



# Wheel Tracks

The Monthly Publication of the Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts, Inc.

February, 2010

## SPECIAL NOTICE

**THIS MAY BE YOUR FINAL ISSUE OF VAE's AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER, *WHEELTRACKS* AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP**  
**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2010 DUES, (\$30.00) TO: JIM SEARS, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY FEBRUARY 14th.**  
**Jim's address is found on the back cover page.**



*Gene Elmore's 1957 Chevy 2door hard top 283ci painted in Inca Silver with a 3 speed automatic transmission.*

*"I bought the car from a dealer in Illinois who said the car was restored - the restoration was minimal at best so I proceeded to peck away at items I wanted to change. To date, there are over 70 pieces of specialized fixes or modifications have been done to the car using some very good local Vermont talent. The car looks and runs great with the body work in better than new shape."*

## CALANDER OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

VAE= Club meeting or event

FRI. & SAT. February 12,13, 2010 AACA National Meeting in Philadelphia, PA

SUN. FEBRUARY 21, 2010 - VAE - RPM Engine Specialists, Georgia, Vt. (Page 3 for more information)

SUN. MARCH 14, 2010 VAE - An Automotive Fashion Spectacular, Underhill, VT Town Hall (Page 8)





## FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE OF WHEEL TRACKS

**Cover Page** Calendar of Events;

**Page 2** VAE Contact List; A Few Words From Your Editor; Member In The News

**Page 3** The End Of Saab??; VTC Automotive Receives National Award; On The Road Again with Chris & Dell; February Meeting

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**Page 7** The Ethanol Issue; Vented or Not Vented (All reprinted by exclusive permission of Moss Motors)

**Page 8** Ethanol Issue Continued: Updated Ethanol Station List; New Fuses List; New Members: March Meeting Info.

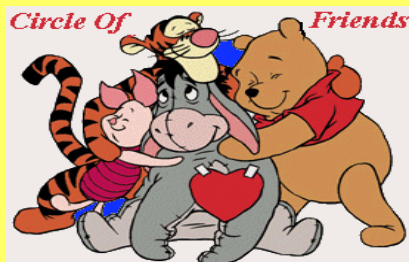
**Page 9** Treasurer's Report; More Photos

**Page 10** Past Pres. Dick Evans; Membership Application

Remember Valentine's Day, February, 14



*Vermont Auto Enthusiasts*



Flower: Violet - Birthstone: Amethyst

**MARCH DEADLINE  
FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## VAE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**2010**

**President**

Don Rayta 802-644-2776  
50dodge@pshift.com

**1st. Vice President - Activity Chair**

Wendell Noble 802-893-2232  
wnoble@together.net

**2nd. Vice-President/Assistant Activity Chair**

Dave Sander, 802-434-8418  
dasander@aol.com

**Treasurer**

Dick Wheatley, 802-879-9455  
rwheatcpa@aol.com

**Recording Secretary**

Bill Sander, 802-644-5487  
sander@pshift.com

**Directors**

Gene Fodor, **Chairman of the Board**  
802-372-9146 crownwheel@surfglobal.net

Hal Boardman, Ex. 2011

802-868-2245

Randy Cary Ex. 2010

randycary@verison.net

Tom McHugh Ex. 2010

802-862-1733 mchughto@gmail.com  
(Completing the 2nd year of a 2 year Term of  
David Sander)

## MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT TEAM

**Membership Chair (Ex-Officio)**

Jim Sears, (802) 482-2698

VAE Membership Secretary  
packardsu8@netscape.net

**WheelTracks Editor (Ex-Officio)**

Gene Fodor, 802-372-9146

crownwheel@surfglobal.net

USPS Mail: 174 Landon Rd.

South Hero, VT 05486-4920

**Sunshine Chair**

Brenda Fodor, 802-372-9146

crownwheel@surfglobal.net

In subject line please put: "Sunshine"

**Standing Bylaws Committee**

Fred Cook, 802-223-2933

Mary Jane Dexter, 802-888-2820

**Web Master**

Rachel Smith - R-Web Design

rachel@vermont.net

**VAE Show Chairs/Board Ex-Officio**

Antique and Classic Car Meet (Stowe)

Bob Chase, Chair - 802-253-4897

## *A Few Words From Your Editor*

\*\* My, my, the February issue already.

\*\* I am in need of front page photos and stories for March 2010 and on.

Please send your pix and stories about your car to me and let other members enjoy your stories. Cheers *Gene*



## **MEMBER IN THE NEWS**

I have been and still am convinced that VAE has some of the highest class members that can be found in any organization.

On the **FRONT** page of the Wednesday, December 23, 2009 issue of the *St. Albans Messenger* who should appear but none other then VAE's own "*Hayden Janes, Dynamo...*".

The story, written by *Nate Morman*, goes on to tell how Hayden, now a youthful 84 is an avid collector of "things" which equates to "22 different collections".

*Morman* explains that *Hayden* is a man of varied perfected talents because of the various types of positions he has held in his life time from being "a detective... to working for the Canadian Pacific".

In addition Hayden has served as fire warden, Town (Richford) Village Trustee, Town Auditor, on the Home Health board, a Justice of the Peace, airport authority, and as a volunteer Fire Fighter for 59 years. (See front page, December 2009 WT). As a member of the Richford Lions Club, *Hayden* has a perfect attendance record for the past 49 years. Congratulations *Hayden* on a job well done! (gf) (Article sent by Wendell Noble, VAE 1st. VP)

Who remembers dress patterns ?

I do... From Brenda Fodor



## END OF ROAD FOR SAAB AFTER RESCUE TALKS FAIL

NELSON D. SCHWARTZ, PARIS

December 20, 2009

From David Sander

The GM Business Central Official Site. Find Details & Dealers here.

[www.GMFleet.com/BusinessCentral](http://www.GMFleet.com/BusinessCentral)

**SAAB**, whose stylish cars drew a fiercely loyal customer base over the past six decades, is set to close after last-minute negotiations by General Motors to sell the beleaguered brand collapsed.

The news of Saab's closure caps a calamitous year for the global auto industry, with GM and Chrysler filing for bankruptcy while foreign car makers racked up billions in losses.

maker of high-end sports vehicles, ...

((SAAB, Continued from previous column ...) Saab, with a narrow following focused in Sweden, Britain and the US north-east, proved too small to lure the world's big automakers, many of which are seeking tie-ups offering increased economies of scale. Saab's last hope proved to be Spyker

Cars, a tiny Dutch ...but the deal stalled when GM examined whether Spyker would be a viable partner.

"I think we discovered this week that there were issues that couldn't be resolved and no additional time would overcome that," an executive vice-president at GM, John F. Smith, said. The process of winding down Saab would begin in January, he said and GM would be willing to consider selling the company if a new buyer emerged.

The abrupt end to the Saab talks - 13 days before GM's self-imposed deadline of December 31 - was a signal of the tough-minded approach embraced by the automaker's new chief, Edward E. Whitacre Jr.

Saab, which filed for bankruptcy protection in Sweden in February, has been a perennial money-loser. It is among GM's smallest brands, with sales of 93,000 vehicles worldwide last year.

Peter Wells, of Cardiff University's Centre for Automotive Research, said it was a sad day. "Saab had a quirky take on the industry, which will be missed. It's a shame," he said.

FLASH... **Spyker Cars NV** submitted a revised offer for General Motors Co.'s Saab unit, two days after GM said it planned to wind down the Swedish

company following the collapse of previous talks with Spyker. No news yet!



### VTC Award

The Vermont Technical College (VTC) has received National Certification from the Nat'l Automotive Tech Edu. Foundation and The Nat'l Inst. For Automotive Service Excellence. The recognition provided added assurance of graduate excellence. (From *Lloyd Davis & Rutland Business Journal*)

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN WITH CHRIS AND DELL

By Chris and Dell Chartier

Greetings friends:

Although winter has started, and our little antique car is mothballed for the season, I still need to "get a fix" on a regular basis! Dell indulged me in a day trip to the Springfield, Massachusetts area last weekend (12th of Dec) that soothed my habit for the time being. We visited the new Springfield History Museum in downtown (on Edwards Street, specifically) that was very easy to get to. Yes, we use a Garmin, but it was basically south on Route 91 take a left into Springfield and boom-you're there!

Highlights-

Okay they have 4 museums here, including a *Dr. Suess* museum that our grandson will love visiting in the future - and a natural history museum that will also provide a great teaching and fun venue for another excursion, but the focus of Saturday's trip was the History of Springfield museum. What a great attraction! Well thought out displays, spacious, well lit, and meaningful information coupled with wonderful vintage automobiles (and yes, on the second floor- Indian motorcycles!) that highlighted the Springfield contribution to the development of transportation. *Yesteryears Car Club* member

Marty MiDura recommended a visit here & I'm glad we went! Wow.



Very unusual Knox auto's, an Atlas, a few Steven's Duryea's, Rolls Royce's and a Pierce Arrow. Excellent progression of the Indian Motorcycle and a few



surprises too! In short..fun!

We also reconnoitered some of the new Indians at the dealership in Worcester, and along the trail for our return encountered a vintage pick up in someone's backyard with a new function we had never dreamed of...a bird house



stand! Not my idea, really! Well, hope you all manage to endure the winter! Look forward to seeing you in the spring (or sooner!) Respectfully,

Chris & Dell



## February Meeting

February 21, 2010 - Sunday

Monthly meeting at **RPM Engine Specialists**, Georgia, Vt.

**Rick Paya's RPM Engine Specialists** has agreed to host a visit to his spotless automotive engine machine shop for our Feb. meeting on Sunday, the 21st, starting at 11:00 AM. Bring a folding chair and a bag lunch. See how a modern engine shop builds a modern racing engine or restores a vintage mill to "like new" operation.

From exit 18 of I89, go north on US Rte 7 2.6 miles to a right onto

Carpenter Hill Rd. (by the Methodist Church), proceed about .25 mile to the top of the hill. RPM is on the left and well marked. Business meeting will follow lunch and tour of the shop. Clean up and departure at about 3:00PM.



Pictured: Brian Hoar (Left, driver) is congratulated by Rick Paya of RPM Engine Specialists.



## DID YOU KNOW?? -1899

- ... that the *Automobile Club of America* was organized
- ... that *Winton* drove his car from Cleveland, OH to New York, NY in 47 hours and 36 minutes (imagine the road conditions)
- ... that *Rollin White* adapted the flash boiler, developed in Europe for experiments with steam cars
- ... that in order to reduce accidents caused by runaway horses, Boston closed parks to motor vehicles from 10 am to 9 pm
- ... that the *US Post Office Department* experimented with motor vehicle delivery of mail
- ... that *R.E. Olds* organized his second car company, The Olds Motor Works and moved from Lansing MI to Detroit MI
- ... that the *American Motors Company*, NY City, opened for business advertising, "competent mechanic always on hand to make repairs when necessary". (gf)



Experimental US Postal Truck



## More, Rod Rice...

From Gael Boardman

Pictured above are *Rod Rice* and *Bill Alley* in Bill's Packard. Look at the smile on *Rod's* face and who can doubt that he was (and is) VAE's biggest "enthusiasts". *Rod, Bill* and I (*Gale Boardman*) had a great time visiting that day. We miss *Rod*, but remember the good times of which there were many.

## VT State Law To be Enforced

§1127 Control in presence of horses and cattle

a) Whenever upon a public highway and approaching a vehicle drawn by a horse or other draft animal, or approaching a horst or other animal upon which a person is riding, the operator of a motor vehicle shall operate the vehicle in such a manner as to exercise every reasonable precaution as to prevent the frightening of such horse or animal and to insure

(Continued next column ...)

(... Continued from Previous Column) VT LAW

... the safety and protection of the person riding or driving.

b) The operator of a motor vehicle shall yield to any cattle, sheep, or goats which are being herded on or across a highway—Added 1971, No. 258 (Adj. Sess.) § 3, eff. March 1, 1973; amended 1989 No. 55

HISTORY... Amendments—1989. Add "and cattle" following horses in the section catch line, designated the existing provision of the section as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

CROSS REFERENCE ... Point assessment for violation of section, see § 2502 of this title. Rights and duties of person riding animal or driving animal vehicle upon road, see § 1014 of this title.

ANNOTATION ... Cited. Cited in *Calabi vs Conway*, 468 F. Supp. 76 (D Vt 1978)

§ 1014. Persons riding animals or driving any animal drawn vehicle upon a road is granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle by this chapter except those provisions of this chapter which by their very nature can have no application. ADDED 1971, No. 258 (Adj. Sess.). § 3 eff. March 1, 1973.

So, now you know. Horses, cattle, goats have the right of way over your classic. (gf)



## January 16th meeting in photos



Bill Sander tells about his MOPAR train set...

2010 Officers & Directors

## January 4, 2010 VAE Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the VAE was held at the Whitney Hill Retirement Home in Williston on Monday, January 4, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by new Chairman of the Board, *Gene Fodor*, who began by welcoming all members who braved the roads after the record snowfall of 32 inches.

Secretary's Report: *Bill Sander* moved to accept the minutes of the prior Board Meeting as printed in *Wheeltracks*. This was seconded by *Don Rayta*, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: There was no report, in the absence of Treasurer *Dick Wheatley*. The report will be printed in *Wheeltracks*.

By Laws: *Andy Barnett* reported that there will be a meeting on January 20, and then a final meeting in February to complete the revised by laws. Committee members are: *Doris Bailey*, *Chris Barbieri*, *Andy Barnett*, *Fred Cook*, and *Wendell Noble*.

Membership: *Jim Sears* stated that 143 Members have already renewed for 2010, with 131 still to do so of last year's members. There was extensive discussion about possible alternate dues renewal dates, possible reminders mailed out with *Stowe Show* packets, etc. It was decided that there will be a notice above the address label on the February 2010 *Wheeltracks* stating "HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2010 DUES? CHECK MAILING LABEL DATE BELOW, IF NOT, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE"

*Stowe Show*: After much discussion, it was approved to spend up to \$2,000 on sound system upgrades.

Sunshine Report: None

Activities: This will all be printed in *Wheeltracks*

There was some discussion over possibly renaming a club activity to honor an additional family member. It was decided to consult family members before any possible action is considered. There then was discussion of the *Wheeltracks* Editor position after *Gene* steps down after the December, 2010 edition. Several possibilities were mentioned (such as a new single editorship or possibly a shared editorship), but no action was taken. *Gene Fodor* also mentioned the possibility of a car display at the University Mall as an attention getter for the *Stowe Show*, and possibly a recruitment tool for new members. The idea will be brought to the membership at an upcoming meeting. *Jim Sears* suggested that Board Members contact folks who have not renewed after February, to try to encourage renewal, or at least determine why non renewal was chosen.

*Bill Sander* moved to adjourn at 8:41. This was duly seconded and passed unanimously

Board members present were: *Hal Boardman*, *Gene Fodor*, *Tom McHugh*, *Don Rayta*, and *Bill Sander*. Also present were *Andy Barnett* and Membership Secretary *Jim Sears*.

Respectfully submitted, *Bill Sander*, Recording Secretary

## January 16, 2010 Membership Meeting

The regular monthly Meeting of the VAE was held on Saturday, January 16, 2010, in St. Leo's Hall of St. Augustine's Church in Waterbury. The Business Meeting was called to order at 1 PM by outgoing President *Gene Fodor*, who thanked all of the Club members for their support during 2009. *Gene* then gave a Certificate of Appreciation to *Don Rayta* for having hosted the Holiday Party in December. *Gene* then handed the gavel over to *Don Rayta*, the incoming President for 2010.

*Don* began by thanking everyone for electing him, and asked for suggestions to improve the Club. He then presented a Certificate of Appreciation to *Lucille* and *Gene Napoliello* for hosting this January Meet. *Don* then presented the President's Plaque to outgoing President *Gene Fodor*. (Continued next column...)

(...Jan. 16, Minutes Continued from previous column)

*Don* then asked any new members to stand and be recognized, and *James Hale* and *Valarie Pollotta* did so.

Secretary's Report: *Les Skinner* moved that the minutes of the prior Meeting be accepted as printed in *Wheeltracks*. This was seconded by *John Mahnker*, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: *Dick Wheatley* gave a very brief report, essentially stating that practically nothing had changed since the last Meeting. The full report will be in *Wheeltracks*. *Bill Sander* moved to file the report for audit. This was seconded by *Bob Chase*, and passed unanimously.

Audit Report: No report at this time. *Don Rayta* will appoint a Committee soon.

By Laws Report: *Fred Cook* reported that interim by laws are in the process of formulation, which will conform fully to the IRS requirements for the new tax status we are seeking. Members of the Committee are *Doris Bailey*, *Chris Barbieri*, *Andy Barnett*, *Fred Cook*, and *Wendell Noble*.

Futures Committee: *Don* will appoint a three member committee.

Membership: *Jim Sears* reports that currently 166 members have paid their 2010 dues. An additional 109 from last year still have not renewed. *Don Rayta* mentioned that final notices will be printed in the February, 2010 *Wheeltracks*.

Nominating Committee: *Don* will appoint a three person committee soon, and is asking for volunteers.

Sunshine Committee: No report this month. *Brenda Fodor* will be stepping down from this position after this year.

*Stowe*: *Bob Chase* stated that the next planning meeting will be on Wednesday, January 20, at 7 PM at the *Stowe American Legion Hall*.

*Shelburne*: *Bill Sander* reports that, despite initial receptivity to having a show at the *Shelburne Museum* again, the staff has failed to respond to repeated requests to discuss and negotiate plans for such a return. *Bill* will keep at it, but sees little hope of anything happening now for this year.

Activities: *Wendell Noble* discussed plans for the next three Meetings, but the full details will be printed in *Wheeltracks* and thus not repeated here. *Gene Fodor* again mentioned the possibility of displaying several cars, ideally about six, at the University Mall prior to the *Stowe Show*. The cost would be \$250, and some conditions would need to be met, such as arrival time prior to Mall opening, and necessity to stay until Mall closing time, that there be carpeting under all wheels and a pan or something to catch any fluid leaks, etc. *Randy Cary* moved that we approve the expenditure, with *Gene Fodor* in charge of setting everything up. *Fred Cook* seconded the motion, which passed unanimously after some further discussion. *Gene Fodor* also mentioned that the Automotive Program at Vermont Technical College recently received a national certification.

Following the formal Business portion of the Meeting, we moved on to the Program, which was a display of various automobilia exhibits, with narrations by the exhibitors. These were, in order of presentation:

*Dick Wheatley* with a display of VW models, *Gary Olney* with Stanley Steamer mementos, *Jim Sears* with a small collection of Bank Cars, *David Dow* with dash plaques and Studebaker memorabilia, *Tom Willis* with various models from the 1950's on up, *Gael Boardman* with antique car models and pictures, assisted by cousin *Hal Boardman*, *Louis Allen* with race car and military vehicle exhibits, *Fred Cook* with a very thorough discourse on all of the models that he brought along, *Gene Napoliello* with memories of the GM Futurama, *John Mahnker* with antique auto pictures, *Bill Sander* with a Lionel train set with a Mopar theme, plus additional flatcars with models of cars *Bill* currently owns, or has in the past, *Jan Sander* with MG models, primarily MGB, and *Marvin Ball* with old license plates.

*Bill Sander* moved to adjourn at 3:05 PM. This was duly seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, *Bill Sander*, Recording Secretary





V A E Classified



### FOR SALE AND A GREAT GIFT

Official VAE lapel pin - \$5.00 & \$1.00 S&H mailing charge. Available through Gene Fodor. Or Don Rayta Contact information in *Wheel Tracks* or the VAE Roster.



**Volunteer Co-Coordinator** - This position will coordinate volunteers for any VAE Shows. Please apply to any Director or Officer.

**WANTED** - the VAE is seeking a person or persons to take over the Editorship of the Club newsletter *WheelTracks*, beginning with the January 2011 issue. The Editor's job is to publish *WheelTracks* monthly, with timely articles from members and other sources. The current publication is produce on MS Publisher and converted to a .pdf file and sent to the printer, *L. Brown & Sons* in Barre, VT for printing and mailing. The Membership Secretary provides the Editor with the mailing address, Canadian addresses and new member information. The Editor mails WT to Canadian members.

Time needed to complete a finished copies could be a little as 8 hours a month. Contact the Editor or Officers or Directors for information.

### For Sale - A VAE Fund Raiser

2009 Stowe show picture Power Point CD (Plays on computers only). Over 370 photos. \$5 + \$2 S & H. Checks to VAE. Obtain from Gene Fodor, 802-372-9146 or crownwheel@surfglobal.net



**WANTED**... Someone to take over the Sunshine Chair job as of January, 2011. Contact any Officer or Director for more information.

### For Sale - VAE Tour Banner

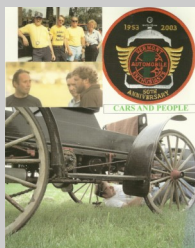
This banner is made of a cloth material with a very soft backing designed not to mar the paint or finish. It is about 17 by 19 inches and has ties on each corner to attach it to your car. Cost \$20. Order from Gene Fodor or Wendell Noble



**FOR SALE - 1930 Model A Roadster** (conv.) for sale. Last running 2 summers ago.... painted the antique olive green color with yellow tires in the early 1970's. With the original driver' rain jacket. *Gretchen Daly Lyndonville* 802-626-9806

**FOR SALE - Running Board Box**, needs repainting , no dents—\$25.00; Barn Fresh Maxwell Headlight (1) Very nice - \$40.00; Pair of Overland headlights, one rim missing, needs painting - \$50.00 for both; One D. B. Headlight - post mount - early 20's, (I think), in good condition - \$25.00. *Marvin Ball, No. Ferrisburgh, VT* 802-425-3529

### FOR SALE - 50th. Anniversary year book and patch



←50th Year Book  
*Wendell Nobel or Gene Fodor* \$5 + postage

→ 50th Anniversary Patch  
from *Don Rayta* \$2.50 + postage



## Knudson-Churchill Scholarship Competition

January-March, 2010

The Knudson Churchill Scholarship is designed to promote and support education in the fields of *print journalism* or *automotive technology*. Endowed by the New England MG 'T' Register, the program will present the best applicant with a monetary award to the accredited, post-secondary school of choice in order to study in one of these two areas.



The Knudson Churchill Scholarship Trust is interested in providing scholarships to highly motivated students to assist them in their future career endeavors in these fields. Further, the Scholarship honors the two founders of the New England MG 'T' Register.

This opportunity is available to any student who:

- Demonstrates an interest and potential to succeed in the field of print journalism or automotive technology;
- Qualifies for admission as a student on the post-secondary level of education and elects to pursue post- secondary education in one of these two fields;
- Demonstrates superior quality of previous scholastic or practical endeavors;
- Is at least 17 years of age.

**Completed applications must be received by March 16, 2010.** The Trust will announce the winners on the MG 'T' Register web site in early June, 2010.

Winners' essays will be published in *The Sacred Octagon* and on the Web site in fall, 2010.

In 2010, there will be one KCST Scholar award of \$1500 in each field. For More information see: [www.nemgr.org/](http://www.nemgr.org/) and select the scholarship option.

## Sunshine Report

Roni and Conception Conti—Thinking of you



## More Meeting Photos



# THE ETHANOL ISSUE

By Moss Motors Technical Services  
Reprinted with Permission,  
Chris Knight, Moss Motors Marketing

Gasoline containing ethanol has become the new standard for fuel, and it presents a new set of challenges and work for classic car owners. You've got to be vigilant now to ensure a good running engine and prevent damage to your cherished car.

What's the problem, you ask?

Ethanol, made from corn or grain, is added to gasoline to oxygenate it, replacing the older additive, MTBE. Names for gasoline mixed with ethanol include E10, gasohol, corn fuel, alcohol fuel, and reformulated or renewable fuel. The key problem is that ethanol absorbs water from the atmosphere. In fact, fuel with 10 percent ethanol absorbs up to 50 times more water than standard gasoline. Older gas tanks found in many classic cars vent to the atmosphere, increasing the likelihood that moisture will be absorbed into the gas tank at a rapid pace. The end result of water in the fuel is phase separation. The fuel separates into two distinct layers: a thick layer of gasoline mixed with a little ethanol on top, and a thinner layer on the bottom consisting of water mixed with most of the ethanol. And it doesn't take much water for this to happen—phase separation occurs in a gallon of 10 percent ethanol blend with just 3.8 teaspoons of water.

## Fuel Phase Separation Problems

What happens to your car and its performance when water causes fuel phase separation?

**Reduced fuel longevity:** A gasoline/ethanol blend absorbs water until it triggers phase separation. The blend has a 90-day product life in a closed tank, but lasts just 30 to 45 days in a vented tank often found in classic cars. With 10 percent ethanol blends, owners are supposed to replace the fuel in vented tanks about once a month by driving or draining, taking into consideration the humidity in the atmosphere and temperatures.

**Lower fuel octane:** The ethanol in a gasoline blend provides some of the octane rating. When phase separation occurs, the octane rating of the remaining fuel can drop by as much as three points.

**Poor engine performance:** The fuel pump could easily pick up a slug of the water/ethanol slurry at the bottom of the tank, interrupting the flow of gas to the engine. This will cause the engine to miss, run rough and possibly stall altogether.

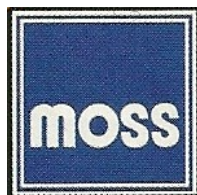
**Corrosion and rust:** Water in the bottom of the fuel tank and inside the fuel lines will cause corrosion and rust, and the solvent properties of the ethanol will loosen that up, along with bits of sediment and deposits. The resulting debris floating in the fuel could clog fuel filters, fuel lines and carburetor float valves.

## Specific Parts Affected by Ethanol

**Fuel tank:** Ethanol could dislodge sediment and deposits in older gas tanks and fuel lines. Loose debris in the fuel could clog the fuel filter, or cause engine flooding if the carburetor float valve sticks.

**Fuel pump:** Rubber diaphragms inside the fuel pump may have problems with ethanol exposure.

**Carburetor float valve:** Float valve needles on early cars were brass, and these were replaced with plastic needles or brass needles with Viton (a specific type of rubber) tips. Ethanol can cause the plastic needles to swell up and stick either open or shut, which causes either massive flooding or starves the carburetor for fuel. Some owners have resorted to shaving down the plastic needle to get it to ride smoothly and seat properly. Instead, you can install an all-brass needle and seat, or a Vitontipped needle if available for your car model, which are not affected by lower levels of ethanol. (Continued in next column...)



(...Ethanol Issue, Continued from previous column)

**Carburetor floats:** The Zenith-Stromberg floats found specifically/only in the TR4 and 4A made of foam covered with a skin may deteriorate when exposed to ethanol. Other plastic floats, like those used by SU,

may also be affected.

**Hoses:** Ethanol could dry out or deteriorate rubber hoses.

**Seals:** Ethanol could shrink, swell or deteriorate seals, depending on the material.

**Gaskets:** Ethanol may deteriorate the rubber in rubber/cork composite gaskets. Fiber washers and gaskets are not affected.

## Aluminum and aluminum alloy parts:

Aluminum and alloys fare fine with 10 percent ethanol, but are damaged by 25 percent ethanol.

## Avoiding Ethanol Problems:

Run your engine on fresh fuel from a major supplier in a location with lots of traffic. Add fuel stabilizers when you put gas in your car to lengthen the life span of the fuel. Buy higher-octane gasoline to be certain your engine gets the minimum octane necessary for good performance. Keep track of the dates you buy fuel, how much you bought, and how much is in the tank when left sitting for a period of time.

Keep a log book for reference. If you have a closed tank, make sure it is truly closed. Listen for a hiss of air escaping when you take the gas cap off after driving. Test your gas tank periodically to see if water is accumulating or phase separation has occurred. Treat accordingly. If you don't have a fuel filter before the carburetor (many British cars only have a screen), consider installing one to catch loosened rust and sediments from the gas tank before it clogs engine components.

Moss offers one with a glass

bowl for at-a-glance inspection, yet it features a period-correct look (Fuel Pressure Regulator/

Filter #377-435). Check your fuel filter often. Consider adding a second fuel filter between

the tank and the fuel pump to protect the fuel pump from damage from loose debris from the tank (Moss part #377-310). Keep engine parts well lubricated to counteract the solvent effect of ethanol.

Regularly inspect all fuel system components, seals and connectors from the tank to the carburetor.

Ensure there are no leaks and the system is in good shape. **BM**

## Vented or Not Vented, (That Is The Question, *gf*)

By Moss Motors Technical Services

*The fine Moss Technical Services continues with comments about the Vented or Closed Fuel Tank, those comments follow:*

Not sure whether your British car has a vented or closed fuel tank?

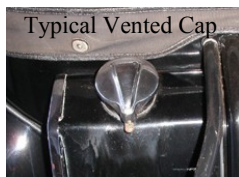
You need to know this detail in order to have a feel for how long the gas in your tank will remain good.

A sure giveaway of a closed tank is the presence of a carbon canister, which was added for pollution control purposes along with the closed fuel tank. It's often located at the back of the engine compartment on the passenger side. To verify what it

looks like and the positioning in your car, look at the diagram of the engine compartment for your car model on the Moss website,

[www.mossmotors.com](http://www.mossmotors.com). Note that some aftermarket gas caps are vented. So they can render a "closed system" open to the atmosphere.

(More by Moss Motors continued on page 8...)



Typical Vented Cap



Typical Unvented Cap



## (Another Question - The Fuel Tank, ) Full or Empty Before Storage

### By Moss Motors Technical Services

Trying to decide whether you should keep your fuel tank completely full or near empty? The answer isn't clear. It all depends on how you're using your car, the humidity where you live, the type of tank found in your car, and your willingness to closely monitor the situation.

#### During the driving season:

Some British car owners keep very little fuel (treated with fuel stabilizer (*See more on stabilizers in VAE's August 2008 issue of WheelTracks.*) in their tank, and when they take it out, they first stop at the gas station to put in about the amount of gas they think they will need. That way they are always running on fresh gas, and they park it back in the garage with a small amount of treated fuel to minimize the amount of gas that could go bad and separate. But British fuel gages are notoriously inaccurate, so you could run the risk of running out of gas on the way to the station.

Other owners keep the tank completely full, which means the surface of the fuel is exposed to the humidity in the atmosphere is restricted to just the diameter of the fuel filler neck rather than the larger surface area inside the tank. Of course absorption of water by the ethanol if affected by weather the tank is vented or not, and by the humidity at that time of the year. But considering the short lifespan of ethanol/gasoline blends, you'll have to add fuel stabilizer and drive the car enough to regularly burn up the gas so your whole tank of fuel doesn't go bad.

#### During the winter:

Whether you are storing your car over the winter or driving it every once in a while in cold temperatures, your strategy for your fuel tank may be different at this time of the year. If you leave a vented fuel tank full, even with fuel stabilizer, you'll have phase separation and water in two months. That means draining the tank every two months to eliminate the bad fuel and harmful water. If you leave it until spring, you could have to deal with the effects of rust and also still have a dirty tank.

If you are lucky, enough to have a closed tank, you may be able to get through the winter with fuel stabilizers, which gives the fuel a 6 month life span. You could drive out of the garage come spring unscathed. To be sure, test the tank for the presence of water first, and emulsify or drain the tank contents if necessary.

If you leave your tank near empty with just a little bit of treated fuel in the bottom during the winter, you won't have much ethanol to absorb the water into the tank or much gas to go bad. But the steel walls of the near empty fuel tank will condense with the shifting cold-warm temperatures, creating more water in the tank and potentially rusting the sidewalls, as well as the floor of the tank where the water accumulates. This condensation would happen in both vented and closed systems.

## Ethanol Solution Additives, etc...

### From the Moss Motors Catalog...

- 1) Fuel Stabilizer—220-360 E-Xtend Ethanol Gas Treatment
- 2) 220-355 E-Zorb Ethanol Gasoline Water Remover (Emulsifier)
- 3) 220-362 Water Probe Indicator—Place chemical on a dip stick to test for water.

...End Moss Motors Articles...

## An Updated Non-Ethanol Station List

Colchester, VT: Maverick, Lake Shore Dr. (by bakery and boat launch across from Dick Mazza's store)

Essex Jct., VT: GO-GO Gas, Susie Wilson Rd.

Essex Town, VT: Maverick on VT Rte 15

Milton, VT: Rene's, Milton Village, River Road (US Rte 7S.)

Milton, VT: Dam Store, US Rte 7 N. (North of the Village)

Johnson, VT: Independent Un-Branded Station, by the Grand Union

Westford, VT: Westford Market, (per the station owner)

Vergennes, VT: Un-Branded in town near the stop light.

Note: this list can change at the whim of the station owners.

Let me know if there are others to add/remove. (gf)

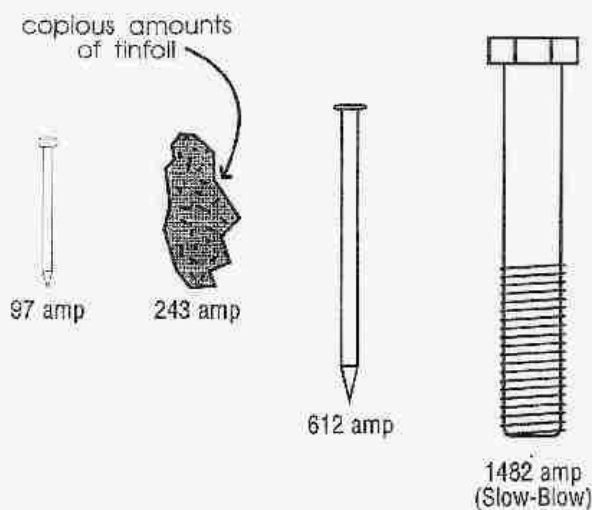


## Special Thanks

A special thanks is due to the fine folks at Moss Motors for their investigation and allowing me to reprint their excellent article about this troublesome E-10 fuel. There will be more on E-10 (and I hope not E-15) in the future, so keep WheelTracks coming to your location. (gf)



## Guide to Fuse Replacement



Note: replacements not to be used in car, home or elsewhere.

That the words "race car" spelled backward still spells "race car".



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David King - Essex Jct., VT  
James & Vilma Cary - Milton, VT

## March Meeting

### Automotive Fashion Spectacular.

**March 14, 11:00 Am, Underhill Town Hall.** Arrive with clothes from your favorite era. Anything from coonskin coats, knickers, and flapper dresses to polyester leisure suits and bell bottoms. Wear it if it fits, otherwise bring it for the rack. Bring a picture of your vintage ride and let our fashion consultants match a wardrobe to your wheels. No matter the model of your car, the clothes will look great on our attractive models.





## Treasurer's Report - January 15, 2010

MONEY MARKET - balance December 15, 2009	\$ 15,236.34	
add: December interest income		5.17
Balance January 15, 2010		15,241.51
GENERAL CHECKING - balance December 15, 2009	\$ 1,599.04	
Deposits		
Member dues	1,960.00	
Close out Stowe Show checking account	1,266.85	
2009 Stowe checks	160.00	
Name tags	28.00	
	3,414.85	
Disbursements		
4952 Andrew Barnett - Bylaws Committee copies & mailing	54.81	
4953 Don Rayta - Christmas Party expenses	52.48	
4954 L. Brown & Sons - January Wheel Tracks	386.18	
4955 Gene Fodor - Wheel Tracks & postage	136.09	
4956 Rachel C. Smith - website maintenance	465.00	
4957 Les Skinner - name tags	28.00	
Total disbursements	1,122.56	
Balance January 15, 2010		3,891.33
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT - balance Dec. 15, 2009	40,032.73	
add: December interest income		33.84
Balance January 15, 2010		40,066.57
Total all accounts		\$59,199.41

Dick Wheatley, VAE Treasurer



What a wonderful meeting! With 50+ in attendance all the seats were filled and the service area was crowded with food and drink. We could have served another 50 with the food left over.

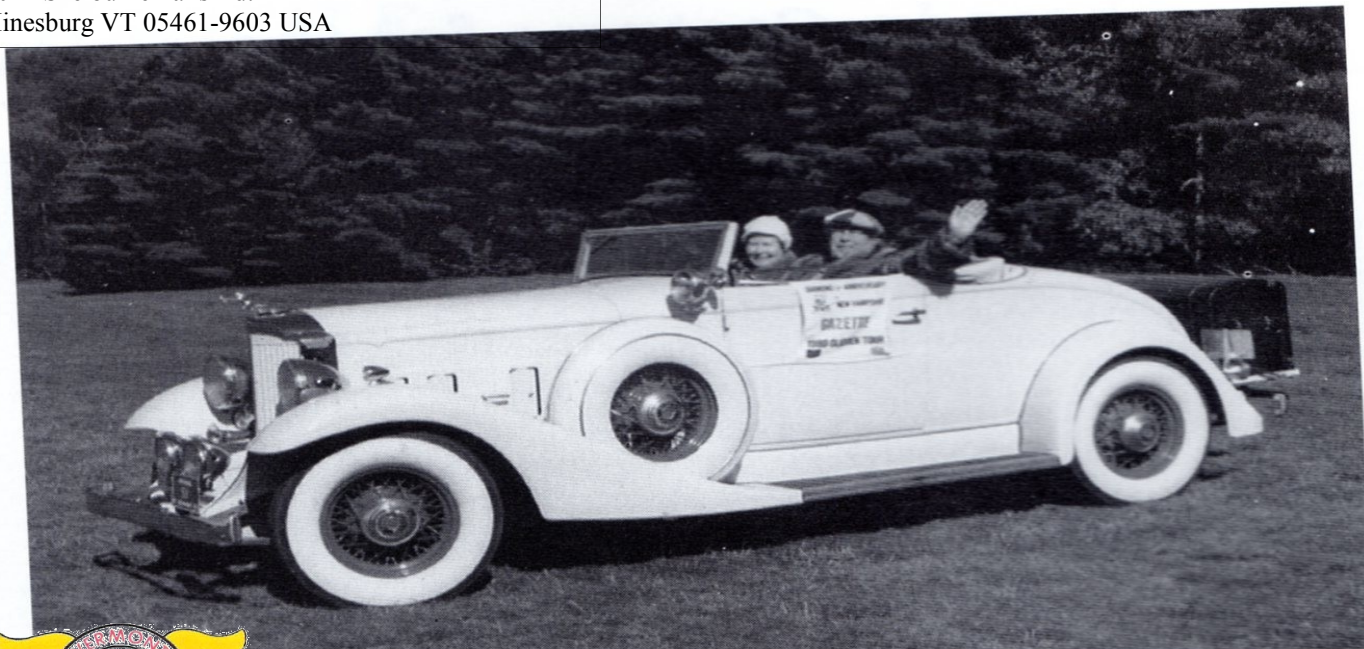
The meeting progressed under the able leadership of President *Don Rayta* and then with the attendees, in rapt attention, the displays were explained. Hope to see you next month.

**VERMONT AUTOMOBILE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.**

**Please Send Dues or Address Changes to:**

Mr. Jim Sears, Acting Membership Secretary  
2041 Shelburne Falls Rd.  
Hinesburg VT 05461-9603 USA

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2010  
DUES? CHECK MAILING LABEL  
DATE BELOW, IF NOT, THIS  
WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE'**



**President Dick Evans and Helen Evans in their 1933 Packard, Model 1001 Coupe Roadster. Photo taken on the 1980 Glidden Tour.**

**Are your 2010 dues paid? February 2010**

**VERMONT AUTOMOBILE ENTHUSIASTS, INC.**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL, RENEWAL \$30.00**

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "VERMONT AUTO ENTHUSIASTS" OR "VAE"

VAE MEMBERSHIP DUES (NEW OR RENEWAL) - MAIL THIS FORM TO:

**JIM SEARS, ACTING MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, 2041 SHELburne FALLS RD., HINESBURG, VT 05461-9603**

NAME: .....  
MAILING ADDRESS: .....  
CITY, .....  
STATE, PROVINCE .....  
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PHONE NUMBERS .....  
**EMAIL ADDRESS** .....  
CARS OF INTEREST OR  
OWNED .....  
ANTIQUE OR CLASSIC .....  
VOLUNTEER INTEREST  
OTHER .....

**WHEELTRACKS** ➡

Check One: ☐ e-Delivery or ☐ S-Mail Delivery DUES Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**VAE NAME BADGES ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$10.00 EACH. COMPLETE AND MAIL THE FORM BELOW FOR NAME BADGES ONLY.**  
**SEND PAYMENT FOR NAME BADGES Payable to: Phyllis Skinner, PO Box 208, Northfield, VT 05664-0208**

Name (s) on Badge Please PRINT or Type \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Your editor and other authors are made aware of some new product, service or information that they feel may have value to VAE's membership. These products, services or informationals are not an endorsement by the VAE unless otherwise noted. The opinions are solely those of the particular article's author.*

