780
Treasurer:	Larry Littman	908-276-8346
Secretary / Editor:	Dick Bettel	973-966-2947
Membership:	John Bedner	732-388-0894

Club meetings are held on the **second Tuesday** of every month at 8:00pm

Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home
303 Rock Ave
Green Brook, NJ

The Ahoogah Horn is the official newsletter of the Watchung Valley Region of the Model "A" Restorers Club. It is published monthly and is provided to officers and editors of other car clubs upon request. The Ahoogah Horn solicits articles and other contributions of material from members and other sources, and welcomes other club newsletters to reprint its articles, giving credit to both the author and the publication. News concerning club activities, membership and other information may be sent typed or PC form to the following address:

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Submissions must arrive by the 1st of the month to assure publication in the next issue.

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someday, so when I called and asked if he was up to fixing one more old car, he asked what now? When I told him what it was, his answer was how much, and how bad is it? By July I again called and asked if he would like to see something old and rusty in my driveway? A half hour later he got his first look at the next six years work. Turned out to be in a lot worse shape than we anticipated. As he was not getting any younger at 78, I took the time out from the Lotus to rebuild the Ford with my father and my son while my wife and mother became the official videographer and photographer. We worked on it year round almost every Sunday, and finished the Ford a couple of years ago. The Lotus is back in line for restoration and is slowly getting completed.

Over the years I have raced at Lime Rock, Pocono, Watkins Glen, Bridgehampton, and Bryar, where my daughter also raced. Bryar eventually grew up to be New Hampshire International Speedway.

I have been a member of the Jersey Corvette Club, The Corvettes of Massachusetts Sports Car Club, The BMW Club of NJ, Mini Owners of NJ, the Model "A" Ford Club of America, the MG Car Club - Central Jersey Centre, where I am the Webmaster and meeting photographer, and now the Watchung Valley Region of the Model "A" Restorers Club where I am the Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster.

TaDa!!!



Minutes of the meeting

Dick Bettel gave a short talk called "Meet the Member - Me. This included how I first got interested in cars. I had photos of many of my early cars.

In Lou's absence and in lack of refreshments, Bill opened the 310th meeting at 8:25pm.

Upcoming Events

8th Annual Metro Petro Vintage Advertising Collectors Show, 03/26/2006, Wayne P.A.L. Complex, 1 PAL Drive,

Wayne, NJ. Admission \$4.00 donation adults, kids free. Contact Phone: 201-493-7172.

Spring Carlisle, 04/19/2006 to 04/23/2006, Carlisle Fairgrounds, Carlisle, PA. Contact Phone: Ed Natale at 717-243-7855.



Treasurer's Report

Larry reported the ending balance of the treasury at \$2168.06.

Secretary's Report

I am looking for pictures and articles to put in the newsletter and on the web site. Obviously, I am running out of things to put into the newsletter.

Club Welfare

Lou sent us a Sympathy Card. Barb's mom passed away on February 13th.

Old Business

Lou is still waiting to find out what the nursing home would like as a gift this year. As soon as he finds out, he will go and get whatever it is.

New Business

All but three member's dues are paid up. If your's isn't, please either bring your dues to the next meeting, or send a check made payable to "Watchung Valley Region MARC" to John Bedner, 82 Ravine Drive, Colonia, NJ 07067-3225.



Technical

Teddy asked what the dwell should be on a Model "A". There were many thoughts, but no real answers.

Programs:

March: Jack Martin	June: Tom Sieffert
April: Tom Petersen	July: Dave Zuckerman
May: George Shoremount	August: Tom Arnold

The member giving the presentation is responsible for bringing the refreshments.

50/50

Frank won \$6.50 in the 50/50



Adjournment

Bill adjourned the meeting at 8:48pm



Tom Petersen's **1953 Buick Hardtop** is for sale... \$20,000.00. Call Tom at 973-543-2924.

ADS WILL RUN UNTIL YOU CALL TO CANCEL. SEND TYPED OR CLEARLY WRITTEN COPY TO: DICK BETTEL, 170 CRESCENT ROAD, FLORHAM PARK, NJ 07932-2234. YOU CAN ALSO E-MAIL ME AT AHOOGAHHORN@HEAVENLYMUD.NET

Next Meeting:

March 14th

8:00 p.m.

Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home

303 Rock Ave

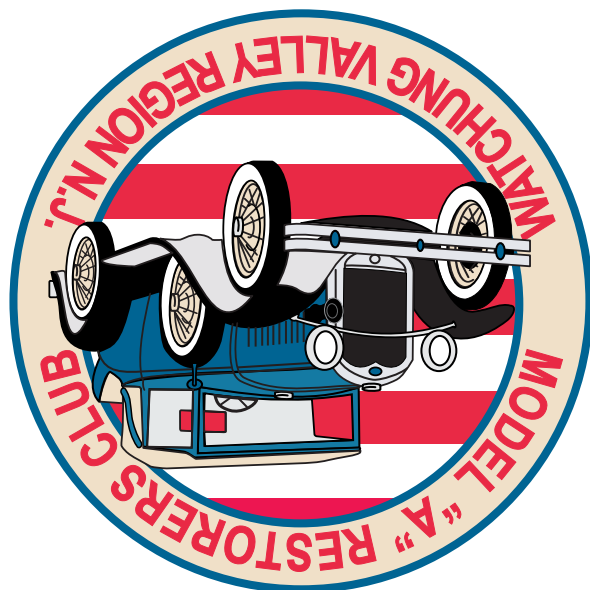
Green Brook, NJ

March Meeting:

Jack Martin

Tool Quiz

Address Corrections Requested
Forwarding Service Requested



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