

The AHOOGAH HORN

Volume 27 Issue 08

Watchung Valley Region of the Model "A" Restorers Club

August 2007

Das Awkscht Fescht 2007



The 43rd annual Das Awkscht Fescht festival was held in Macungie, Pennsylvania on Saturday, August 4, 2007. Dick and I started out on Friday evening and went to our daughter Helen's house in Kingwood, NJ.

As our son, Rich, works nights near Helen's house, he took the Lotus to work in his trailer Friday night, and we drove the A. In the morning, way too early for Helen's husband Tom, we all left for Macungie. Helen and Tom

drove their 54 Ford Customline, Rich drove the Lotus and Dick and I drove in the A. After a leisurely drive through the countryside between Frenchtown and Macungie (no major roads at all!), we arrived around 10:30.

Check out our 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.

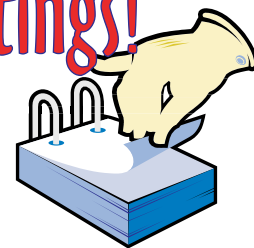
The Watchung Valley Region of the Model "A" Restorers Club is an affiliate of the Model "A" Restorers Club. Membership in the club is open to all. Ownership of a Model A Ford is not a condition of membership.

Tom Fritz and Jack Martin were the next to arrive, then Larry Littman. The guys all toured the cars, admiring each others as well as everything on the field (around 1,000 antique, classic and sports cars), then walked over to the flea market of more than 600 vendors. Tom Fritz was looking for parts for his new coupe and Dick is always on the look-out for stuff. Dick bought a new four pound dead blow hammer (after he wrecked Rich's old one on the Lotus).

Although most of us brought our own, the Food Court has everything from hearty PA Dutch meals, hamburgers, and light snacks, to scrumptious desserts, including ice cream.

On the way back to Helen & Tom's house for dinner, the A developed a peculiar back-fire

Upcoming Meetings!



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

September 11 th	December 11 th	February 12 th	May 13 th
October 9 th	2008	March 11 th	June 10 th
November 13 th	January 8 th	April 8 th	July 8 th

whenever Dick let off the gas. Rick took the A back home in the trailer, and we drove the Lotus. Handy having a son some days. After pulling the manifold and carburetor off, it turned out to be a leaky exhaust manifold gasket. Dick has already had words with his chief mechanic.



Watchung Valley Region of the Model "A" Restorers Club / 2007 Officers

Director:	Lou Della Vecchia	973-476-4619
Vice President:	Tom Fritz	908-580-0502
Treasurer:	Larry Littman	908-276-8346
Secretary / Editor:	Dick Bettle	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:

Dick Bettle, Editor
170 Crescent Road
Florham Park, NJ 07932-2234
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Email: AhoogahHorn@heavenlymud.net

Submissions must arrive by the 15th of the month to assure publication in the next issue.

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The story of Vince's Wooden Model "A" Pick-up Truck.

The engine was sent to Perth Amboy for a complete rebuild, and I tackled the chassis. The body was sent to a guy in Paterson who fixed and strengthened the sub-floor, re-skinned the passenger door, and generally made it much more structurally sound. The chassis was completed in 1997.

About this time, my brother decided to "hot rod" the "A" Coupe. His original thought was to restore it. However, the block was cracked, and he really wanted something that he could drive on a regular basis. I inherited another complete 1930 chassis. Surprisingly, the Coupe chassis was "better" than my Tudor chassis. In addition, both of my daughters were in college, so we were not anxious to spend money on "fun projects" like the Model "A".

However, I had a basement full of woodworking tools, and a large pile of rough oak planks. The idea to build another wooden car took shape. The frame from the Coupe was cleaned, painted and assembled, less the engine, in the basement. It became the "stand" for the pick-up.

Over the next couple of years, piece by piece the vehicle was assembled, with the knowledge that when it was completed, it needed to fit through a 30" door and go up a flight of steps, if it was ever to see the light of day! During this time period, anyone that entered our basement was in for quite a shock!

Except for the hood, gas tank, and radiator, there are no metal parts above the frame. The chassis is pure stock 1930 Model "A". Fenders are all ¾ inch oak, with all of the angles secured with biscuits. The paneling in the doors and cowl is double thick ¼ inch oak veneer plywood. The field of the pick-up bed is oak wanes coating. The floor in the cab and the bed is red oak flooring. It's finished with three coats of high gloss spar varnish.

In 1968, I was 15 years old and my father, brother and I were looking for a project. The three of us went to look at a 1930 Model "A" Ford Tudor Sedan found in a classified advertisement that was located in Allendale, NJ. It looked terrible, but came with a pick-up truckload of extra parts. We immediately decided to purchase the car and parts, and returned home to get my Grandfather and his pick-up, "a chain and a pipe", and some money. My mother was not happy because, we had left my brother as the "deposit".

We shortly thereafter found another 1930 Tudor Sedan that was about to be hot rodded. This vehicle had only a frame, body and front end. However, we were confident that we now had enough parts to assemble two complete cars.

Over the next couple of years, we did just that. These cars were not "restored" – they were rebuilt using what ever we had for parts. I drove the "A" as my only means of transportation for almost a year while in High School. Though it knocked, it proved to be very reliable. I still have the car. My brother drove his to High School, but then sold it to gather the funds to buy a Corvette which is long since gone. My family eventually purchased a 1930 Model "A" Ford Coupe that was to become my sister's. I was off to college – so my brother and father rebuilt this one.

However, she never really wanted the car.

When my girls were learning to drive, I often thought of my father's genius for getting us involved in those two cars. First, it encouraged us to spend plenty of time together. Secondly, once we began driving them, he knew that we would not be going to far, or tow fast, nor would we do anything dumb since we had spent two years of our lives assembling those vehicles.

Fast-forward 23 years – married, two daughters – moved into our 3rd home three years earlier.

We had completed the restoration our 22 "T" Depot Hack while living in Fanwood in 1990. This vehicle started out as a 22 Model "T" Touring car that was converted into a small flat bed truck by removing the rear seat section. Rather than keeping it this way, after a significant amount of research, we purchased plans and hardware from Hudson Wagon Works and built the body which is a very detailed replication of bodies produced in York, PA in the teen's and twenties, and then installed by Ford dealers on Ford chassis. We moved into our new home in Scotch Plains in 1992. In 1995, we were settled to the point where the idea of taking on another project was appealing, so we tore apart the "A" so that it could be properly restored.

Several parts have special significance to me. The door locks, knobs and hinges were taken from my Grandparents home in Scotch Plains, shortly before it was demolished. They likely date from the late 1800's. The rear view mirrors are from the Model "A" I drove to high school and were taken from an old Volkswagen. The shift knob was made for me by my brother many years ago. The Copenhagen Model "A" Club emblem on the radiator was given to me by a friend in Denmark after I brought a

speedometer gear for his friend's "AA" that could not be located in Europe.

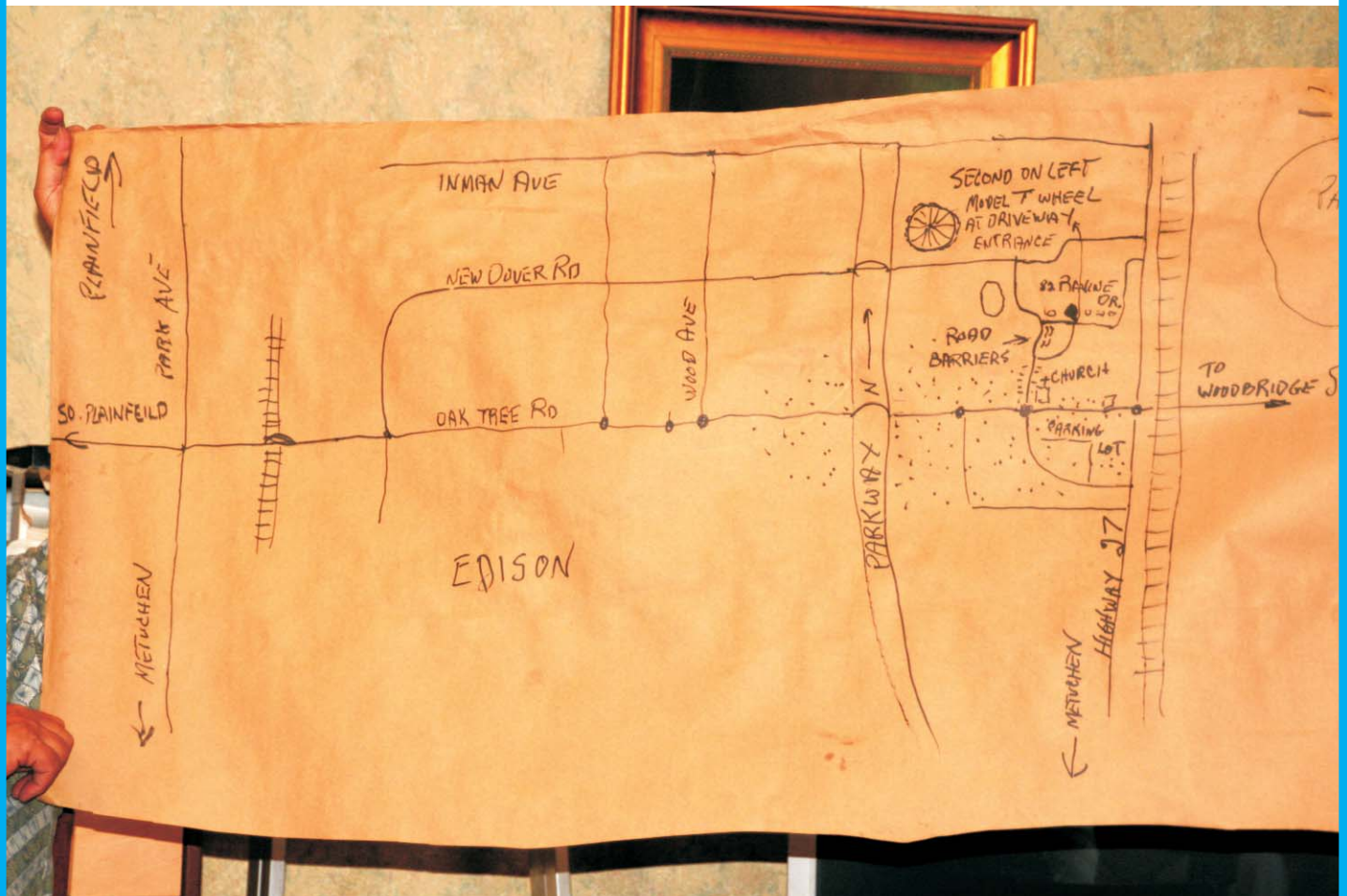
The truck has now been on the road for several years. It has held up better than I ever dreamed. To date, there have been no repairs to any of the wooden parts. Surprisingly, there are no cracks or problems at all to deal with. Everybody who sees it really loves the truck!

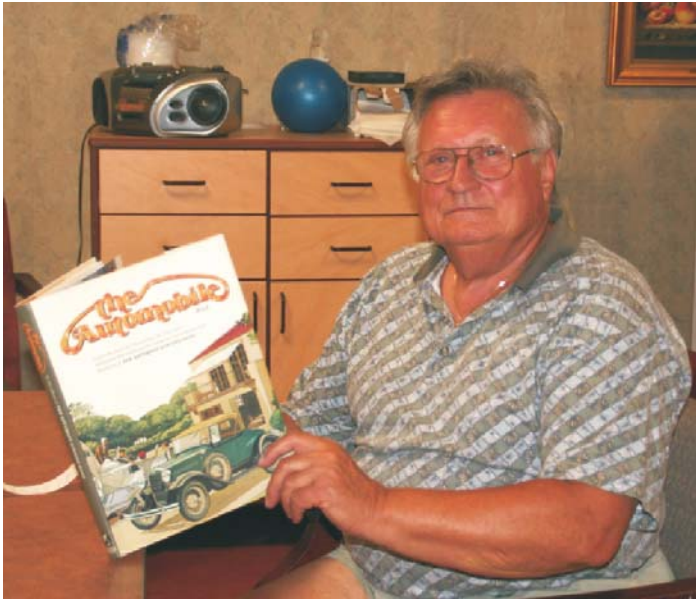
I've now almost completed the Coupe chassis so that the Tudor body will have a home.

When it was all assembled, my wife suggested that the truck needed "a story". So here it is—and I'm sticking to it: "It was 1943, and a farmer needed a truck. He could not have afforded to buy one, even if he could have found one. His neighbor had a Model "A" that was in a roll over accident. While it ran well, the body was completely destroyed, except for the hood, radiator, and gas tank. The farmer, purchased the wreck for \$10.00, dragged it home and built the truck you see today."

**Directions to John Bedner's House
for the
4th Annual Club Picnic
Sunday September 9th, 2007
10AM to 6PM**

82 Ravine Drive, Colonia, NJ 07067 Phone: John Bedner at 732-388-0894





Minutes of the meeting

George Harbt gave an interesting talk on the life and times in the Model T and A era., Following George's presentation, there was a short break for goodies. Lou then opened the 328th meeting at 8:52 pm.

Upcoming Events

4th Annual Club Picnic, NEW LOCATION
09/09/07, 10:00am to 6:00pm at The Bedner's, 82
Ravine Drive, Colonia, NJ 07067. Contact Phone:
John Bedner at 732-388-0894. The club will supply
dogs, burgers and soft drinks, bring something to
share.

Greenbrook Manor 09/03/07 - They will be having a picnic (we are invited). We really need more participation than we had last year considering that this is where we hold our meetings. So please bring your car.

Victorian Days, Belvidere 09/08/07

Family Day at Fellowship Village 09/08/07, Liberty Corner

New England Model A Ford Meet, 09/14/07 to 09/16/07, Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA. Contact Phone: Jo Johnson 978-807-9081.

Long Hill 10/07/07

Cruise Nights

Wednesday - Mt Carmel Hall, Berkeley Heights

Friday - Somerville

Saturday - Stewarts Root Beer, Gillette

Every Other Saturday (August 11, 25, etc) Flemington



Treasurer's Report

Larry reported an ending balance of \$2138.31.

Secretary's Report

Check to see when your program is due.

Old Business

Lou said there was no news yet on what the nursing home would like for their 2006 gift.

Programs:

September: Tom Fritz December: Dave Lounsbury
October: Jack LeCarl January: Annual Club Auction
November: Larry Littman February: Jack Martin

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

50/50

Lou won \$9.50 in the 50/50.



Adjournment

Lou adjourned the meeting at 9:37 pm



For Sale: 1928 Model A Ford Sport Coupe, disassembled, has been in storage for 44 years. Can be seen in Dillsburg, PA. Between Harrisburg and Gettysburg on US Hwy 15. Best Offer Harry Miller. Office 859-276-6777 Home 859-278-3969 Cell 859-229-1158

ADS ARE FREE FOR MEMBERS AND WILL RUN UNTIL YOU CALL TO CANCEL. SEND TYPED OR CLEARLY WRITTEN COPY TO:

DICK BETTLE, 170 CRESCENT ROAD, FLORHAM PARK, NJ 07932-2234.
 YOU CAN ALSO E-MAIL ME AT A.HOOGAH.ORN@HEAVENLYMUD.NET

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Watchung Valley Region of the Model "A" Restorers Club
170 Crescent Road
Florham Park, NJ 07932-2234



Address Corrections Requested
Forwarding Service Requested

Next Meeting:

September 11th

8:00 p.m.

Greenbrook Manor Nursing Home

303 Rock Ave

Green Brook, NJ

September Meeting:

Tom Fritz