



# The Gearbox Chatter

Official Publication of the GRRG of the HCCA

*GRRG ~ Grand Rapids Regional Group  
HCCA ~ Horseless Carriage Club of America*

Vol. 53 Issue 2

Grand Rapids, MI Regional Group

Mar/Apr 2009

## HCCA GRRG Meetings

Bimonthly meetings are the second Tuesday of even months at Emerald Meadows, 6117 Charlevoix Woods SE, 7 PM. Meetings are open to the public and anyone with an interest in historical automobiles. June, Aug., Dec. held at social event.

National HCCA membership is a mandatory prerequisite to regional group membership. National HCCA dues are \$45 per year along with your local chapter dues, \$15 per individual/family.

## Spring Dust Off Tour

*May 16 to Jones Farm Market, page 11*

## ASPARA-TOUR-GUS ADVENTURE

*May 28, 29 & 30, pages 7 - 8*

## Ice Cream Social at Emerald Meadows

*Tuesday, June 16, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, page 3*

*Eileen Niewiek in her 1909 Hupmobile on a Woodland Tour about 1957.*





## Life in the slow lane...

Congratulations to our 2009 G.R.A.H.C.C.A Board Members! Tom Dinger President; Bob Palmer Vice President; Gary Jacobs Treasurer; Mary Palmer Secretary; and Jerk Ritsema Director at Large.

Well, the International Auto Show was a resounding success. A number of our members volunteered to man the Gilmore Museum's fabulous display of antique automobiles. I know we were all proud to represent both the Horseless Carriage Club and the Gilmore Antique Car Museum.

The KAARC Swap Meet is also behind us. This year was especially well attended on Saturday! Our long bitter-cold snowy winter is starting to break and I for one was anxious to get out of the house and back into the hobby. The spoiled ones among you with heated garages working on your cars over the winter, couldn't possibly have been as excited as I was to get to this great swap meet. Cabin fever has taken many of us over and it's time again to get out there and find those obscure parts you can't get at Macs or Snyders!

Please get a hold of Terry Cole and browse through our new treasure of automotive history. You'll be glad you did. We are all indebted to Del both for his generosity and his friendship. Please thank him the next time you see him.

I imagine those of you *with* heated garages have been making headway on your new acquisitions or getting the cars you already have ready for another season of touring. I hope to hear about your progress at our meetings and look forward to an exciting Spring Tour in Ludington with the Van Atta's on May 28 – 30! Please keep your *Gearbox Chatter* Newsletters handy so you don't miss an event in 2009. This is going to be a great year for a little "Life in the Slow Lane!"

Tom Dinger

## CONNECTIONS

### GRRG of HCCA BOARD

#### Officers

President **Tom Dinger** 616-485-7995  
tom.dinger@ameritech.net

7038 Southwood Dr., Jenison, MI 49428-8815

VicePres **Bob Palmer** dbdriver@voyager.net

Secretary **Mary Palmer**

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rosebudbadour@gmail.com

2570 Shadlow TR, Ada, MI 49301-9315

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#### Committee Chairpersons

Benevolence **Scott Grooters** 616-498-8963

Newsletter Editor **Rosebud Badour-Jacobs**

616-897-5424 rosebudbadour@gmail.com

Historian **Terry Cole** 269-262-9477

Spring Tour May 28-30 - Ludington, Van Atta's

Summer Picnic August 15 - Cole Family at Miller Lake Campground

Christmas Party Dec. 6 - Jacobs

Spring Tour 2010 - Need Volunteers

National Website [www.hcca.org](http://www.hcca.org)

#### Yearly Dues are due BEFORE December 31

Yearly National dues \$45 per family, remit to Horseless Carriage Club of America, 40637 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA 93644, 888-832-2374

Yearly Regional dues \$15 per family, remit to Gary Jacobs, 2570 Shadlow TR, Ada, MI 49301-9315

The Gearbox Chatter is published bimonthly.

**Newsletter Submissions** ~ Submissions are due by the end of ODD months. Newsletters are printed and mailed the end of EVEN months. We welcome articles, stories, and ideas from all members and regions of the HCCA organization and other car club affiliates. Articles and comments submitted to the editor are welcome and will be printed after review, subject to space and time. We reserve the right to reject any submissions.

**Board Minutes** ~ are available by email or at any meeting. To receive a copy by email, contact the secretary.

**Bimonthly Meeting Dates & Locations** - check newsletter for information

#### GRRG HCCA Mission Statement

The Grand Rapids Region of the Horseless Carriage Club of America shall encourage the authentic preservation and maintenance of pre-1942 antique motor vehicles, share with Region members technical and historical information related to antique motor vehicles, provide opportunities to operate historical vehicles, promote public awareness of historical vehicles and their significance, and provide opportunities for fellowship among Region members and their families.

# GRRG - Keeping You Informed...

## Insert

In this issue you will find an insert to remind you of upcoming events and includes important information on the opposite side. Be sure to place it where you will see it — on your frig, calendar or your bathroom mirror!

## Happy Birthday!

*Birthstone* - Bloodstone or Aquamarine

Mar: 5 - Bob Palmer  
11 - Juanita Cole  
16 - Dale Kudich  
24 - Gene Birdsall  
24 - Al Rohrstaff  
25 - Doc Kidle

*Birthstone* - Diamond

Apr: 10 - Johann Dyresen  
12 - David Stevens  
19 - Cynda McDaniels  
28 - Sharon Dulek  
28 - John Wissink

## Happy Anniversary!

*Flower* - Jonquil or Daffodil

Mar: 14 - Greg & Elaine Zernec  
30 - Bill & Juanita Cole

*Flower* - Sweet Pea or Daisy

Apr: 6 - Doc & Cheryl Kidle  
12 - Ernie & Karen Hopson

## Updates

Last minute updates and bimonthly minutes are sent via email. Be sure the secretary and editor have your email.

## HCCA brochures & forms

The GRRG HCCA Brochures and HCCA membership forms are available at every meeting and event.

Be sure to pick up extra copies to have on hand for interested parties.

## Go Green!

As long as you are helping to make the earth a bit greener, don't forget about those cell phones and ink cartridges!

Large postage-paid mailers for cell phones with chargers and regular size mailers for ink cartridges available by contacting the editor. Other supplies available at any meeting. Contact editor: rosebudbadour@aol.com.

## Benevolence Update

Robin Cole will be having additional surgery on her arm to remove some foreign object from the auto accident last fall. Bud & Lorene continue to enjoy the warm sunshine, along with fishing, coconut pie and key lime pie.

Welcome new members, Gene & Pattie Birdsall, and their Hupmobiles. They picked up our club's info at the Kalamazoo Swap Meet.

At our December Christmas Party the club took up a goodwill donation to donate to a charitable organization that sponsors families in need at Christmas time. Our members donated clothing and other personal essentials to the Grand Rapids Veterans Home for those who gave so much for our country. We also made a donation to the Gilmore Car Museum to sponsor a picnic table at the museum; the new table will bear a small-engraved plate with our club name.

Our club recently acquired old HCCA *Gazette's*, dating January 1959 through December 1998. Del Carpenter, a former member and friend of many, donated these pristine volumes.

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming events include a Dust Off Tour to Jones Farm Market, Saturday, May 16, see page 13; Spring Tour Ludington May 27-30, see page 7-8; our Ice Cream Social at Emerald Meadows, Tuesday, June 16, below; and the Summer Picnic at Miller Lake Campground, Sat., August 15.

We are still working on information for a car show at the Veterans Home for Flag Day, Sunday, June 14; and possibly a car-a-van to the Gas & Steam Show in Clarksville, August 20.

Members are already working on one day tours for the 2010 calendar to include an early May dust off tour to Gun Lake, and a Steeplechase Tour in downtown Grand Rapids.

## Annual Ice Cream Social

Our annual car show and ice cream social is Tuesday, June 16, 6:30-8:30 PM at Emerald Meadows. Please make plans to attend and invite other car enthusiasts. Any make cars, trucks, fire trucks, or other modes of transportation are welcome.

Remember this is in lieu of rent for the use of our meeting location and part of our HCCA 501(c)(3) educational classification. Please RSVP to our vice president, Bob, 616-891-2205, dbdriver@voyager.net.

## Meeting April 14 at Emerald Meadows

Plan ahead for our next meeting Tuesday, April 14, 7 PM. Our Show 'N Tell will be Jugs, Jars, and Junk.



# Greg's Garage

*This delivery truck traveled rural roads delivering fresh produce to those who lived a distance from the town. Perhaps you have seen this truck at a recent show and know who the owner was along with the year and make of the truck. If so, Greg would appreciate the info, why not send him the details at gzerne@aol.com.*



Note from Beulah

Dear Members,

*How nice to be remembered by the Club Members with the Birthday Card. Thank you to everyone.*

*Can't believe I'm turning 86 – until I look in the mirror. I'm thankful I can still get around as well as I do and still drive my car during daylight hours, but don't get too far from home.*

*Didn't have any of the antique cars out of the shed this year. My family was so busy. They decided to remodel some of the rooms in our house so everyone was too busy with their jobs and remodeling to think about the old cars. Then my granddaughter was married in October, so with the bridal showers, and the wedding and guest from away who came for the wedding, we had a lot going on here for a while.*

*Best wishes for a Happy New Year.  
Beulah*

State of Michigan  
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Dear GRHCCA Members,

On behalf of the residents of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, we wish to thank you very much for your kind donation of personal care items and misc. items. We sincerely appreciate your continued support of our Home and its residents.

Donations to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans are tax deductible in the manner and to the extent provided under section 170 © of the Internal Revenue Code.

Quality of life for our residents is enhanced greatly by donations such as this. Once again, thank you for remembering the residents at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

Our Veterans Thank You!

Frank Snarski, Administrative Director  
Thomas Armock, Department Manager

## Look How Far We Have Come

### *Visit to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum*

*From Elaine Zernec*

While driving along the beautiful countryside of Indiana we took the opportunity to stop at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, 1600 South Wayne St, Auburn, IN 46706, 206-925-1444. The emphasis of the museum is on the classic era of the Auburn, Cord & Duesenberg Automobile and is located in the former headquarters of this company.

When first entering the museum you are overwhelmed by the beauty of these remarkable automobiles. The first floor of the museum is given over to the 1920's and 30's models of the most luxurious cars ever produced. Included in this area, is a 1931 red and yellow Cord. This stunning automobile is a recreation of the blond bombshell, Jean Harlow's, car. This 1931 boat-tail speedster is a two-seater classic with shiny wood interior. When looking at this car, you can imagine Jean Harlow speeding along Highway 1 in view of the Pacific coastline with her blood locks blowing across that classic face. Oh what an ERA!

Well onto the second floor where the "Brass and Class" were located. The upper floor was devoted to these early beauties. The feature of the car for that month was the 1904 Model A touring car which is the earliest model known to exist. This car featured a 2 cylinder, opposed, water cooled engine and produced 10H.P. This particular car was donated to the museum in 1981 by Thomas Lester and has been completely and extensively restored. When sold new the car cost \$1250.



In 1911 Auburn produced the new larger "40 Series" which was the pride and joy of the company. The highest priced and heaviest of the Auburns of that year was the Model N Floor Boor touring car. The car weighed 2700 pounds and cost \$1750. It sat on a 120-inch wheelbase chassis and seated 5 people comfortably. Facts that accompanied the car description were, in 1911 the average minister earned \$879/annually and for all you Ford lovers, Ford Motor Company had 22% of the total car producing market. Little historical facts accompanied





## Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum

*Continued from page 4*

all the descriptions of the cars which made a very interesting read.

One of my favorite cars in the museum was the Duesenberg "Race Car" Amazingly; in 1921 a Duesenberg won the prestigious Grand Prix at LeMans, and was the first American entrant to take this honor. From 1913 to 1937 a Duesenberg was entered into the Indianapolis 500. And you can just imagine this little baby racing around that track to take some record home to Auburn? What an experience.

One the highlights in the museum I found interesting was a chart listing options offered on cars from the 20's and 30's and comparing them to today's "Modern" versions. It was rather remarkable that options such as: Retractable Headlights; Unit Body Construction; Front Wheel Drive; Hydraulic Brakes; Super Charger; were all offered on many of the cars featured in the museum. Makes you think that today's engineers did not "Re-Invent the Wheel" but went back into the archives and rediscovered what really works!

I would highly recommend a trip to this museum for anyone with even a slight interest in seeing a part of American Automotive History. It gives one an appreciative view of the beauty and luxury of a bygone era.



## 50th Annual Trail of Tears Tour June 3-7, 2009

*Sponsored by the Tulsa Regional Group, HCCA*

Tour Headquarters: Econo Lodge 580-762-4550, 212 S. 14th Street, Ponca City, OK 74601. Best to call @ 11:00 AM or 1:00 PM. Group rates until May 11, 2009, \$49.95, mention "HCCA," Includes Continental Breakfast. Cars 1896 thru 1942 may participate, all tour cars must be covered by insurance. Tour Directors: Joe & Joyce Smith, oktour@cox.net, 5400 E. Princeton Street, Broken Arrow, OK 74014.

## Nampa, ID, HCCA National Tour June 7-12, 2009

*Sponsored by the Southwest Idaho RG HCCA*

Tour Directors: Chuck & Alice Steffensen, 208-284-3008 or asteffensen@cableone.net, registrations due by May 16.

Host Hotel: The Hampton Inn Suites, 5750 E. Franklin Road, Nampa, ID 83687, 208-442-0036, RV camping: Garrity RV Park, 3515 Garrity, Nampa, ID 83686, 877-442-9090 or 208-442-9000. Book hotel or RV space by May 7 and mention Vintage Car Tour.

Trailer parking available with security each night. Bring cardboard, drip pans, and cat litter for oil mishaps. Vintage clothing recommended.

## Twin Cities RG HCCA National Tour Lake Superior July 19-24, 2009

*Sponsored by - Twin Cities RG Host Tourmaster - Jim Moe*

The HCCA National Tour includes quiet rural roads along the shores of Lake Superior, the Duluth-Superior harbor and the rural byways of northwestern Wisconsin and northeastern Minnesota. Headquartered on an island in the bay with a 250-slip marina.

Print the registration form at <http://hcca.org/events/July-19-24-2009/registration.pdf>. Registrations due June 12. Complete the form and mail to: HCCA 2009 Tour, Nancy Hoonsbeen, 3455 Florida Ave. North, Minneapolis MN 55427. Contact Nancy 763-533-4280, nhoonsbeen@comcast.net.

**Grand Rapids Regional Group of the Horseless Carriage Club of America  
ASPARA-TOUR-GUS ADVENTURE**

**May 28, 29 & 30, 2009**

**Host Hotel: Holiday Inn Express – 1-888-845-7004 – Ludington, MI**

**Registration due by April 27, 2009**

*Participation on the tour does not require membership in the HCCA.*

*Tour limited to Pre-war vehicles, 1942 or earlier, stock original or restored to stock original.*

Driver's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
Home \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger's Names \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Car Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

State Registered \_\_\_\_\_ License number \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of the right to enter this event and for other valuable consideration, I (we) do hereby agree to indemnify, protect, defend and hold harmless the Horseless Carriage Club of America and its Grand Rapids Region, Officers and Representatives from and against any and all claims, cost, liabilities and attorneys' fees arising from damage or injury, actual or claimed, of any kind or nature, to property or persons, resulting from my (our) participation in this tour.

The owner/driver has proof of bodily injury and property damage liability insurance on the entered vehicle in the amount of at least \$100,000 per person, \$300,000 per accident bodily injury liability and \$100,000 property damage liability, or \$300,000 combined single limit liability insurance. Insurance company name:

\_\_\_\_\_, policy no. \_\_\_\_\_, policy term (dates) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

The owner/driver certifies that the described vehicle entered in this tour has duly passed the requirements of the motor vehicle authorities, or other governing bodies of the state in which the vehicle is registered, and the vehicle shall be legally registered and/or licensed.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Owner

Driver (if different)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Fire Extinguisher MUST be in vehicle.**

Registration:	Car and Driver	\$92.00	\$92.00
	Passengers	_____ @ \$77.00	_____
	12 and under	_____ @ \$74.00	_____
	Pizza Party Saturday	_____ @ \$6.00	_____
	Second Set of Directions	\$8.00	_____
		Total	_____

Registration due by April 27, 2009, **late registrations add \$20**. Tour capacity: 45 cars.

Please make checks payable to Sally Van Atta, in US dollars and mail by April 27, 2009 to:

Sally Van Atta  
641 N Golden Sands Dr.  
Mears, MI 49436

**Over for tour description**

**Grand Rapids Regional Group of the Horseless Carriage Club of America**  
**ASPARA-TOUR-GUS ADVENTURE**  
**May 28, 29 & 30, 2009**

**Host Hotel: Holiday Inn Express – 1-888-845-7004 – Ludington, MI**  
**Registration due by April 27, 2009**

*Participation on the tour does not require membership in the HCCA.*

*Tour limited to Pre-war vehicles, 1942 or earlier, stock original or restored to stock original.*

The Grand Rapids Region of the Horseless Carriage Club of America is hosting the Spring Aspara-Tour-Gus Adventure headquartered at the Holiday Inn Express in Ludington, Michigan. Forty (40) rooms, with two queen beds have been reserved until April 27, 2009 at a rate of \$71.00 + 8% Tax per room. Call the hotel's toll free number at 1-888-845-7004 and use the tracking code of **HCCA** to reserve your room. If you are staying in your RV, in the Holiday Inn parking lot, you can pay the hotel \$5.00 per couple per day to use the pool and enjoy the complementary breakfast bar. A full hook-up RV park with an indoor pool is immediately behind the Holiday Inn Express. Poncho's Pond RV Park at 1-888-308-6602, charges \$48 per night.

Wednesday, May 27, if you arrive early, we have planned a short driving tour into Ludington to see the murals and the shoreline and/or walk the Lake Michigan beach.

Thursday, May 28, will take us south and east with a tour of Chase Farms which should be processing asparagus at this time of year. Then we travel to lunch at the Par 5 restaurant on the Benona Shores Golf Course included in the registration. After lunch the drive along the scenic Lake Michigan drive will take us to see a model train collection, the tallest lighthouse on Lake Michigan and the Silver Lake Sand Dunes.

Friday, May 29, included in your registration is a tour of the Amber Elk Ranch. You will have a chance to feed the Elk by hand on the largest Elk ranch in Michigan. From there we will travel the back roads to Pentwater and park on the village green to shop and have lunch on your own. After lunch and shopping you will travel a beautiful winding road for a pre-paid tour of the White Pine Village. Almost next door we have arranged for you to visit Jim Tuttle's automotive memorabilia collection.

Saturday, May 30, we will travel north to Manistee with a drive through the Manistee National Forest. In Manistee you will have a pre-paid tour of the Ramsdell Opera Theater and a noon pre-paid banquet at the United Methodist Church. After lunch just a short distance away you can visit a unique "MY WAY" Depot Sundae & Candy Shop on your own. Then, we will travel back to Ludington with a stop at a campground for a snack. In Ludington there will be a pizza party in the Hotel Hospitality room to round out the tour and bid good bye.

Bring coolers if you like fresh picked asparagus available at many roadside stands. The hospitality room will be open: Wednesday 2-8pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 5-8pm.

**Over for Application**





Photo captured from an old catalog:  
M. Friedman & Co., Grand Rapids, MI

#### Rubberized Rain Coat - left coat

Rain Coat of rubberized poplin cloth in either black, navy blue or castor (tan) of dependable quality and fast color. Loose and full proportioned in front and back, 54" long. The coat fastens down the front and underneath; the turnover Military Storm Collar fastens with a hidden stitched strap and furnished with reinforced side slit pockets. The set in sleeves feature adjustable storm straps at the cuffs. This most serviceable garment is carefully cemented and stitched at the seams and rubberized throughout. A most necessary addition to your wardrobe. Made in all sizes to fit misses and women 32 to 44 inches bust measurement. Sent prepaid for \$5.95.



#### Cheviot Coat - middle coat

Smooth finished Cheviot Coat, semi fitting with velvet coat collar and revers ornamented with braid and buttons. The front closes with becoming side effect with two black silk braided loop ornaments closing over large covered buttons. The convenient side pockets are finished with stitched flaps. The sleeve is well proportioned and the turn back cuffs of self-cloth have neat rounded corners. Lined to the waist only with black Venetian. All seams are carefully taped and reinforced and you will find this coat unusually well tailored. Made with wide self-cloth facing down the fronts and with open knee-deep vents to allow comfort in walking. Made in either black or dark navy blue in all sizes for women and misses to fit 32 to 44 inches bust measurement. Sent prepaid for \$7.75.

#### London Slip on Rain Coat - right coat

Stylish and serviceable rain coat of solid color dark tan (castor) English material that has a double texture with plaid facing with rubberizing between to ensure strict waterproofing. An important feature is the mannish Raglan shoulder and sleeve. Under the arm three reinforced eyelet perforations are conveniently provided to allow necessary ventilation and prevent over-heating. The military collar, also the roomy patch pockets with buttoned flap and up-turned cuffs are stitched. Cut full 54" long, on well-proportioned loose fitting lines, ample sweep to insure comfort and protection. Made in solid color dark tan (castor) English double texture material in all sizes for women and misses 32 – 44 inches bust measurement. Sent prepaid for \$10.50.



Above 1905 Packard Touring with Tony Pienta at the running board and Jay Follis in the drivers seat. Both are wearing HCCA's Plus-4 Knickers and Squashy Hat



Above Gary Jacobs showing off the 1903 Electric Car with leather fenders.

Below Greg Zernec explaining the 1948 "Bathtub" Packard Woodie Wagon.



## Auto Show

The Gilmore Car Museum displayed nine vintage autos at the recent Grand Rapids International Auto Show. Several members were on hand to volunteer their time distributing the museum's brochures and to answer questions. Visitors continuously stopped to comment on the period clothing worn by the volunteers and were treated to mini history lessons on the 100 year old electric car and the 1915 smart car that got about 40 mpg!

By the time Ford Motor Co. was founded in 1903, Packard had already been producing luxury autos for three years. When David Gray, a Ford board member and son of Ford's first president, purchased a new car in 1905 it wasn't a Ford – it was this Packard Touring car, above left. Packard Motor Co., Detroit, MI.

Today's auto manufactures promise an extended-range electric car capable of traveling 40 miles on a charge will be available by 2010. However the 1903 Columbia Electric, center left, was produced 106 years ago was actually the first "Extended-Range" Electric Car and could travel 40 miles on a charge of its Edison batteries! The small electric car with leather fenders was often featured as a 'lady's' car it was so easy to operate. Top speed averaged about 17 mph downhill. Produced by the Electric Vehicle Co., Hartford, CT.

The 1948 Packard Woodie Wagon, lower left, was the first year of the "BATHTUB" model, which lasted through 1950. The wood is real Birch requiring the owner to varnish the wood every year, just like old wood boats. This was a 6-passenger car with no rear compartment seat. Original cost was \$3,350.00, which was \$1200.00 higher than the standard Eight sedan and weighed an impressive 4080 lbs.





The 4 cylinder 1915 Woods Mobilette Smart Car, above, with 102" wheelbase was produced by the Woods Mobilette Co., in Harvey, IL. Between 1913-1916 over 100 American manufacturers produced "Cycle Cars" – simple, affordable, and economical. Most of these tiny cars had only two seats, was about a quarter the cost of a typical car of its day, and got about 40 mpg!

Right  
Bonnie  
Pienta in her  
beautiful  
genuine  
vintage attire.  
After her  
husband,  
Tony, won a  
few awards  
with his 1911  
Hudson,  
Bonnie could  
not wait to  
add to her  
collection of  
vintage attire.



## Spring Dust Off Tour May 16

Join us for our Spring Dust Off Tour Saturday, May 16, 2009, to Jones Farm Market for Customer appreciation day. Jones Farm Market will provide plenty of food for lunch along with special meat and cheese prices, live music, a craft/flea market and car corral for the antique cars. Pack your lawn chairs.

If you would like to caravan to Jones Farm Market, make arrangements to have your antique vehicle ready to leave the McDonald's parking lot in Ada Village, 402 Ada Dr., at 9 AM. After the car show at Jones Farm Market we will travel to Smyrna for ice cream.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 12, to Gary at 616-897-5424, or [rosebudbadour@gmail.com](mailto:rosebudbadour@gmail.com) to reserve your spot in the car corral.

Jones Farm Market is on the corner of Potters Rd. & Lee Rd., 7965 Potters Rd, Saranac, MI 48881. They offer the best choice beef, pork, lamb, and more; along with custom butchering and processing. They have over 46 varieties of handcrafted sausage and jerky. Be sure to bring your coolers with ice for your meat purchases.

## Antiques Roadshow

The PBS *Antiques Roadshow* will feature Grand Rapids and three museums in West Michigan scheduled for April 20, 27 and May 4. Be sure to tune in to discover the value placed on the Tireur d'arc (Archer) crystal mascot" signed 'R. Lalique / France' with its original working Breves Galleries illuminating base.

## KAARC Swap Meet

*from Bob Palmer*

We had a successful weekend at the Kalamazoo Swap Meet, greeting people and handing out Spring Tour registration forms and membership brochures. I am indebted to Scott Grooters, Phil Renuart, Tom Dinger, Bill Cole, and Terry Cole for working several hours each at our display. I especially want to thank my wife, Mary, for helping me set up the display at 7:00 AM on Saturday and working at the display until 10:00 AM. Bill and Terry get special kudos for dismantling our display on Sunday and delivering all of the materials to our home in Caledonia. Our swap meet experience was a success because it was a team effort!



# The Need to Read Speed

BY MICHAEL LAMM

*sent in by Don Dyresen*

The modern speedometer evolved from the odometer, which goes back to Roman times. To determine how far they had traveled, Roman legions rolled a wheel as they marched and multiplied its circumference by the number of revolutions. By the sixteenth century the odometer had been combined with a clock to yield a kind of speedometer. Through the stagecoach and railroad ages, calculating average speed over an interval was usually good enough. No one felt much need for an instant speed-reading.

But when motorists started kicking up dust at the turn of the century, speed limits inevitably followed, and drivers needed to know how fast they were going. The earliest automotive "speed meters" arrived around 1901. Motorists could choose among four basic types: centrifugal, hydraulic, pneumatic, and magnetic.

The centrifugal type worked like the flyweight governors on stationary engines, with two balls swinging outward from a rotating shaft (usually geared to a front wheel) on pivoted arms. By reading the height of the balls, the driver could tell how fast he was going.

The hydraulic type had a column of mercury inside a small vertical tube that also housed a hydraulic screw. A cable from the car's front wheel turned the screw and raised a float on top of the mercury. The faster the wheel was turning, the higher the float rode. The pneumatic type measured the air pressure in a tube mounted in the direction of the car's motion. These became common on aircraft but not in automobiles because fluctuations in ambient air pressure proved too much of a problem at low speeds.

Finally there was the magnetic speed meter. While more complicated than the others, it was also more reliable and accurate, so it won out. In this type of speedometer a permanent magnet spins inside an aluminum cup, with its speed of rotation proportional to the car's speed. The spinning magnet induces "eddy currents" in the aluminum cup, which create a magnetic field of their own. As a result, the cup tries to rotate along with the permanent magnet. Its rotation is opposed by a weak spring.

One of the first successful magnetic speed meters was developed by A. P. Warner of Beloit, Wisconsin, who founded the Warner Instrument Company in 1904. He bought out several other speedometer makers, and by 1925 his Stewart-Warner Company was supplying 90 percent of all U.S. carmakers. Meanwhile, Henry Ford kept many small manufacturers in business by omitting the speedometer from his Model T after 1915, thus ensuring a thriving after-market.

At first, many speedometers had tiny readouts that were viewed through an inch-square glass window. Numbers were silk-screened around the outside of the horizontal aluminum cup, and as the cup turned, the appropriate numeral showed through. Even with a magnifying lens, the little numbers were hard to read, especially at night. By the 1930s most carmakers had replaced the window readout with the more prominent dial version. To create this, manufacturers simply turned the aluminum cup ninety degrees and attached a needle to its pivot center.

In the early 1980s automakers began introducing electronic speedometers and odometers. While mechanical speedometers were and still are highly accurate (though usually set to read fast, to reduce speeding tickets), electronic types are even more so. They are also more tamperproof. During the fuel-crunch 1970s and 1980s, when the nationwide speed limit was lowered to 55 mph, car manufacturers set the top figure on their speedometers at 80. Today, with speed limits up to 70 mph on most interstates and no limit at all in some places, most speedometers max out at well over the century mark.

*Michael Lamm lives in Stockton, California. He and Dave Hollis co-wrote *A Century of Automotive Style* (Lamm-Morada Publishing Co.), a history of American car design.*

*Article from [Invention and Technology Magazine](http://www.americanheritage.com/articles/magazine/it/1997/2/1997_2_64.shtml) Fall 1997 Volume 13, Issue 2, [www.americanheritage.com/articles/magazine/it/1997/2/1997\\_2\\_64.shtml](http://www.americanheritage.com/articles/magazine/it/1997/2/1997_2_64.shtml)*

## Tech Tips From the Shop

### Dry Cracked Hands and Feet

From Rosebud

Here in Michigan when the weather gets bitter cold, the air zaps the moisture out of your skin. Many guys working out in the cold cleaning and rebuilding their cars end up with cracks in their fingers, leaving painful slits that bring agony and throbbing pain. When eczema gets an attitude or psoriasis gets super serious, you may make the transition from considerable discomfort to full-fledged torture. Even hairdressers and barbers suffer.

These cracks are skin fissures but you probably call them something a lot more colorful. Hands and feet are the most likely spots for cracked skin.

#### Give yourself a good soak

The best way to treat very dry skin is to hydrate it every night. Soak your hands, feet or other areas, in *warm* water – not hot – for about 20 minutes or until the water cools. The skin cells absorb water like a sponge. Pat the skin dry and immediately lube the skin.

#### Seal up with a lube job

After soaking, seal in the moisture by applying a coating of good old fashion petroleum jelly, like Vaseline. Put a pair of socks on or lightweight cotton gloves before going to bed.

#### “Glue” the cracks

Hairdressers have used super glue or clear nail polish for many years to seal small nicks or cuts on their hands (not a deep wound). Doctors are now using it to close surgical incisions.

For those guys who refuse to soak, lube and seal those cracks, and don't like vaseline, I found a product that my grease monkey will use: *No-Crack*. This *No-Crack* hand cream comes in three weights: Day Use, All Purpose, and Night Use, made by the Dumont Co., and sold by West Michigan Medical Supply. Visit <http://www.nocrack.com/stores.htm> to locate a store near you.

I have not found anything like the *No-Crack* and it keeps those cracks at bay. Several on my Christmas list found the small travel sizes in their Christmas stockings and are requesting the large tub sizes.

## Vice President's Message

A recent Boston Globe article related the sad tale of another devastating garage fire, an all-too-common occurrence.

An 89-year-old retired machinist in Weymouth, Massachusetts went out to his stand-alone garage. When he tried to start up his 1929 Buick, he heard an explosion and was immediately confronted with an engine fire.



The elderly gentleman managed to escape, but the fire quickly spread out-of-control and consumed the building and its contents.

Other vehicles lost included a 1915 Dodge Touring and a first-year Ford Mustang convertible. Every one of the cars that had been pampered and maintained by the owner for many years were reduced to scrap.

Just over a year ago, a good friend of ours in Mount Vernon, OH experienced a similar loss. He and his wife owned a separate building downtown where they stored their petroleum memorabilia, fine porcelain and enameled sign collection, and a fully restored 1932 Plymouth sport roadster.

During a thunderstorm, that area of Mount Vernon suffered a power failure. A lightning strike was suspected.

Later, a passerby noticed that the storage building was on fire. The fire department was summoned, but the building and its contents could not be saved. One of the finest '32 Plymouth roadsters in existence was lost. Also lost was the entire inventory of the Club Store of the Dodge Brothers Club which had been stored in the same building.

Insurance covered the losses, but it was tragic to lose so many rare and valuable artifacts, some of which were irreplaceable.

I relate these sad tales for the purpose of urging our club members to always use caution and to try to be prepared to deal with the threat of fire. Not all dangers can be foreseen, but we can take precautions that will keep us prepared in many instances.

The foremost safety measure is keeping a fully charged fire extinguisher in every collector vehicle. It may also be wise to keep a large dry rag or a pair of old long-cuffed oven mitts on board in case needed to raise the hood to get at an engine fire.

If any member has other safety suggestions, pass them on to me and I will include them in a future message. Let's talk about precautions now so that we can enjoy our hobby as safely as possible next summer.

Happy motoring,  
Bob Palmer

## From the Back Roads

Many regional newsletters arrive via the Internet helping to reduce not only cost but also the amount of waste. If you would like to read other chapters newsletters online please email the editor and I will forward you copies.

With the bitter cold and almost 100" of snowfall that we have had here in West Michigan we are all looking forward to the day we can drive our cars. We have very few activities happening during the winter months and I get a little envious of the guys who gather at Jerk's on a regular basis to play with their cars. Guess I am going have to get my hands dirty!

Be sure to give Bob & Mary Palmer a pat on the back for spearheading our club booth at the KAARC Swap Meet, great publicity for our club, thank you!

Many thanks to those who point out the errors they find in our newsletter - I do appreciate the heads up! At least I know someone is reading the newsletter. Please keep those articles coming; otherwise you will have to read about sewing and fashions. Sew enjoy our threads!

**ROSEBUD**



## For Sale: John Deere Tractor

Runs good, missing steering wheel and seat. Ideal for the person who has lost his butt and doesn't know which way too turn.

Recently one of our members bought this tractor. He said after the market gutted his 401k retirement, he bought this tractor. It seems like the perfect match.



## GRRG Programs

**Events subject to change.** Meetings/Gatherings noted by \*. To volunteer an activity, contact any board member.

\*April 14 – Meeting, Jugs, Jars & Junk  
May 16 – Dust Off Tour to Jones Farm Mkt, Saranac

May 27-30 – GRRG HCCA Spring Tour, Ludington, MI

\*June 16 – Ice Cream Social at Emerald Meadows 6:30

\*August 15 – Cole Family, Miller Lake Campground

October 1-3 – Bud's Fall Tour

\*October 13 – Meeting, Nominations

\*Dec 6 – Elections, Christmas Party

## Auto Events

### All Events Subject to Change

If you know of an event that might be of interest to members, please send it to the editor. The Horesless Carriage Gazette and HCCA website lists several coming events along with upcoming tours. Please see your Gazette or visit [hcca.org](http://hcca.org) for additional events and details.

March 19-21 Chickasha Swap Meet, OK, Mike Ersland 405-224-9090 for information, no flyer

April 10-12 HCCA Bakersfield Swap Meet & Tour, Kern County Fairgrounds, hcca.org, Gregg 661-325-2840

June 19-20 Antiques on the Bay, [www.nostalgia-prod.com](http://www.nostalgia-prod.com)

June 25-27 St. Ignace Car Show, [www.nostalgia-prod.com](http://www.nostalgia-prod.com)

July 19-25 National HCCA Tour Lake Superior, WI, Twin Cities Reg. Group, Jim Moe, 763-786-6609, [nhoonsbeen@comcast.net](mailto:nhoonsbeen@comcast.net)

August 1 Red Barns, Gilmore Car Museum, [gilmorecarmuseum.org](http://gilmorecarmuseum.org)

August 20-22 Gas & Steam Show, Clarksville, no flyer

August 28-29 28th St. Metro Cruise, Grand Rapids, no flyer

Sept. 10-11 Lansing to Dearborn Run, John Grace 734-467-7802, no flyer

Sept. 12-13 Old Car Fest, Dearborn, MI, [thehenryford.org](http://thehenryford.org), no flyer

Sept 18 Antique Tractors Bridge Crossing, [www.nostalgia-prod.com](http://www.nostalgia-prod.com), no flyer

October 6-9 Hershey, PA, AACA Fall Swap Meet, [aaca.org](http://aaca.org), no flyer

*Please note - If and when a flyer is received (rarely if ever) it is sent via email to members.*



## Classifieds ~ Buy Sell or Trade

The Gearbox Chatter will print new or reprint classified ads on a space-available basis as a free service to HCCA members. Every attempt is made to list the ad from other HCCA club newsletters as original as possible, some editing may occur. Please email your ads to the editor rosebudbadour@aol.com, or USPS, see back cover mailing label for editor's address. Business ads are not accepted in this free space. For classified ad rates, please contact the editor, rosebudbadour@aol.com.

### Buy, Sell or Trade

**Tire Irons** – Change any early tires without scratching the rims. Easiest tire iron in the world to use, available in two sizes, regular \$35, and long \$45, plus S&H. Also used for motorcycles, lawn & garden tractors. Contact Bud & Lorene at 616-794-0433 summer, 305-745-1587 winter.

**Horns for sale** 6 & 12 volt, George Mazurek 231-733-6439  
**Buy or Sale Model T parts**, contact Model T Michael, 330-774-8060, modeltmichael@yahoo.com

### Wanted

**More Articles and Tech Tips** – Otherwise you will have to read something on sewing or fashion, and *that is a promise*.

### Historical Garments, Books, Videos

#### Reproduction historical garments:

www.premierclothing.com	www.wwmerc.com
www.riverjunction.com	www.longago.com
www.seamingperfection.com	
www.HeritageDesignbyjem.com	www.alteryears.com
www.victoriantradingco.com	www.recollections.biz
www.greystonegardens.com	www.jpeterman.com
www.amazondrygoods.com	www.harperhouse.com

#### Patterns for historical garments:

www.pastpatterns.com	www.folkwear.com
www.thebluegardenia.com	www.oldpatterns.com
www.decadesofstyle.com	www.evadress.com
www.sewvintagepatterns.com	www.sew-retro.com

### Custom Fit Reproductions

Men's custom shirts, driving caps, ladies garments & hats, contact Rosebud, rosebudbadour@aol.com

**Vintage Clothing** www.labarrebooks.com

### Reference Books and Videos

**Kalamazoo Automobilst**, by Dr. David Lyon, \$39.95, member of the GRRG. Book is available from Dr. Lyon, lyon@wmich.edu, or Barnes and Noble.

**Model T Ford Parts Identification Guides**, Vol I & II, by Gail Rodda, \$14.95 plus SH, modelt.org/tpguide

**Evolution of the Automobile and Its Effect Upon Society**, by Don Marsh, 1 hr 45 mins. \$15 for HCCA members. Don Marsh Restorations, POB 760, Spirit Lake, ID 83869, 208-623-2039.

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 Basements, Garage, Patio, Deck,  
 Ceramic Tile, and more

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Meeting Emerald Meadows, Jugs, Jars, Junk Apr 14

Tune into Antique Road Show Apr 20, 27, May 4

Spring Tour Registrations Due Apr 27

Dust Off Tour to Jones Farm Mkt. May 16

GRRG Spring Tour May 27-30

GRRG of the HCCA  
 Rosebud Badour-Jacobs, Editor  
 2570 Shadlow TR  
 Ada, MI 49301-9315



**OOPS! Did you forget to pay your national & regional dues?**

Looks like Mark Harmon is anxious to get his 1914 Model T out and tour along Lake Huron.

