



June 2018 Year 65 #6

# Wheel Tracks



Is this the same #67 in both pictures?

Ken Gypson's '37 Ford has been around creating history for 81 years and still going strong.

Hal Boardman's diorama above proves the car still inspires...more on page 6

The Official Monthly Publication of the Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts



FROM OUR  
PRESIDENT,  
DAVID  
STONE

Here we go, another season of shows and get togethers.

Finally, old man winter has evolved to the warmer days of spring. Time to wake up the rolling history and automotive classics.

Every spring is like a rebirth of enthusiasm for the hobby. We all have a process that we have mastered, over the years, to get our vehicles back on the road. After winters hibernation, like a ritual, we have perfected this. It comes from many years of living in the northeast. That first drive of the year in a classic or muscle car rejuvenates the soul and brings us back from our hibernation, too.

Make sure you check all your vehicle's systems before heading out, nothing worse than sitting beside the road on your first ride of the year. I just need the dirt road to dry out a little more before heading out.

Check out the up and coming events, both VAE and other shows, spread the VAE word to other enthusiasts. Cars and coffee is firing up for the summer. Last year we had some impressive turnouts, yes, it's early but if you can make it, you will enjoy. One last plug for the Shelburne Show, please register and volunteer, we could use your help.

Dave Stone  
VAE President  
ps. DOT 3 on the ground is not good.

#### VAE Classifieds from 1980....

**For Sale....**1950 Chevrolet Deluxe "Woody" Wagon. Partly re-stored, new chrome, battery, muffler, etc. \$1800  
Call Scott Lange in Barre.

**For Sale....** 1932 Plymouth PB rumble seat coupe. Body rusted but restorable. Many spare parts, new and used. \$2500. Call Gilbert Sabens in Barre.

**For Sale....** 1937 1 1/2 ton flat bed truck w/o engine, with radiator, trans, and rear end etc. Towable. \$200. call Dick Davis, Bethel, VT.

**For Sale....** 1954 ford 2-door Mainline. 31,000 miles. Extra parts. \$1200. Call Ernie Franch, E. Corinth.

**For Sale....**1940 Ford coupe. Stored 20, seized. Complete, some new parts & patch panels, can be towed. \$1500. Larry Johnson, Charlotte, VT.

#### VAE Officers & Directors

**Dan Noyes - VAE Chairman**  
802-730-7171 [dan@streambanks.org](mailto:dan@streambanks.org)  
**Dave Stone- President**  
802-598-2842 [dsatbtv@aol.com](mailto:dsatbtv@aol.com)  
**Jan Sander- 1st. Vice & Activity Chair**  
802-644-5487 [sander@pshift.com](mailto:sander@pshift.com)  
**Duane Leach- 2nd. Vice & Assistant Activity Chair**  
802-849-6174 [fordpu64@yahoo.com](mailto:fordpu64@yahoo.com)  
**Don Pierce- Treasurer**  
802-879-3087 [dwp@melodyelectric.com](mailto:dwp@melodyelectric.com)  
PO Box 1064, Montpelier, VT. 05602  
**Charlie Thompson- Recording Secretary**  
802-878-2536 [charlieandmarion@comcast.net](mailto:charlieandmarion@comcast.net)  
**Tom McHugh 802-862-1733**  
**Chris Barbieri 802-223-3104**  
**Dave Sander 802-434-8418**  
Nominating committee...David Sander, Dan Noyes & Brian Warren

#### Education/ Outreach Committee

<b>Ed Hilbert- Chair</b>	<b>Gary Olney</b>
<b>Gael Boardman-V-Chair</b>	<b>John Malinowski</b>
<b>Wendell Noble- Sec.</b>	<b>Gary Fiske</b>
<b>Tom McHugh</b>	<b>Charlie Thompson</b>
<b>Scott Hogaboom</b>	<b>Don Pierce</b>
	<b>Nancy Olney</b>

**Membership Secretary (Ex-Officio)**  
**Christina McCaffrey**  
89 Ledge Road  
Burlington VT 05401-4140  
[VAEmembership@gmail.com](mailto:VAEmembership@gmail.com)  
[christina.mccaffrey@vtmednet.org](mailto:christina.mccaffrey@vtmednet.org)

**VAE Antique and Classic Car Meet (Stowe)**  
**Co-Chairs**  
Bob Chase 802-253-4897  
Duane Leach 802-849-6174  
**The Shelburne Show Chair**  
Ernie Clerihew 802-483-6871

**Wheel Tracks Editor (Ex-Officio)**  
**Gary Fiske**  
Home 802-933-7780  
[gafiske@gmail.com](mailto:gafiske@gmail.com)  
2503 Duffy Hill Road  
Enosburg Falls, Vermont 05450

**Edi Fiske—Wheel Tracks proof-reader**  
**Clark & Isabelle Wright- Burma Shave editors**  
**Justin Perdue - Webmaster**

**Sunshine Chair**  
**Christina McCaffrey 802-862-3133**  
[christina.mccaffrey@vtmednet.org](mailto:christina.mccaffrey@vtmednet.org)

**Welcoming Committee**  
**David Hillman**  
[david.hillman@vtmednet.org](mailto:david.hillman@vtmednet.org)



# Past VAE Presidents...

1953 Ken Gypson  
 1954 Rod Rice  
 1955 Rod Rice  
 1956 Walter Jones  
 1957 Walter Jones  
 1958 Lloyd Davis  
 1959 James Mc Glaflin  
     Dale Lake  
 1960 Bob Jones  
 1961 Charles Arnholm  
 1962 Robert Slade  
 1963 Don Brown  
 1964 Richard Evans  
 1965 Willis Spaulding  
 1966 Wesley Pope  
 1967 Bill Young  
 1968 Leo Laferriere  
 1969 Adrian West  
 1970 Chuck Haynes  
 1971 Lloyd Davis  
 1972 Wayne Martin  
 1973 Larry Johnson  
 1974 Tom McHugh  
 1975 Rod Dolliver  
 1976 Bob Gioria  
 1977 Alden Chapman  
 1978 Richard Turner  
 1979 Genevieve Morgan  
 1980 Al Ward  
 1981 Russ Snow  
 1982 John F. Gray  
 1983 Mike Hayden  
 1984 Bob Groves  
 1985 Dave Gonyon  
 1986 Peter Crosby  
 1987 Bonnie Groves  
 1988 Tom MacLay  
 1989 Tom McHugh  
 1990 Bill Dexter  
 1991 Avery Hall  
 1992 Jan Sander  
 1993 Bob Jones  
 1994 Bill Fagan  
 1995 Frank Mazur  
 1996 Don Rayta  
 1997 Bill Sander  
 1998 Bill Erskine  
 1999 Joe Paradis  
 2000 Mary Mazur  
 2001 Fred Cook  
 2002 James Willett  
 2003 Gael Boardman  
 2004 Ray Tomlinson  
 2005 Conception Conti  
 2006 Bob Chase  
 2007 Andy Barnett  
 2008 Nancy Willett  
 2009 Gene Fodor  
 2010 Don Rayta  
 2011 Wendell Noble  
 2012 Dave Sander  
 2013 Jim Sears  
 2014 Robert Lalancette  
 2015 Robert Lalancette  
 2016 Dan Noyes  
 2017 Dave Stone  
 2018 Dave Stone

## FROM YOUR EDITOR... GARY FISKE



Happy June,

Did your brain take a flip when you read Judy Boardman's, May Softer Side? Her really nice story about winter jackets from the old days was titled with Nancy Olney's cat story from the month before, called "The Willy Chronicles". I think by this sentence, you know where I am going with this. My boss has decreased my pay by 20% for the next three weeks. I am sorry Judy.

Another oversight when I published Nancy's "Willy Chronicles" was the 3rd page that I missed with the final paragraph of her really nice story. So... this is what you do....go dig out the April Wheel Tracks and reread Nancy's story....then read this final paragraph....

**So, the question is; Are we keeping him inside for him or us?  
 The line in Janis' song keeps going through my head,  
 "Freedom's just another word for nothin' left to lose. Nothin',  
 don't mean nothin' hon' if it ain't free!!"**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Put your seat belts on, the summer and all its activities are about to begin.** The Barre, VT Historical Society "Racing in Vermont" display, just opened yesterday and the Father's Day Show is just around the corner at the Shelburne Museum.

**2018 is measuring up** to be a great year for the Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts. Plan to be a part of it and build some great memories.

This recent ad is straight from the halls of  
Richard McLay



**Membership  
Only \$30**

**\$50 for 2 years**

**Wheel Tracks  
Monthly deadline to  
the editor is the  
5th of each month**

**Contact Us At...**

**vaeinfo@gmail.com**

**Or  
Our Website at  
vtauto.org**

**"How to be  
a member"**

**\*Go to vtauto.org**

**\*Click "Join VAE"**

**\*Print form, fill it  
out and mail it with  
your \$\$ to our  
secretary**

If you want your  
latest  
Wheel Tracks  
earlier.... go to  
vtauto.org then to our  
Member Only Page.

The new issue can  
usually be found  
there, around the 25th  
of the month

**Wheel Tracks**  
is a monthly  
newsletter published  
in print and  
electronically for the  
public, and for the  
VAE membership.  
The VAE is a 501c3  
a not-for-profit Inc.





## "THE SOFTER SIDE"

A Column Shared by Mary Noble (Left), Judy Boardman (center) & Nancy Olney (Right)

### CAT TALES, ETC. from Mary



**Spring! It will come, better late than never!** Also, VAE car shows - Shelburne Museum, July 16th and 17th; , The Vermont Antique and Classic Car Meet (formerly, Stowe Car Show) now taking place in Waterbury, August 10th 11th and 12th, just in case anyone has forgotten!

**Our Colorado daughter, Martha,** has set us up for a trip to Alaska the first week and a half in July. I hope to be able to get some vegetable gardening done before we leave, as we are out of relish and pickled jalapenos - now that is serious. We {hopefully} will be back before the Shelburne Show. My brother and his wife, will be going with us, and Martha.

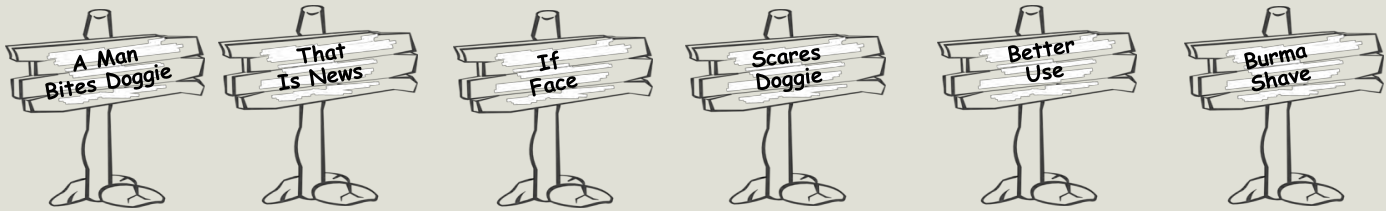
A friend will be staying here while we are gone as our three cats will need food and company. By the way, I really enjoyed Nancy Olney's "cat tales"; she and Gary do need more than one cat, of course. We could help with that since we have one that needs taming. Two of our cats go outdoors and back in, about 20 times a day - guess that is my exercise. I'll just mention cat pans which they use before going out.

**Our third cat is really, really elderly** and mostly eats and sleeps, first on Wendell's chest, then my head. O.K., enough about cats. It's about time to clean up the yard - Wendell has almost all the logs he's been splitting and stacked in the shed for next winter, so there is now a project for getting ready for lawn mowing - lots of chips and bark to rake up - and haul out. I am hoping the asparagus will do better this year - maybe getting the weeds out would help. I also hope the horseradish will be doing well, as we need to make horseradish sauce for the shrimp Wendell and others (not me) like a lot. That's it for cats and gardening - for now!



**On The Road Again...**Our 1974 GMC motor home is back on the road! VAEer, Andy Crane, recently took possession and headed home with ideas of a few "short trips", to learn the trade before taking on longer journeys.





## WORDS

**Dropped axle:** A special front axle with its wheel spindles higher in relation to the height of the axle than in a stock unit. The result is a lower ride height.



"I rent a lot of cars, but I don't always know everything about them. So a lot of times, I drive for like ten miles with the emergency brake on. That doesn't say a lot for me, but it really doesn't say a lot for the emergency brake. It's really not an emergency brake; it's an emergency "make the car smell funny" lever."

\*\*\*\*\*

Guy walks into my parts store. Says "I need a gas cap for a Kia."  
I said, okay, sounds like a fair trade.

\*\*\*\*\*

I was driving with my friend. We come to a red light and he speeds up and whips right through it. I start freaking out "Hey man, your going to get us killed!"  
He replies "Relax, my brother drives like this." We come to another red light and he blazes right through. "Your going to get arrested or get us killed!" "Relax this is how my brother drives."

We come to a green light he stops dead looking both ways. "Dude, it's green you can go."

"No way!! My brother might be coming the other way."

\*\*\*\*\*

With the rise of self-driving vehicles, it's only a matter of time before we get a country song where a guy's truck leaves him too.

\*\*\*\*\*

I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather.. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.



## Wheel Tracks Academy

*An Academy professor recently had to send a very pitted cam shaft to a shop in North Carolina for restoration. Part of the process used the technique of "Spray Welding".*

### Here is the basics on "Spray Welding"

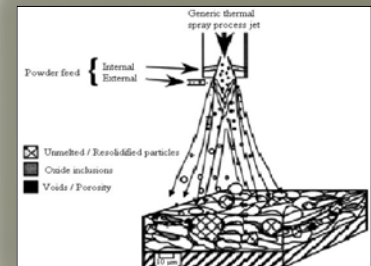
Lets say you have a 6 cylinder cam shaft that has 12 lobes that need restoring. The lobes are pitted and a couple of them are even deformed from age.

The restoration shop already has the info to return the lobes to factory specifications. They clean the cam shaft completely, then paint a compound on the metal, everywhere they want the weld process to skip.

They then put the cam shaft on a lathe and slowly turn it while heating it to the proper weld temperature. Once the temp is correct, an "Arc Sprayer" that uses DC power to energize negative, and positive wire comes into play. This "sprayer" begins with a small jug, attached to the top of the sprayer, filled with a powdered bonding agent. The powder becomes molten, when passing through the arc, and using air pressure to spray the molten material, the 3 or 4 inches to the hot rotating cam shaft, where it bonds.

When that is complete, the container with bonding agent, is replaced with a container of steel powder and the same process happens until the cam shaft surfaces are built up enough.....the steel powder becomes molten when passing through the weld arc and is "sprayed" onto (and bonded to) the heated cam shaft. If you watch a video of the process, you will see a huge area of sparks flying everywhere.

The welded areas are then turned on a lathe to reach factory specifications and the cam shaft is sent back to the owner. The job described above, cost the owner about \$250 with shipping.



Continued from the front page....



**Editor's note.... Ken Gypson will learn about this diorama for the first time, when he gets this issue of Wheel Tracks, in his mail box.**

**From VAEer, Hal Boardman ...**

Two years ago the VAE ventured south to Bennington for a Hemmings cruise-in and a visit to our hosts, Ken and Nancy Gypson, in New York. After morning coffee, juice and muffins-to-die-for, we went out to wander through Ken's barn. The barn holds a collection of autos, large and small. A must see. Among the full sized cars was a '37 Ford 2-door sedan. Ken was in the process of restoring the former round track race car. I took a few pictures and then we hit the road.

A while later the VAE had it's annual holiday party and I chose an exchange gift of a hot-rod model A Ford 2-door sedan. Walking by Ken's table he said "glad you got that, you are the only hot-rodder here". By chance, I happen to see a picture of Ken's restoration project on line, and I put the two together, the beginning of the diorama idea.

The following year I campaigned for another Hemmings tour, it was a great time and ....I needed more pictures of Ken's garage and his race car restoration project. Once again, we had a great cruise-in, and visit at the Gypson's. I wonder if Ken noticed my mission of taking pictures of every square inch of his garage. I got more pictures when #67 made it to our August show in Stowe last year and then, my winter project began.

While my '39 Ford project sat in the corner of my garage, I spent time working on the smaller project of a 1937 race car. I gathered models and parts saved from my youth and began the diorama. I found an old 49 Ford kit in my collection that provided wheels, tires, trophies and even that small dog you see lying on the floor, in front of the car. As my project started coming together, an artist friend offered to paint the number on the car and the walls to match Ken's garage. Pam even made a small leather belt, that was used to wrap around the passenger door post, to keep it closed during a race. Thank you Pam.

I hope Ken can find a small space in his vast collection for the diorama. I hope, also, that he enjoys it as much as I have building it.

**Some history now of the racing #67, from a story Ken Gypson had written earlier....**

In about 1985 my family and I moved to Poestenkill, NY. Just down the road (to my delight anyways) was Wait's Junkyard. The Waits had a bunch of old stock cars scattered about and a particular '37 Ford sedan caught my eye. For 2 years I tried to buy the car...no go. In April of '87 we had an ice storm that knocked down trees and power lines. While I was in the road clearing debris with my chain saw I saw John Wait Sr. asked if he could borrow the saw. I told him he could have the saw if I could buy the stock car. He grunted and left with the saw. Two weeks later I came home from work and there, the '37 sat in my driveway!



Pictured here, the Pine Bowl Raceway in Troy, NY where the front page image of a race-wreck was taken.

I have been fortunate to be able to get the complete history of #67 from the day it was built. In 1961, Paul Leinbohm paid \$50 for the body and chassis from Slovak's Junkyard in Stuyvesant, NY, and a 1953 Merc engine from Lou Hacker of Rt 20 in Nassau, NY. Before he could drive the car, he was drafted into the army, and sold the car to Paul Visconte of Schodack, NY. Visconte had George Henderson of Niverville, NY, drive it with number 300D at Rt 66 Speedway in Poestenkill, NY.

In 1963, Visconte renumbered the car to 67 (as it is now) and raced it at Victoria Speedway outside of Albany, NY. Ironically, Visconte also ended up in the Army and left the car behind his mother's house. Gordy Film of Wynantskill, NY, bought the car in 1964 for \$300 and raced it at Pinebowl Speedway in Poestenkill, NY, during the '64 and '65 seasons. #67 ended up in Wait's Junkyard across the road from the speedway's entrance.

Continued on page 7





# The Roadside Diner

## Key Lime Pie

2 large eggs  
2 large egg whites  
1/2 cup key lime juice  
1 tsp grated lime rind  
1 (fourteen ounce) can fat free sweetened condensed milk  
1 (6-ounce) reduced-fat graham cracker crust  
1 1/2 cups frozen whipped topping, thawed

Edi Fiske

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Beat eggs and egg whites at medium speed until well blended. Gradually add juice, rind and milk to egg mixture, beating until well-blended. Spoon mixture into crust, and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until almost set (center will not be firm but will set as it chills). Cool pie on wire rack. Cover loosely, and chill four hours. Spread whipped topping evenly over filling. Yields 8 servings.

It sat in my barn until 2014 when I started to restore it. The restoration was completed during the winter of 2016-2017. Sections of the frame and the lower 2 - 5 inches of the body needed replacing. Strangely enough, the engine was free, and only needed the carb rebuilt and an electrical tune up.

On September 10th of 2017, I was fortunate to be able to have ALL involved in the car's history have their picture taken with the car at my shop. #67 was also featured in Hemming's Muscle Machine's Vintage Racers pages.

Specs of #67 are as follows:

- ◆ A 1937 2-door Flatback Sedan.
- ◆ 1951 Mercury engine with a mild cam that produces about 120 HP.
- ◆ The rear-end has a welded spider gear (differential) to produce more traction coming out of the corners.
- ◆ The seat came out of an old bus.
- ◆ The floor shift has a hook for 2nd gear.
- ◆ The original gas tank is a beer keg.





## SOUNDS GOOD



### TIME IS MONEY

**My Chrysler minivan got a little rusty over the winter.** This vehicle is too old to be worth much, but still practical and useful. It is a great vehicle to make the weekly dump run, go to Home Depot and to run errands with. It is also fantastic in the snow with the all-wheel drive system. With these duties, and with two teenage boys in the house it makes sense to keep it, and I can't justify replacing it.

**The lift gate is really too rusty to feasibly repair.** A new lift gate is unjustifiably expensive. At the salvage yard I was told a decent used lift gate would be \$275, and unless I got lucky and found a silver one, I would still have to paint it.

I found a van with a totally rust free lift gate, but it had a large dent in it. I asked how much they wanted for this one and was given a price of \$50.

I had to buy paint to fix the rocker panels, one quarter panel and the front fender anyway. With a couple hours of work, the dent was removed and the lift gate is ready for paint. A couple hours of work saved me over \$200.



Above, from 1917...  
What was it?

Left, a country store  
From 1939, don't know where.





**I didn't know this could happen.** A member recently told me, while rebuilding a big V8 engine, the cam shaft fell off his bench. The thing broke in half, can you believe it! They are made of cast iron, so I guess it is possible.

**A group of VAEers showed up at the VT Historical Museum recently,** to help get a sprint car moved into the building for their one-year show on "Racing in Vermont". Talk about a well-greased operation!



Upper left, **Gael Boardman**, hooks the cable on....next, **Wendell Noble** starts pulling with his winch....while the folks outside steer the car through the doors. Left, is the car making its way into the museum foyer. The "**Racing in Vermont**" creator, **Amanda Gustin**, is pictured left, directing the operation.

We all had a preview of the display that will open to the public on the 28th of April....if you go, your visit will bring some fantastic memories of your by-gone years.

**The high-point of the day....**The gentleman backing the 3/4 ton truck and trailer, to the side door of the museum, from a crowded street, into a narrow drive....**with only one try!!**. Sorry, WT did not get your name.

**Dear Wheel Tracks**, In reference to the April issue's Motoring Moment from Blue Hill, Maine. VW Beetles, prior to 1968 had a very small "oval" rear window. VW people referred to these models as simply ovals. Therefore, my reference to a '67 oval project. Nothing to do with Opal which incidentally made a neat little station wagon in the early 50's. I had two of them. Thanks, **Ken Taplin**

**Editor's notes....**Please don't tell my wife about this or I will get more hearing aid speeches. You have to admit, oval and Opal sound close to the same.



**Can anyone help to identify this monster pictured left?**

What is it. It was found in a field near Troy, Vermont. The word Elliott is cast into its side. The oiler is on the top just to the left of the hand wheel and branded Hills McCanna model MB.

The bulb shaped item on top, covered with plastic has the name Swotwout on it. Is that a water pump shock absorber? The two flywheels are 4 to 5 feet high and note the flywheel facing you...is that a governor? One huge piston is in front, but there is nothing to indicate it burns fuel.

**VAEer, Gary Olney**, recently arrived back home from roaming around California. He was invited to join a Horseless Carriage club who toured Yosemite National Park in some fantastic old cars. One of Gary's comments about the drivers/owners, is that they did not baby them. He said they were driven through mud and rain like we would drive our Jeeps. One couple from Australia wanted to be part of the tour, so when they arrived in California, they purchased an old 1910 vehicle and joined the group. The plan

was to sell the vehicle before they left for home and do the same next year.

# SHELBURNE MUSEUM



## CLASSIC AUTO FESTIVAL

June 16-17, 2018 | Shelburne, VT



Celebrate Father's Day Weekend by taking a trip down memory lane....in the chassis of your choice.

The Shelburne Museum in partnership with the VAE is once more having our Father's Day Classic Auto Festival

Electric Cars will be this years feature Along with many run-of-the-mill cars from 1901 to 1993.

Run-of-the-mill cars include

Stanley Steamers

Model T mail trucks

Chevy Corvettes



And Maxwells



# Come and join us for a great weekend!

You will have the run of the great Shelburne Museum grounds.  
All museum displays and events will be open to you and your children.

Electric Cars will be our feature!  
Electric Detroits, Baker Electrics, Columbia, Rauch and Lang to name some.

Come and register your old car or your electric and be part of the hundreds of car on display.

You and your old car will be escorted to your spaces starting at noon on Friday through Saturday morning.  
For more information call or email Ernie Clerihew.  
802-483-6871 or britishjalopies@aol.com





**The Franklin County Airport**, just East of Swanton Village, will be the site of a Wings & Wheels event for the VAE on the 25th of August. A rain date of the 26th has also been set.

George Coy, the former airport operator and George's son Cliff, is has invited the VAE for a fly-in that day. There will be free plane rides for anyone 8 to 18 years old, food vendors and parked planes for our old cars to take selfies beside.

The airport will be completely open for us to get acquainted to what in most cases is behind closed fences.

George has also said it is OK to invite other car clubs, so the VAE is intending to mail invitations to all that we know.

**Please pass the word.** Each club will have it's own area on the field to hold their monthly meetings etc. but to also meet other clubs.

Wouldn't it be something if we could make this "Wings & Wheels" an annual event!!!

10AM to 4PM will be the time, See you there.



**A Yak 52 parked in the airport hanger**



Hal Boardman sits at the flight simulator while George Coy looks on.  
Hal is simulating a crash!





A Vermont Historical Museum  
Presentation  
That will be on display for one year  
Starting April 28th, 2018.

*Pictures taken by Jim Sears*



"Anything for Speed" will explore the excitement and passion for a century of automobile racing in Vermont. From dirt tracks plowed through farmers fields to NASCAR affiliated asphalt tracks. From the announcers to the racers, to the spectators, this exhibit will highlight how auto racing is an important part of the Vermont story.

Come visit the Vermont Historical Society Museum in Barre  
just up from the traffic circle at  
60 Washington Street  
You can also call for information at 801-479-8500



The Waterbury "Not Quite Independence Day Parade"  
Is just a couple of months away.

It will be on June 30th, following Waterbury's tradition, of the Saturday before the 4th of July.

The VAE is planning a bigger and better turnout this year, so please shine your old ride up  
And be ready for the "Big Show".





## \*\*\*My Story\*\*\*

### Chapter Two, The 1932 Packard Victoria Convertible From David Steinman

well underway. But, one cannot spend all his time working. So, on a Friday night in June of 1956, armed with a fake draft card, Marv Miller, and I were off to the Cadillac Show Bar at Broad and Hunting Park in Philadelphia. We were to meet the guys and drink some beer.

Marv was my scoutmaster and also a real estate broker and he wanted to stop on the way to check out a property he was to show the next day. When we had finished and driving by Haines and Magnolia "T", we passed an automobile repair shop.

"**Stop the car Marv**", I cried. There on the other side of a chain link fence was a huge black car. I was now familiar with the unique Packard grill profile but I had never seen a car like this one. Not in great shape, the top was torn and falling into the interior, the chrome barely shined, but even in the dark, I could tell it was something special.

"**Take me home, I have to show this to the "Old Man"**. Marv thought I was a little crazy but back we went to Oak Lane. Friday night was when my parents played cards with a group of friends, but for some reason not this one. "You have to see this car, it is a Packard but not like any I have ever seen". So off we went, I was driving and the Old Man was sitting in the passenger seat. We pulled up to the repair shop fence and after only one look he said "come back tomorrow and buy the car".

**Bright and early the next morning**, with \$500 in small bills in my pocket, I went back to buy the Packard. It was even bigger and more impressive in the day light. The wheel base was 143 inches, bigger than a new Caddy by two feet. The headlights must have been more than a foot in diameter, twin spares, and a trunk on the back with a folded luggage rack behind that. The car had only two doors but the top covered an additional seat in the rear. I didn't know it then, but the model was known as a Victoria Convertible, a very rare and desirable car. I didn't even know what year it was, only that it was special.

The owner of the shop explained that it was in the shop for some muffler work and the owner, a fellow named Ivan R. Trucasas, might sell it but it would be expensive. He was going to paint it yellow and drive it to the shore. Now I had a problem, with \$500 in small bills in my pocket and a fellow who was willing to sell his customer's car, without asking him, how would he take advantage of a kid with all the money. "How much?" "Well, it is a very valuable car, not many were made and not many left, not a penny less than \$325". Now I had a real problem, if he saw the money I had, he would figure out a way to get it all. While asking all sorts of questions about the car and claiming that was as much money that I had in the world, I counted off what I hoped was the correct amount in my pocket. The moment of truth came and I pulled out a wad of bills and counted them on the fender. Wow! ...three hundred and twenty five dollars exactly.

**He gave me a bill of sale, a muffler, which I had to install and a new Pennsylvania inspection sticker.** I had the car, but now, how to get it home. The Old Man again. We went back that afternoon to pick it up, it sort of ran making funny noises, but was moving under its own power.



The Packard today

I stopped to show the car off, at a couple of friends, then headed home. On the way, it stalled but I was able to push it and get it started again by popping the clutch. Not wanting it to stall again, I kept revving up the engine. A fellow, stopped at a traffic light thought I wanted to race and being eighteen, why not? The Packard has a crawler gear used for idling down a busy street without using the gas pedal, it wound out about seven miles an hour, but got there quickly. When the light turned green, I floored the gas and slid my foot off the clutch. With the wheels spinning, the Packard took off leaving the car next to me at the light. He never pulled up next to me again.

The Packard turned out to be a **#903 Super Eight Victoria Convertible**, built in August 1931. the production run was from August of '31 to August 1932. Sold by Packard as a Dietrick Design Custom, the wheel base is 143" and is powered by a 135 HP straight eight engine. Total production of the Super Eight Victoria was under forty units. Famous automobile designer, Ray Deitrick, was responsible for the body design. Packard had Murry Body Company build 700 units and with slight modification, sold them until the late thirties.

After driving it around for a few months, the Packard was parked under a tent in the back yard. But, that is not the end of the story. More to follow.



The day we purchased the Packard



## Cars & Coffee Vermont is back for 2018!

**What is Cars and Coffee?** It's a gathering of vehicle enthusiasts, all vehicles. Have a look at the images in [carscoffeevermont.com](http://carscoffeevermont.com) - you will see model T's, Subaru's, Vette's, 'Cuda's, muscle, street rods, trucks - everyone is welcome. It's truly impressive how something as simple as a vehicle brings folks of different backgrounds to speak a common language - cars. The wealth of knowledge that is exchanged is priceless. We had tremendous turnouts last year, approaching 100 vehicles each day. A professional photographer and many spectators taking photos, as well as videos, of several events posted on youtube, interviewing every car present.

**I think it's safe to say, at 7am every 3rd Saturday morning of the month, May through October, the VAE has Vermont's largest vehicle gathering.**

Come join us! Coffee is provided by IHOP in the Mall... *John Malinowski*

# Coming VAE Events for 2018

**Saturday, June 2nd 8AM to 2PM**  
LONE PINE CAMPSITES ANNUAL  
2018 CAR SHOW  
Sunset View Road; Colchester, VT

★ **August 10, 11, 12 -**  
**VAE Antique Car Show at**  
**Waterbury** ★

★ **June 16 and 17 - VAE**  
**Shelburne Show at**  
**Shelburne Museum** ★



**SUNDAY,**  
**JUNE 24 -**  
VAE meeting  
will be a visit  
to see John  
Vetter's  
military

collection at 143 Village View Road,  
Glover, VT 05839. Please bring your  
lunch and a chair, John has tables. The  
club will supply coffee, soda, & water.  
This should be a great time; I know  
that several people have been looking  
forward to this one! Please note that  
this meeting is rescheduled to Sunday  
from the previously scheduled date of  
Saturday.

**June 25, Monday -** The Great  
American Race will come to Burlington.  
We will be welcoming the racers,  
including VAE member, Terry Riggs.  
We are thinking of putting on a display  
of members' vehicles. Details to be  
determined.

**July 15, Sunday** Short rally on paved  
back roads from Milton Diner to John &  
Carol Lavallee's camp on Maquam Shore.  
Pot Luck, club will supply drinks,  
meeting to follow.

**Also in July,** a possible overnight trip  
to Hemmings Drive-In in Bennington,  
VT. Ken Gypson is working on this.

**August 25,** Rain date August 26,  
Wings & Wheels Swanton Airport.  
Hosts George Coy, Hal Boardman, Jan  
Sander

**September 29, Saturday** - Visit Dick  
Mazza's car and memorabilia collection  
in Colchester. Meeting to follow. Bring a  
bag lunch and a chair, the club will  
supply drinks. Time to be announced.

**October** - Gypson Tour hosted by Don  
and Anne Pierce. Date and location to  
be announced.

**November 3 or 4** - Annual Meeting  
Date and location to be announced

**December** - Holiday Party, Date, time,  
and details to be announced



If you want the latest  
VAE events schedule,  
**John Lavallee** invites  
everyone to visit our  
website ([vtauto.org](http://vtauto.org)) and  
click on "See all VAE  
Events"

## My 1886 Columbia "expert" Model, 54 inch high-wheel story..... from John Lavallee

My Dad purchased it in 1969 in Vergennes antique shop.  
Strangely, he lived in Massachusetts and was up here on  
business. He was headed to Winooski in a 1968 Porsche 911  
T that he had just purchased "new" for \$6800.00. Quite ex-  
pensive at the time but lots of fun. Driving up here back then  
was a beautiful ride up Rt. 5 or across the State to Rt 7. Nice  
roads in a car like that.

Passing through Vergennes, he passed an antique shop that  
he, just had to stop at! That's where the Bike came from. He  
purchased it and now to figure out getting it home. He was  
not the type to leave it behind. This after all was a good 5  
hour ride each way and he was here for 2 days.

A few spare moving blankets--and VOILA, He tied it to the hood of the 911  
and off to Winooski before heading back to Massachusetts. I wish we had  
pictures, I'm sure it got some attention.  
I researched the original purchase at the antique shop in Vergennes. It's still there  
and the owner is too. He's 94 years old!





# Wheel Tracks Classified

## For Sale....

About a 1950 Ford 4 speed transmission with p.t.o from an army truck. \$100.00.  
Ellie & Marvin Ball 802-425-3529



**For Sale....1926**  
Chevrolet Landau  
Coupe. Older  
complete restoration.  
Extra tools, parts and  
literature. AACA  
Senior status. Stored

in long term heated garage. Call Sky Borst,  
727-584-5588 or 802-698-8421. Email  
svbnh@aol.com



**For sale..... 1931**  
Chevrolet four door  
sedan. Dual wheel  
wells. Restored in the  
70's. Mostly original,  
with new stainless  
steel exhaust, new  
valves, tires replaced

about 5 years ago. Some paint chipping, Viking  
hood ornament. I've driven it to the Stowe show  
often. 6 volt. 95 Benjamins. Cash talks.



Also for sale... 1928  
Hupmobile, four door  
sedan. 6 cylinder, 3  
speed. Restored in  
the 90's near Alstead.  
Stromberg carb.

Feels nice down the  
road. Many extra

parts included! 105 Benjamins. Cash talks. Feel  
free to call: 802-230-8099. Chris



**For Sale...1929 Model**  
A Pick up truck! This  
truck needs an Engine.  
Comes with a bad one.  
Otherwise, It's in very  
good condition.  
Everything works.

Might make a cool Hot  
Rod or drop an engine

in it and have an original. More pics available.

Same owner over 40 years and former club President.  
Located in the Rutland area. Asking \$5000.00 OBO.  
John Gray <john.gray802@icloud.com> or  
jl6200@yahoo.com

## June Bumper Sticker...

Is there life  
after death?

Touch my truck  
And  
Find out.

## Do you need a VAE name tag?

Contact Christina

christina.mccaffrey@vtmednet.org

\*\*\*\*\*

How about a VAE banner for your car?

Call Wendell Noble to order one.

802-893-2232



Need a VAE window sticker? \$1  
each, 6 for \$5. Call 802-933-7780 or  
email gafiske@gmail.com.

**For Sale....**I have a set of Rocky mountain brakes for a Model T. they fit 1909  
-1927. These are brand new in a box with instructions. These are very easy to  
install and a little more difficult to adjust properly. Once installed, you have the  
best brakes available and they work very well. \$800.00.

John Lavallee. 802-849-6200

**For Sale....**1886 Columbia "expert" Model. 54 inch wheel. Top of  
the line at the time. This bike is in excellent condition. More info  
available. Asking \$6000.00. Being offered before auction.

John Lavallee. 802-849-6200

*See short story about the bike on page 14*



## For Sale....

1965 Plymouth Valiant 200 sedan. Like new condition in and out. Original  
273 V-8 with Torque Flight automatic transmission. Power steering, electronic  
ignition, 14" whitewalls with flawless correct '65 wheel covers. Mint blue  
interior and white exterior, chrome perfect. Started life from an Alabama dealer  
and has been in the south all it's life until I purchased 3 years ago. Drive any-  
where. Have 2 folders full of all receipts and window sticker, etc. Fully docu-  
mented from day one and always garaged. \$9,500

## Also for sale...

- Four 14" wheels and wheel covers from my uncle's 1970 Dodge Charger. Wheels and covers in excellent condition Fit many 1960's and 70's B body Mopars. Sell as a complete set \$195.
- Eight 13" 5 lug wheels, fit all 1960 through '70's Plymouth Valiant, Barracuda and Dodge Dart. \$15 each or \$50 for a set of four. Have some 13" period wheel covers as well.
- "The Complete Book of Corvette" by Richard Langworth, published in 1987. Four color throughout, 320 pages and in new condition. \$25.
- 1976 and 1978 Chrysler, Plymouth and Dodge shop manuals, each two volumes and covers all models. Both in excellent condition, \$30 each or \$50 both.
- 1971 Ford Motor Company shop manual, 5 volumes and covers all Ford, Mercury and Lincoln models. Very nice condition, \$25.
- Antique Norwegian ice sled. Over 7ft. long. Could be used or would make a great conversation piece and display item.
- Arcade cast 1927 Buick sedan. 8" long and very nice condition. \$800 or obo. It's time to downsize. cgeeb99@gmail.com or 802-223-3104

## "parts wanted ad" .....

I am looking for any parts for a 1924 Gardner touring car known as the "Radio Flyer". It has a 4 cylinder Lycoming engine, model CE. Please contact Paul Baresel at 207-727-5855 or pgbaresel@yahoo.com.

A street sign recently found by a  
VAE member....



**VERMONT AUTOMOBILE ENTHUSIASTS**

Please Send Dues or Address Changes to:

**Christina McCaffrey**

**89 Ledge Road**

**Burlington, VT 05401-4140**

*christina.mccaffrey@vtmednet.org*



Gary & Kelly's (I have no last name)  
1934 Ford, from Barre Vermont



**June 2018**

Check the date after your name,  
Your VAE Membership  
might need to be renewed.



**Her name is Rosi the Riveted**

**John Vetter's 1942 Stuart Tank**

Just another typical VAE shop doing typical  
maintenance work on an old vehicle...