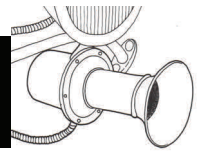




# THE KLAXON



October 2012



The newsletter of the

## Delaware Valley Model A Ford Club, Inc.

**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 Steve Organ. 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: [Sorgan@themaxwellgroup.org](mailto:Sorgan@themaxwellgroup.org).**

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### Club Officers

<b>President – Stace Lechliter</b>	<b>215-962-9480</b>
<b>Vice President – Jim Maier</b>	<b>267-918-2078</b>
<b>Secretary – Don Fortune</b>	<b>215-698-1256</b>
<b>Treasurer – Don O'Hara</b>	<b>215-338-6368</b>
<b>Editor - Steve Organ</b>	<b>215-840-1259</b>
<b>National Director – Mike Etling</b>	<b>610-505-4504</b>
<b>Activities/Parades – Ted Etling</b>	<b>215-802-8622</b>

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## THE KLAXON

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## President's Message



### Greetings:

Holy crap, where did September go already! We had a great turn out for our club banquet. Jack Fritsch and Dave Miller did a fantastic job. Thanks guys. We all had a great time, and there were approximately 14 model A's in the parking lot. Members, please begin thinking about running for office. Nominations start this month. Also, the Hershey swap meet takes place October 10-13<sup>th</sup>. You do not want to miss it. It's the greatest swap meet in the world, and if you cannot find those special Model A parts there you might never find them. Happy hunting! Please continue to get business card ads for our newsletter and please support the advertisers.

### Up Coming Events

10/4/2012—Monthly Meeting at Daley's Service Center

### Get Well Wishes

Jay Fissel, Tom Boles' Brother Joe, Mary Jane Creelman, Charles Simon, John Sheaffer, Betty Fortune and Bill Chamberlain.

### GET WELL SOON

### Happy Birthday for October

If we missed your birthday please let the editor know

Delores Kubis	1
Al Kubis	2
Tony Zampirri	6
Richard Winans	11
Joe Chamberlain	12
Sonny Sciarretta	12
Pam Foltz	20
Bernard Brzoza	22
Bob Stankiewicz	26
Pam Foltz	26
Len Davidson	31

See you all on October 4th

### Stace

Visit our web site at

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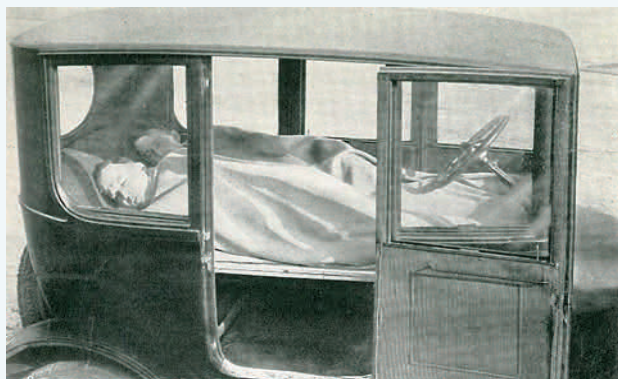
## Early Motor Camping

In America, July has a reputation for being the busiest month for traveling. However, in the early 1900s recreational trips were for the privileged few who could afford them. With the introduction of the mass produced Ford Model T, automobiles were more attainable than ever for the average consumer. As the number of cars on the road expanded, so too did the number of people utilizing them in their camping trips.

Taken for granted today, motor camping in the early 20th century had been widely regarded as a novelty. As such, auto travelers were often referred to as "motor gypsies," named after the nomadic people known for traveling in horse-drawn caravans. Later, they also came to be known as "tin can tourists."

However, it wasn't until the 1920s before vacationing by car really took off. Widely publicized trips of the rich and famous created a growing interest in motor camping. In his book, *RVs & Campers: 1900-2000*, Donald F. Wood references excursions undertaken by Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone and Henry Ford as being the most influential. Between 1915 and 1924, they made a point to travel together almost every year, with their first trip taking them along the California coast.

From a practical standpoint, motor camping possessed economic advantages, something manufacturers of camping equipment continually emphasized in their advertisements. Being able to travel and sleep in one's car meant pricey hotel bills and rail ticket fees were a thing of the past. According to the 1926 edition of *Motor Camping*, a family of five adults reportedly spent only \$101.03 (\$66.76 for food, \$34.27 for gas & oil) on a thirty-one day trip from Minnesota to Missouri. After factoring in potential costs of hotel bills, meals and rail tickets they saved an estimated \$820.90 (\$10,349.39 in today's currency).



Continued on Page 6

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## Conversations with an Iwo Jima Marine at the October Meeting

John Lauriello was a United States Marine during WWII and participated in the battle of Iwo Jima from start to finish. He will give us an informal presentation of his experiences on Iwo Jima. Mr. Lauriello has been called on to speak at several historical societies in New Jersey, public schools, and different community organizations. He is honored by the governor of New Jersey on patriotic holidays, has had dinner with Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg to offer his opinions on their T.V. show "Pacific", been used as a reference by several authors, and made corrections to existing works. He has also been interviewed on video for future works on the battle.

This presentation is conversational in nature. There are no slides or videos. Audience participation with questions and comments are encouraged.

## Trivia

1. Where did the three allied leaders meet in 1945 to discuss postwar Europe?
2. What is used to scan an unborn baby in the mother's womb?
3. From what in a seed does a new plant grow?
4. What are crystals?
5. When the moon is opposite the sun, what do we see?

(Answers on Page 8)

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## Our Annual Awards Banquet

On Sunday September 16, 2012 the club held its annual Awards Banquet. Over 65 members and their sufficient others attended the banquet at Tiffany's on the Boulevard. Our thanks to Jack Fritsch and Dave Miller who organized the banquet this year. A good time was had by all. Next year plan on attending if you missed the event this year.



We had 14 Model A's at the banquet which always causes a tie-up in the parking lot.



Members enjoying the great meal before the awards.

Thanks to the committee who

put together the banquet—Jack Fritsch, Chair, Dave Miller, Asst Chair, Billie Long and Stace Leichter, set-up and Steve Organ, parking.

Thanks





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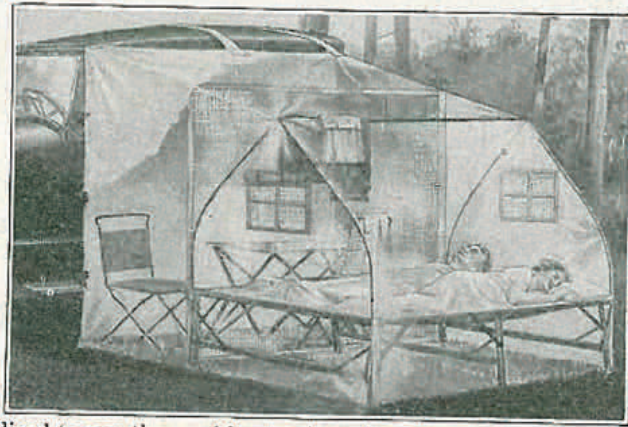
The beds are very comfortable to sleep in. They save the price they cost in hotel bills in a few days. You are independent and not obliged to pay the exorbitant prices often demanded of tourists.

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Motor homes were the most comfortable option, as well as the most expensive. In 1917, the Wiedman Body Company of New York offered a completely equipped (kitchen, shower/bath, furniture, etc.) "house car" body on a Ford TT 1 ton chassis for the steep price of \$1,830. While most early camper bodies were designed by coachbuilders and crafted from wood, it wasn't unheard of for an individual to custom build their own. In the latter case, one could either build off of a commercial chassis or modify a used car. Some people, like breakfast cereal mogul W.K. Kellogg even went so far as to have buses converted into traveling homes, every bit the forerunners of today's RVs.

The vast majority of early motor tourists used tents, stashing their gear on the running boards. In addition to freestanding units, lean-to tents converted one's automobile into a moveable living space with the car itself serving as a mobile dressing room. As their name would suggest, these tents attached to the roof of the car and were draped over the side.

Lean-to tents ranged in variety from simple stand-alone models to more complex pieces like the Tentobed, made by the Tentobed Company of Chicago, Illinois. One Tentobed advertisement from 1920 depicted a tent with a foldout cot, table, clothesline and screen windows complete with rollup window shades. Some tents, such as the Stoll Auto Bed, extended from both sides of the car. With a spring mattress bed big enough for two, a 1919 ad claimed it gave "Camp Comfort Supreme."

For those who disliked tents, one could turn their automobile into a self-contained bedroom by purchasing an auto bed, such as the Outers Equipment Company's 1922 Folding Ford Bed. "Ready for use in 4 minutes," setup was a breeze; the mattress was mounted over the seats and held in place with supporting rods. For protecting touring cars in wet weather, some auto bed accessories came equipped with tarpaulins.

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Once the Great Depression hit in 1929 images of "Hoovervilles," impoverished shantytowns, all but killed the appeal of camping in tents. While early trailers usually featured collapsible tents, fully enclosed trailers known as "motor bungalows," made their first appearance in the 20s and rose in popularity within the next decade. By 1936, there were more than eight hundred American trailer manufacturers, a dramatic jump from 1932 considering there were less than forty.

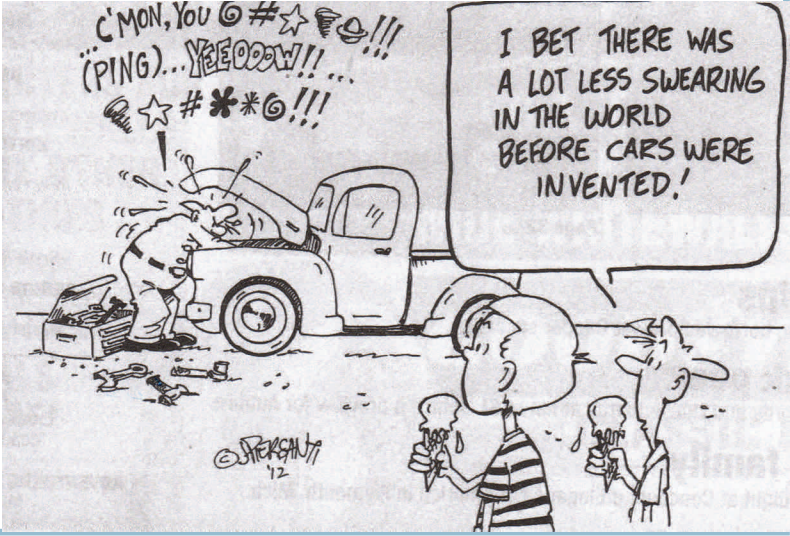


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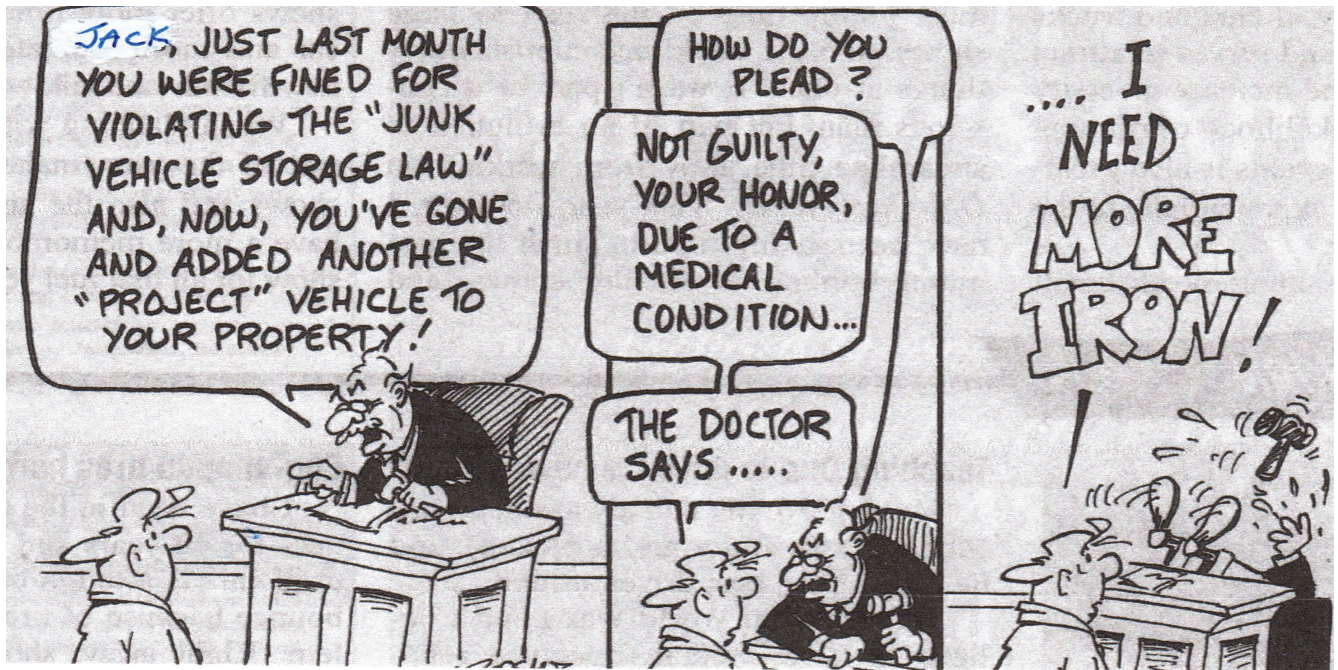
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# Up Coming Events

- 10/6/2012 Bensalem Fall Festival—Municipal Building , 8am—4pm—Trophies to top 25
- 10/10-13/2012 Annual AACA Eastern Regional Meet at Hershey, PA
- 10/13/2012 Tony's Place Cruise In—9:30am—4pm 1297 Greeley Ave, Ivyland
- 10/21/2012 4th Annual Knights of Columbus Car Show. 1492 Woodbourne Rd. Levittown.SH: 8am-3pm. Bobbi,



Trivia Answers:  
1. Yalta, 2. Ultrasound, 3. Embryo, 4. Solid substances with regular pattern atoms and 5. A full moon.



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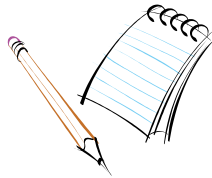


Ever feel like you were born in the wrong era? Jonathan, Hagerty's pre-war car specialist, does. He drove a '30 Model A every day for a year. Jonathan's just one of our many specialists, here to make sure our clients get the knowledge and service they expect.

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## The Delaware Valley Model A Ford Club Picnic

By

Ace Special Features Reporter Willie "Scoop" Long

I awoke this morning (Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>) and it seemed like a nice day for a picnic. I called Joe Weldon, as I wanted to see if he was going to the picnic. I thought he might be in the mountains. I was surprised to find him home and he was going to the picnic. I told him I would pick him up with the Jeepster. He was looking for Jack because he was going to go with him. I told him that Jack was still at the flea market. Joe told me to take my time and I said that I still had lots of things to pick up for the day.

Finally, off to Jack's house to pick him up. When I got there he still had to go take a shower as he just got home. He told me to go to Joe's and he would meet us there. So I decided to get Joe and then some gas. By then Jack would be ready. When we finally got back to Jack's he was backing his new Bug out of the garage with Axis Sally in the front seat – I hope she gets along with Roxanne :)

About half way to the picnic Joe asks if I feel something wrong with the Jeepster. I look and have a flat front tire. Good thing I had a spare. We all finally got to the park at 12:30. We unpacked the Jeepster and had a great time – Hot Dogs, Cake, Watermelon – all was delicious. The weather was perfect and we all left by 3:30.



About 28 members attended with 15 cars. As always, people stopped by to see the cars and enjoy taking pictures with them and their families. The following members attended (Editor's note: I hope I remembered all that attended) Stace and Joyce Leichliter, Don and Carol Mannherz, Jack Fritsch with Axis Sally, Willie Long, Bob Kehan, Steve Organ, Joe Staehly and Anne, John Korhonen, Dave Creelman, Bob Stankiewicz, Ted Etling, Ted and Jeanne Kulesza, Carl Megonigle, John and Donna Daley, Len and Diane Davidson, Steve Davidson, Ron Emery, Don Fortune, Tom and Carol Boles and Pete Slusser and Ruth Pecarsky. Sorry if we missed you. A good time was had by all. See you next year.



On Saturday September 15, 2012 the club participated in the annual Tacony History Day Parade and Disston Festival. The parade began at Torresdale and Hellerman St. Along with our cars the parade featured string bands, veterans' posts, Boy Scouts and many sports and service organizations. The Grand Marshal of the Parade was Charlie Gracie. Charlie Gracie is one of a diminishing number of rock& roll innovators, who continues to actively perform.



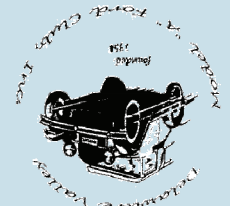
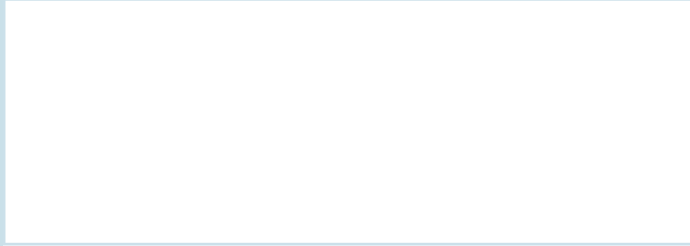
The members and guests who drove in the parade were: Steve Organ with Bob Kehan, Don and Carol Mannherz, Bob and Joan Russell, Dave Sadowl, Ted Etling (Fire Truck with Miss Philadelphia) Pete Slusser and Ruth Pecarsky, Ken May, Steve Davidson with a friend, Don Fortune, John and Kathy Korhonen, Jack Fritsch with Roxanne, Willie Long, Ted and Jeanne Kulesza, Dave and Rosa Miller and Rich Winans. THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THE PARADE SUCCESSFUL.

### **Steve Davidson Invites Club to a Halloween Party**



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A HALLOWEEN TO REMEMBER. EACH YEAR STEVEN DAVIDSON DOES A NEW THEME, AND THIS YEAR IS THE MUNSTER'S. IN THE PAST HE HAS DONE SPEED RACER, SPIDER MAN, PLANET OF THE APES, STAR TREK, AND MASH. THE MUNSTER MOBILE WILL BE THE CENTER PIECE OF THIS YEAR'S DISPLAY AND HERMAN, LILY, AND GRAND-PA WILL BE THERE AS WELL. IT IS ALSO DR. DAVIDSON'S BIRTHDAY ( HE WILL BE 77).

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## Member's Spotlight



**Ted Kulesza's  
1929 Cabriolet**

When I was a young man, my dad spoke to me about and showed me pictures of his Model A. It was love at first sight. But as the years flew by raising a family, I had forgotten all about the car. But when my dad passed away, it brought back the memories he shared with me.

My dream was to own a Model A myself. So I added it to my "Bucket List".

In Early March of this year, I purchased my first 1930 Model A Cabriolet from an owner in Phoenix, Arizona—Sight unseen. It's been a labor of love ever since.

Ted has had the top and interior redone already. The car looks great and we all wish him many happy miles driving his A.

