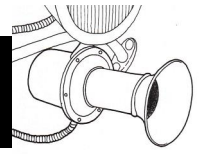




THE KLAXON



February 2016



Inside this Month:

- President's message 2
- Birthday's 2
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- Club Calendar 4
- Edsel Ford's Speedster 7

And much more in this issue.....



The Newsletter of the

Delaware Valley Model A Ford Club, Inc.

Founded in 1958

Who are we:

The Klaxon is the monthly newsletter of the Delaware Valley Model "A" Ford Club, Inc. and is circulated to all club members and other interested clubs. The club meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30pm at Daley's Service Center, 2749 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA 19020.

If you wish to contribute articles for publication in the Klaxon please do so by submitting them to the editor Jim Maier. Other pertinent information can be obtained from the officers.

Technical and historical questions are encouraged and we'll do our best to get the answers. Questions can be submitted via

E-Mail at: M2116x6@comcast.net.

Club Officers

President – Ted Kulesza	215-901-4305
Vice President – Joe Chamberlain	215-385-4989
Secretary – Don Fortune	215-698-1256
Treasurer – Don O'Hara	215-338-6368
Editor - Jim Maier	267-918-2078
National Director – Mike Etling	610-505-4504
Activities/Parades – Ted Etling	215-802-8622

<http://www.dvmafc.org/>

Up Coming Events

2/4/2016 Monthly Meeting at Daley's Service Center

Happy Birthdays for February 2016!

If we missed your birthday please let the editor know

Dick Wainwright	3
Michael Jones	7
Lin Bethman	12
Rich Nash	13
Maria Amodeo	21

President's Message



Greetings:

Greetings: the first big snow storm was one to remember, hope everyone got through it ok. Dues are due and payable, February 15th is the deadline. Please bring your dues up to date so we can enter your name in the 2016 roster.

January's Tech Talk video on tire changing was very informative. If you have any other tech videos please contact Jim Maier (267 918 2078).

We are planning a parts auction of model a parts for our April meeting, this will give you time to get them together. If you are a marc member don't forget your 2016 dues, if you're not a member and would like to join contact one of the club officers.

All the best,

Jed

Editor's Message

Hello everyone:

Here we are at the end of January already. Spring is right around the corner, along with Model A season.



Don't forget to turn in your roster update form and include your dues for 2016. The deadline is February 15th to be included in this year's roster printing.

Copies of the form will be available at the meeting. One is also enclosed with this issue.

Does anyone have when and Now+photos of their vehicles that they would like published? Please send them in.

See you on the 4th! *Jim*



December 24, 1957.

It never snows in New Mexico.



Now how did that get in front of our house?

Married only about 6 months, Jack Fritsch's wife looks out her window to see the "gem" that he bought her for Christmas.

Photos submitted by Jack Fritsch

UPCOMING LOCAL AUTO RELATED EVENTS

From Hemmings Motor News and other sources

See enclosed club event listing for our club events

Model T Snowmobile Meet

February 06 to February 07, 2016

The 17th annual meet will be at the Sunset Motor Inn at the intersection of Rte. 100 & 15 ,there will be Model T Ford Snowmobiles from all over New England & The Northeast.

When: February 06, 2016 9a.m. -3p.m.

Location: 160 VT Route 15W Morrisville VT. 05661 Cost: No charge

To Register call Bill Clough at 518-365-5272

Hamburg Swap Meet and Car Corral

March 06, 2016 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Indoor and outdoor spaces. Refreshments available. Handicap friendly. For vendor spaces call 610-262-9718. Held rain or shine.

Sponsor: Ontelaunee Region AACA

Location: 127 South 4th St. Rear Pine St. Hamburg PA, 19526

Cost: Adults \$2.00 Child Under 12 free

To Register: call Shirley Schaffer at 610-262-9718 or call Lester Manwiller at 610-944-8619.

45th Annual Swap Meet and Car Corral

March 20, 2016 8 AM - 3 PM

South Jersey Region AACA 45th annual swap meet and car corral.

Location:

Salem County Fairgrounds

Woodstown NJ, 08098

Cost: Vendor spaces \$35.00 ea. No admission charge

To Register: call Chuck Gibson at 609-221-5435 or call Gary Green at 856-575-5547.

Antique Car & Parts Auction Event

April 09, 2016 9 am - 4 pm

Auctioning many Model A Ford cars, WW2 Jeep, '32 Ford V8, 63' Falcon Conv. to name just a few, & THOUSANDS of car parts for Model A, T, Ford V8, and other makes. Auction Preview: Friday, April 8th, 2016, 9am-4pm, or by appointment, contact us

Location:

Wamsleys Texaco Garage, 52 Harding Hwy Rt 40

Upper Pittsgrove NJ, 08318

Cost: no charge for admission, see auction terms

To Register: call Lee Fox at 609-970-5163

Delaware Valley Model A Ford Club 2016 Yearly Calendar of Events

January

7 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s

February

4 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s

March

3 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s

April

7 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s
23 – Hellertown Model A Show

May

5 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s
23 – Bensalem / Croydon Parades

June

2 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s

July

4 – Lawncrest Parade – 8:30 Form up
4 – Cheltenham Parade – 11:00 Form up
TBD – Pennypack Parade
7 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s

August

4 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s

September

1 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s
10 - International Model A Ford Day
TBD – Club Banquet

October

6 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s
5 – 8 – Hershey AACA Meet

November

3 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s
TBD – Bristol Township Parade

December

1 – Club Meeting – 7:30pm Daley’s

Please advise the editorial staff of any additional events, as well as any changes.

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Reprinted From HEMMINGS DAILY 1/25/16

Photo by Darin Schnabel, courtesy RM Sotheby's.

For decades, Edsel Ford's first V-8 speedster remained out of sight, considered lost to the world, save for three old black-and-white photos. Huge chunks of its history had gone dark, and it narrowly avoided a date with the crusher at least once - an unbecoming fate for what some

consider the most important car in the history of Ford Motor Company design, a car that will head to auction this spring.

While Edsel Ford crafted custom cars and speedsters based on production-line Ford pieces as far back as the Teens, by and large they represented the mechanical musings of a car-minded playboy, not active attempts to influence Ford Motor Company styling direction. That changed in the early Thirties when he made the acquaintance of E.T. Bob Gregorie, a draftsman and designer at Lincoln.

Hired in 1931, Gregorie shared many of Ford's passions. As Jim and Cheryl Farrell wrote in *Ford Design Department Concept and Showcars, 1932-1961*, Ford quickly found that Gregorie had a unique ability to understand his design directions, and that they had similar interests in European cars and fast boats. So following a trip to Europe a year later, Ford gave Gregorie an assignment: Design and build a custom Ford with sports-car styling as seen on the continent.



Photos by Darin Schnabel, courtesy RM Sotheby's.

Gregorie, equipped with a design for a completely topless boattail speedster with matching prow-like front end and a sporty V-shaped windshield, took advantage of idled workers at the Ford Trimotor and Lincoln plants to build Ford's speedster. He started with a 1932 Ford Model 18 chassis, complete with a brand-new flathead V-8, and had the Trimotor craftsmen shape the body from aluminum, then turned it over to Lincoln's workers for finishing and trimming. Along with the hood that extended up over the cowl, the suicide doors, the lack of bumpers and running boards, and the full wheel covers, the speedster also featured absolutely no Ford badging.



Photo by Darin Schnabel, courtesy RM Sotheby's.

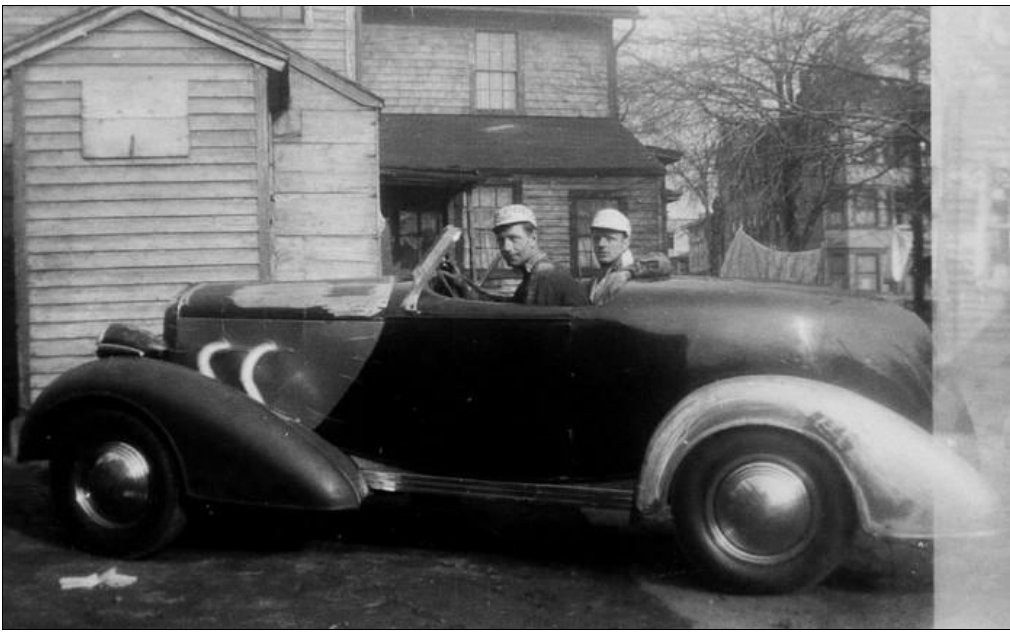
By the summer of 1932, Gregorie finished the car and delivered it to Ford, who then used it on occasion over the next couple of years, but, for the most part, kept it hidden from his father. He had it updated with a newer engine in either late 1933 or early 1934, then sold it in 1934. As the Farrells wrote, Ford was pleasantly amused at the boattail design - that is, he likely had something else in mind - but he continued to collaborate with Gregorie on custom cars nevertheless. In 1934, they came up with Ford's second speedster, one that has garnered plenty of concours invites, articles, and gallery placements over the years and that even inspired a scratch-built tribute car. They teamed up again for another custom in 1935, and by the late 1930s, their shared vision of a European-style American production car eventually came to fruition with the Lincoln Continental.

Despite Ford's cool reception of the speedster, the Farrells point to it as one of the most significant cars in Ford's history. Even as late as the early 1930s, long after GM established its Art and Colour studio, Ford had no formal design department and much of the look of Ford automobiles came from Henry Ford's function-over-form decrees, with some aesthetic input from Edsel Ford.

The beginnings of the Ford Design Department can be traced directly to [the speedster] and Gregorie, its designer, the Farrells wrote. [It] was the first concept car Edsel Ford and Bob Gregorie worked on together and, three years later, it led to Gregorie's appointment as Ford's first design director - although in those days no one at Ford had titles as such.

Ford sold that first speedster to Elmer Benzin of Grosse Pointe, apparently a man of some standing at the time, and then it passed on to its third owner, identified only as a young GM engineer, who wrecked it not long after. And for decades, everybody who ever looked into the story of the first speedster believed its story ended there. The Farrells even reported it as a total loss, and what was left of it was junked.

Yet it somehow survived. By the 1940s, the speedster made its way to a Bridgeport, Connecticut, junkyard, where body man John Cox bought it. Apparently, the damage that the young GM engineer inflicted on the speedster was relegated to the front end, so Cox rebuilt it with fenders from a mid-Thirties Chevrolet, a conventional flat Ford grille shell, and some additional sheet metal work.



Photos courtesy Jim Gombos.

Cox in turn sold it and didn't see the speedster for more than 40 years, until he spotted it in the mid-1980s sporting an updated flathead drivetrain, bucket seats, and hydraulic brakes. He recognized it as his old car (though he still had no idea of its history before he first owned it) and bought it back, intending to restore it.

While Cox only got as far as disassembling the speedster, a neighbor of his, Jim Gombos, shared Cox's vision for restoring the speedster. "When I first saw it in the 1980s, I expressed an interest in it, and for 20 years or so I kept reminding him I'd like to buy it off him," Gombos said. Cox never relented, but after his death in the mid-2000s his family decided to sell the speedster to Gombos.

"There wasn't much to it when I got it," Gombos said. "It was all apart. All the body from the firewall back was there, but there were no fenders, grille, or hood."

Gombos collected some parts here and there for the speedster's restoration and even showed it in its unrestored state at the 2007 Grand National Roadster Show, but he eventually handed the job of restoring the one-of-one car - a job that included scratch-building the front fenders from aluminum and reshaping the speedster's unique prow-like grille insert - to Barillaro Speed in Knoxville, Tennessee.

"There was absolutely no documentation on the car's construction," Gombos said. "We were only able to get three pictures of it from the Ford archives - a front, a rear, and a side view - so we had the side view blown up to life size to make the patterns for the fenders and we studied the other two pictures with a magnifying glass. That gave us a lot of details that you wouldn't pick up on unless you were looking for them."



Gombos chose to leave the 1936 221-cu.in. flathead V-8 in place, though he had the brakes reverted to mechanical action. The paint - a shade Gombos described as very close to the stock Ford color of Tunis Grey - came from color-matching a sample Gombos discovered on the underside of one of the cowl vents. While similar at first glance to the shade of gray currently on the second Edsel Ford speedster, Gombos said that both cars are actually painted very distinct shades of gray.

"The other one is really really green compared to mine," he said. "It's actually Iridescent Gunmetal Dark. Somebody

(Continued from page 9)

over time said that both cars were painted the same color, which was Edsel Ford's favorite color, but they weren't — I looked over the '34 speedster real good and couldn't see any indication it was painted the same color."

While Gombos did display the car in a partially restored state at the 2009 Glenmoor Gathering, it didn't make its post-restoration debut until 2013, when it appeared at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, where it took the E.T. "Bob" Gregorie Award for Design Excellence, presented by Edsel Ford II.

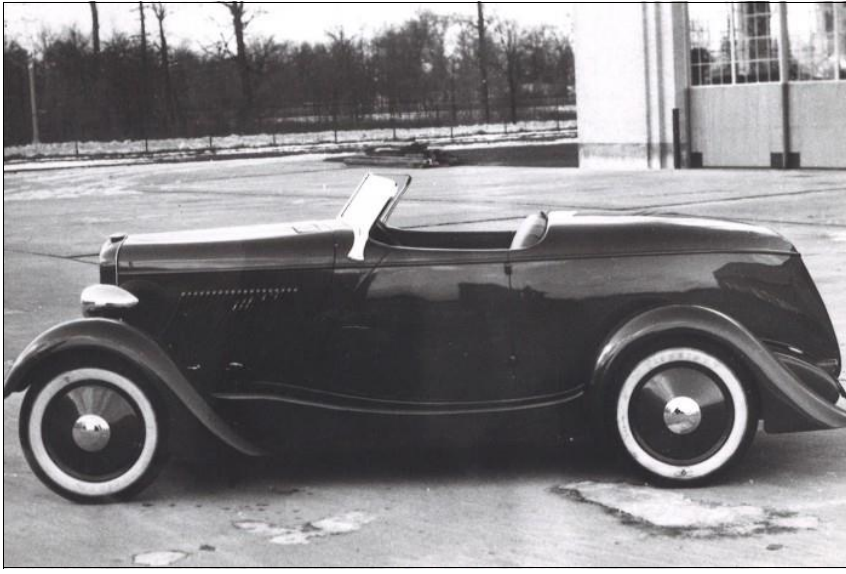


Photo courtesy Ford Motor Company.

Since then, he said he hasn't driven it much — it only shows four miles on the odometer now — but he has tried to mine Ford's archives for whatever he can find on the car. "There's no question it's the same car Edsel Ford built, but there is no documentation — we searched and searched," he said. "Even when it was built, it was secretive. But anybody can look at the car and come to the conclusion it's the real car. This is one of one, one of a kind."

Gombos said he's decided to sell the speedster simply because he doesn't know what to do with it now that it's restored. "It's the kind of car, well, what do you do with it now? It's not the kind of car you want to drive much or leave anywhere, and while we've been invited to a lot of concours, for one reason or another we haven't been able to take it."

For that reason, he's consigned the speedster (chassis number 18-14449) to RM Sotheby's Amelia Island sale, where it will cross the block with a pre-auction estimate of \$1.2 million to \$1.4 million. The second Edsel Ford speedster, which came up for sale at RM's Amelia Island auction in 2008, sold for \$1.76 million. The third Edsel Ford speedster has yet to be found.

RM Sotheby's Amelia Island sale will take place March 12. For more information, visit RMAuctions.com.

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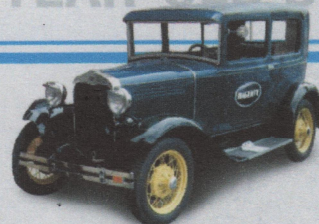
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We are also looking for members to do short tech talks at our meetings on various topics related to Model A Fords. If you are interested, please contact one of our officers to schedule a time.

Once again this year Joan Ferris is selling calendars to benefit the Viet Nam Veteran's.

The calendar will contain a PA Lottery Number for the evening drawing.

The cost is \$40.00

Contact Joan directly at:

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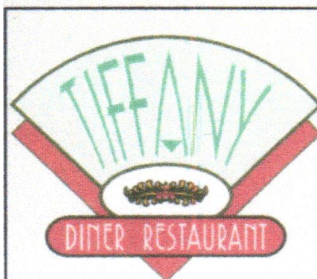
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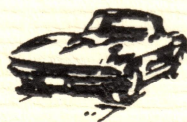
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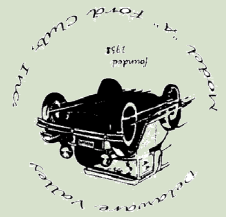
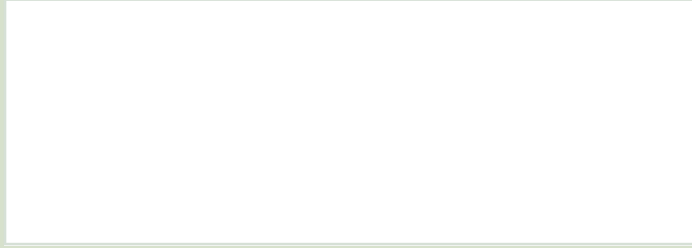
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PARTING SHOT



**John Daley's Model A Taxi undergoing restoration.
Photo by George Skrot**