



NHHAC NEWS

The Newsletter of the
North Hills Historic Auto Club



Volume 54 Issue 01

JANUARY 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR

If you have been listening to the weather, the weather person is saying this is the coldest weather that we have seen, of course the weather person is 22 years old. Have to admit it was a little cool out there, hope everybody is okay and thinking about getting the cars out, and working on them. I am going to the Oakmont Lions and discuss what we had talked about at our DEC. meeting. Everybody is in our prayers, just stay safe. Until March



Michael 

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January & February 2023 No NHHAC Monthly Meetings scheduled
- February 2023 - No Newsletter will be issued. March issue deadline February 25th
- March 12 NHHAC Monthly Meeting, Sunday 3 pm, Church of Our Saviour, Glenshaw
- May 5-7 Spring Getaway, Punderson Manor, Geauga County, Newbury Ohio



**Pay your 2023 \$20 Annual NHHAC
Membership Dues by January 1st
Additional \$5 late fee after January 1st
Payable to NHHAC c/o Jack Swaney in person or mail to:
Jack Swaney, 1140 Saxonburg Blvd., Saxonburg, PA 16056**

NORTH HILLS HISTORIC AUTO CLUB MINUTES

December 11, 2022

Church of Our Saviour Glenshaw, PA

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by President Michael Quinn and was followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Twenty-two members were in attendance.

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the September meeting. Motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2022 by Ken Barker and seconded by Steve Parise.

Treasurer's Report from Jack Swaney,
Balance of \$2069.97

Motion to accept from Jackie Sheerer and seconded by Rick Kelley.

Wellness Report from Jackie Sheerer. Sympathy card sent to the family of Richard Chene and get well card to Jerry Longstreth.

Old Business

Jan and Bonnie Smith tour on November 19 to Ohio was very nice!

Dave and Bobbie Carpenter spring get-a-way is scheduled for the beginning of May. Check the newsletter for details.

In need of a web manager for 2023

Discussion of helping judge at Oakmont Car Show, suggestions made to advise the Lion's Club to change to a cruise and provide dash plaques so no judging needed.

New Business

Michael Quinn explained all the charitable activities and donations the Lion's Club performs.

No meetings in January or February. No newsletter for February.

Next meetings at Church of Our Saviour at 3 p.m March 12

Tell us what you've been working on! Send the information to Cindy Cook at nhhacnews@yahoo.com

Interesting talk by Daryl Elliott about the influence of Tom McCahill.

"The 21st Century": Autos and All That Traffic (1969) Video link at :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3GW3AYR__U

Interesting predictions for the future of automobiles!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Ken Barker.

Submitted by Mary Jo Phillips, secretary



Following is a reprint from the June 2005 Newsletter.

Member Profile

By: Joe Acker

Our featured member for this month is Richard Chene. He was born and raised in Oakland and has been interested in automobiles since he was 16 years old. Rich and his wife Susan live in the Blawnox area of Pittsburgh. He joined the NHHAC in 1991, after learning about the club from Joe Acker while attending the winter parts flea market then held at McCrackin Ford.

He has been very active in the club since, and especially enjoys the driving events as well as car shows and restoration work. Rich has owned a number of antique cars, some of which have found a home in another collectors garage. He still owns a 1931 Ford Pickup truck, a 1931 Ford Coupe, a 1935 Ford Phaeton, a 1935 Ford Tudor, a 1941 Ford 4 door Sedan, a 1946 Ford Coupe, a 1946 Mercury Convertible, a 1948 Ford 4 door Sedan, a 1948 Mercury Convertible and a 1966 Ford T -Bird and a 1975 Lincoln.

When it comes to car restoration, Rich has been known to take on some very rough cars, and some that most of us would pass up. One of the restoration projects Rich did was a 1935 Ford Phaeton that had about 100 bullet holes in the sheet metal that had to be repaired. I asked Rich to tell us about his favorite car and he said it was his 1948 Mercury Convertible that his mother bought for him when he was 18 years old. He took a ride to Blawnox and met the love of his life. He and Susan have been together for the last 50 years.

Pictured here are Rich and Susie in 1956 next to the '48 Mercury.

Rich has always loved old cars and worked with his uncle in his shop. In 1990 Rich bought a 1948 Mercury Convertible like the one he had in the fifties, except for the condition. As mentioned above, Rich likes to take on



some real challenges. As you can see in the picture, the car was in very poor condition, to say the least! Rich said it took a lot of hard work to restore it and bring it back to a presentable car. Rich hunted for numerous replacement parts such as the front fenders, hood and the long list goes on. He finished the Mercury 5 years later, and won a first place trophy in his class at the Oakmont Show in 2002. As if this wasn't a tough enough project to take on, Rich found another Mercury Convertible, a 1946 model also in need of an extensive restoration. He is currently

restoring this car and is close to completing the project.

Among his favorite car club and hobby activities are car shows and flea markets, and all of the great people that share his love of the cars. Rich belongs to 4 car clubs and wanted to acknowledge the help and encouragement of fellow car enthusiasts like Pat O'Neill, Jack Dougherty Joe Acker, Dave Kurash, Fred Whitehouse and Bill Artzberger, and he said he would name many more if space permitted.

In this hobby, most of us can relate to an incident that wasn't one we would wish to repeat. Some of us have had mechanical breakdowns like engines or transmissions blowing up, and some have had some bad luck experiences that we would like to forget. Rich had an experience several summers ago that might top all of our mishaps. He and Susie were in a parade in Millvale with their 1966 Chevrolet Convertible. This shiny red car was a standout in any parade and certainly commanded the attention of the viewing crowd. Without warning and no clue as to why, the gas tank fell off the car into the street. I guess if it weren't for bad luck, Rich would have no luck at all.

Rich relates another incident where he put a new gas tank shut off valve in his 1931 Ford Four Door Sedan. There was a new home show where the club was asked to park some old cars in the garages. Rich put a large pan under the motor and the next morning when the house was opened for viewing by the public, the gas had leaked through the new valve and dripped into the pan filling it. The entire house was full of gas fumes and that unpleasant spilled gas odor. Had someone lit a cigarette or the fumes drifted into the utility room and been ignited by the hot water heater pilot, it may have blown up the house. Fortunately, the garage doors were opened quickly allowing the fumes to exit the house before this happened.

Rich is one of the most enthusiastic members of the club and enjoys the hobby to the fullest. It is a pleasure to have both he and Susan in the club.

Member Profile Follow-up by Joe Acker, March 2008

Recently I had lunch with Richard Chene, who I did a Member Profile on about a year ago. We were reminiscing about some of the things that have happened to us in the car hobby and began to focus on some of the humorous experiences. Richard told me several that he had gone through, some of which I mentioned in his profile article. As we sat there laughing at some of these events, I thought I might share one in particular that I had not heard before. About 15 years ago or so, Richard was in the process of restoring a 1935 Ford Phaeton. This car was in very rough condition and missing many parts as well as having numerous portions of the car that could not be repaired, or such repair would be costly. Rich began searching for these parts at flea markets, Hemming Motor News and other car publications and among friends who might have parts for this car. As luck would have it, a friend Jim Campbell, who has since passed away, told Rich he had a garage full of parts many of which were for the 35 Ford. Jim also had one and ended up with extra parts after he finished his car. Jim told Rich he was welcome to take anything he needed. Elated that he had finally found a source for parts, he told Jim he would come right over and see if Jim had anything he needed. Jim was on the way out the door, but told Rich he would leave the garage door open and Rich could help himself to whatever he wanted for his 35 Ford. Rich arrived at Jim's garage shortly and the door was open so walked in. As soon as he stepped in the garage the alarm siren went off. Rich almost had heart failure at the loud screeching sound of the burglar alarm. He had no idea as to how to turn it off or what to do. He thought about running to his car and make a bee-line out of there. On the other hand, he was there so decided to take a load of parts as he left. As he walked out of Jim's garage arms loaded with boxes of parts, the Fox Chapel Police came racing down the driveway, red lights flashing. Rich had heart failure again and maybe some other frightening reaction. As luck would have it, the local police recognized Rich and asked what the hell he was doing in Jim Campbell's garage and car parts in his arms. (if this didn't look like a home break in, I don't know what else would). Rich explained that Jim had given him permission to help himself to these parts, but evidently Jim failed to tell his wife who must have left the premise minutes before Rich arrived and obviously set the alarm not knowing Rich was coming. The police officer took Rich's word for it, and somehow managed to reach Jim by phone before they would let him leave. For those of you who knew Jim, also know he was a very generous man, so it is not surprising he offered Rich the parts as he did. I am sure both he and Rich had a huge laugh about this, as I did.

"I can see us now Susie....going up to the podium....accepting the Best of Show trophy!"



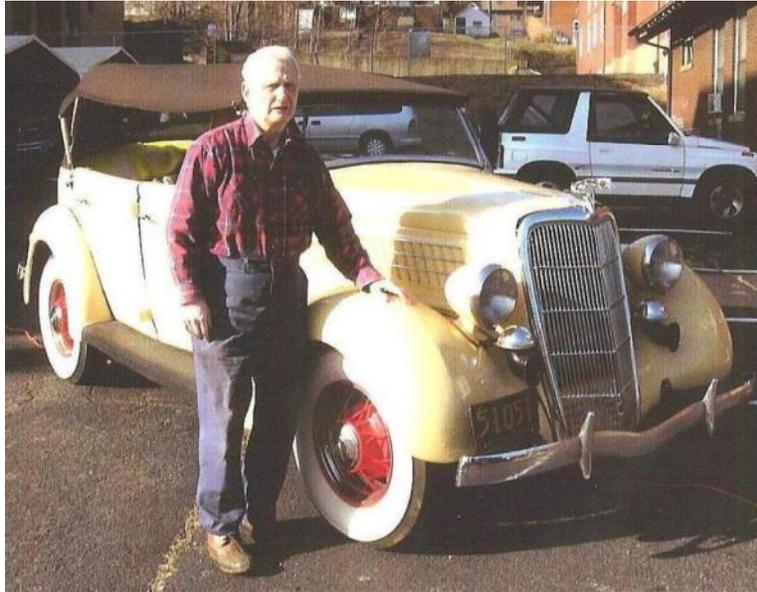


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SINCE 1971



In memory of Richard Chene

NORTH HILLS HISTORIC AUTO CLUB

c/o Pat O'Neill
675 Bairdford Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044-7880

