



KLAXON



Monthly Newsletter to the Waukegan-North Shore Chapter



Officers

President:

Dan Helgren

Vice President:

Chris Schurrer

Secretary &

Klaxon Editor:

James Greenlee

Treasurer:

Don Schreiber

News

Correspondent:

JoAnn Flynn



The Waukegan/North Shore Chapter meeting will be on
Friday November 13, 2023
7:30 pm

Where: The State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Drive, Grayslake, IL
(Just west of the old Lake County Fairgrounds).

Directions to the State Bank of the Lakes: From the intersection of IL Route 120 and US Route 45, go north on Route 45 to Center Street, turn left (west) on Center Street to Commerce Drive, then left on Commerce Drive. The bank is the first building on the right. Park on the south side of the building by the main entrance, then take the stairs or elevator to the basement and enter our meeting room.

Our Holiday Party last month was another great one chaired by Harold and Carroll Flood at Jerry's Parkway on Long Lake in Ingleside. Great food and fellowship were enjoyed by those attending. We held the election of officers at the party. Our new officers for 2022 are: President – Dan Helgren, Vice-President – Chris Schurrer, Treasurer – Don Schreiber, Secretary – Jim Greenlee. and News Correspondent – Joann Flynn.

Also at the party, members filled out cards for tour ideas and signed up to host events or tours. The details are included with the minutes of the December meeting.

We will have our first event of the year next month at a Valentines Pizza Party on Sunday, February 12 at Mickey Finns Brewery in Libertyville. A flyer for this event is attached.

Our program for this month will be another old car movie, based on the members choice either the 1932 auto racing movie *The Crowd Roars* starring James Cagney and Joan Blondell or the 1966 cult camp classic *Hot Rods to Hell* starring Dana Andrews and Jeanne Crain. We are hoping to get more members involved in the programs this year, to encourage more of our members to attend a meeting and learn something new.

We hope to see you at the meeting.

Dan



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Monthly Newsletter to the Waukegan-North Shore Chapter

Last month we lost a long time and very active member, Tom Risley. Tom has been a member of the club since the 70s and most of us remember him as always cheerful,



friendly and usually had a funny story to tell. One story that I remember him telling was on his first tour. Tom was single then and drove by himself. Rather than trying to follow directions while driving, he decided to follow another car. He spotted a mid-teens Mitchell touring

owned by Grant Ross figuring that he should have no trouble keeping up with him with his much never 1932 Pontiac. Tom said that he got behind the Mitchell and when the light turned green, the entire car rose up about



six inches and took off like a rocket. He was trying his best to keep up with Grant, but they were on a curvy road going through some woods and the Mitchell was taking the curves like a sports car. After losing sight of him, Tom saw some people working in their front yard and asked if they had seen a big red old touring car go down this road.

Tom and his Pontiac were a frequent sight on club tours. Then Tom met Jenny. Tom and Jenny were married during an Illinois

Region Spring Tour in 1997, and invited all the region members on the tour to their wedding and reception, with many dressing in vintage clothing. On successive region spring tours, they put the just married banner on their car to commemorate their anniversary.

Tom got other cars to add to their collection. He bought a 1955 Ford station wagon and also a period Scotty camping trailer. They looked all over to add period accessories to the trailer and would often bring the car and trailer to shows looking as if they were on a camping trip in 1955.

Tom and Jenny more recently seen driving either their Model A coupe or 1965 Falcon station wagon. Tom rarely missed a club meeting and Tom and Jenny were usually on the club tours.

We will all miss seeing Tom and his smiling face at the meetings and tours this year. We offer Jenny and all their family our condolences. Tom's obituary is attached. A private burial was held this week with a "Celebration of Life" planned for May 6, 2023, at Marsh Funeral Home in Gurnee, IL.



OBITUARY

Thomas P. Risley

JULY 15, 1947 – DECEMBER 21, 2022



IN THE CARE OF

Marsh Funeral Home

Thomas passed away unexpectedly at age 75. Born in Chicago, IL, he had lived in Waukegan and Beach Park, IL during his adult life. After starting out at

Underwriters Lab Tom went to Abbott Labs working as a Calibration Technician for almost 25 years, retiring in 2001.

Tom loved his antique cars, would rather drive than show them. He belonged to several car clubs locally - AACCA Waukegan/North Shore and the Chain of Lakes Model A Club. Tom really enjoyed touring on the AACCA Spring and Fall weekend tours - new places to drive the old car, visit local car collections and learn about local history. Belonging to National car clubs allowed for driving to places around the country with the old car, seeing and visiting with some of the same people over the years.

He also loved live steam engines, would rather watch than ride them. Trips out east and west allowed him to do that. Arriving early to see a train leave, ride the train, then hanging around for the next trip or watch them shut it down for the day. Tom was a Life member of Mid-Continent Railway Museum in North Freedom, WI. He had volunteered there and was lucky enough to run a steam engine down the track once.

His winter hobby was his HO model train layout in the basement. This layout is large - it covers an area below the "new" kitchen, continues through under the "old" kitchen and loops around under the living room. He joined the Tri-County Model Railroad Club in Union Grove, WI last year, enjoyed it immensely. Early on Tom was a charter member of Lake County Model Railroad Club in Wauconda, IL.

Tom loved to talk, basically to anyone. Phone conversations could last more than an hour. He was always interested in people, wanted to get to know them. When asked "How are you doing?", the answer was usually FANTASTIC!, then the conversation began. Tom enjoyed passing on funnies or pictures via email that he would receive from friends.

Thomas is survived by his loving wife Jennifer, brother John Risley and sisters Lynn (the late Ron) Trok and Nancy Risley. Also several nephews and nieces and their children. Preceded in death by his parents John and Vivian Risley. Private Burial with a "Celebration of Life" to be held on May 6, 2023 at Marsh Funeral Home in Gurnee, IL. Information to be posted later at dignitymemorial.com.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.MarshFuneralHome.com for the Risley family.