



Director: Matt Joseph (7728 Martinsville Rd.,  
Cross Plains 53528)

Associate

Director: Wally Wray (Rt. #2, Argyle 53504)

Secretary: Chris Halla (509 W. Fulton, Waupaca 54981)

Treasurer: Bob Lichty (460 E. Iola St., Iola 54945)

Directors-at-Large:

Bill Cameron (7495 Clearwater Rd.,  
Minocqua 54548)

Tim Tilton (700 E. State St., Iola 54945)

Phil Hall (754 N. 113th St., Wauwatosa  
53226)

Awards

Committee: George Tesar (Chair)

John Kress

Gary Busha

Newletter

Editor: Chris Halla

Associate

Editor: Gary Busha

(cover design by Bill Cameron)

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This will be one of those short messages that must be written at least once every year. To the point: It's dues time again. (If you have joined the SAH Wisconsin Chapter since Dec. 31, 1979, disregard this message.) I hope that all of you who are current members will decide to keep up your dues and continue as WSAH members.

We are some forty members strong right now, and growing, but it's important that existing members remain with the group. This you can do by paying your dues. Please pay them now so you don't forget. In addition to this message, I have sent out a letter. These two notices are all you will get. We can't afford to send out multiple notices. Due are \$5 regular, \$25 corporate and \$3 senior citizen (with senior citizen ID card number).

In addition to the camaraderie and a chance to participate in our various ongoing projects, you get six issues of THE SPARK and a vote in the affairs of the chapter. Members also enjoy the free research column and free classified ads in THE SPARK. You will, of course, also be invited to the annual winter dinner meeting. (Plans are already underway for this year's get-together in the Milwaukee area.)

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We had a good meeting at Iola with about half of our members in attendance at the general meeting that followed the Directors' meeting. At the Directors' meeting our first order of business was to approve our next two meeting dates -- October 25, 1980 (Madison) for the next Directors' meeting, and February 27-28, 1981 (Milwaukee) for our annual Mid-winter Membership Meeting.



As you may know, our by-laws provided for a first year of operation with four Officer-Directors conducting our business. The by-laws further provided that during our second year we would go to a seven person Board of Directors, with the existing four Director-Officer positions continued (Director, Associate Director, Secretary and Treasurer) and three at-large Directors added.

The results of our election continued the existing Director-Officers with the exception of the Associate Director. In that position George Tesar will be replaced by Wally Wray. I would like to take this opportunity to thank George for his involvement in our organization over the past year and for the instrumental role he played in founding our group. I have asked him to continue as Chair of the Awards Committee and I will be calling on him from time to time for his recognized expertise and judgment in several areas. I would also like to welcome Wally Wray as the new Associate Director. His devotion to automotive history, and his demonstrated knowledge of Wisconsin automotive history in particular, will be very useful as we pursue our plans to publish a book on this topic.

The new Directors-at-large: Phil Hall (1980-1981), Tim Tilton (1980-1982), and Bill Cameron (1980-1983) are all good choices and should give us an effective Board and guarantee continuity for the Wisconsin SAH. I look forward to working with each of them.

At the Iola meeting I reported on our Tax Exempt Status and our investigation of a discount book buying arrangement with Classic Motorbooks. Both of these matters are still pending. My concept had been to end the flow of paper to and from IRS over tax exempt status and to begin a flow of paper (books) from Classic Motorbooks to our membership. At this point neither objective has been accomplished.

At the Iola meeting several members expressed concern about National's reported intention to substantially

increase dues and to possibly take over regional dues collection. At this point we have no further information on either of these matters, but the concerns expressed at the meeting have been made known to several people at National by Chris Halla in his role of Regional Liason Officer.

We signed up five new members at Iola and a few more since then. Some of our new members are widely known and respected in old car circles. Let's keep our membership growing.

I have asked Ray Scroggins and Phil Hall to begin working on the arrangements for our Mid-Winter Membership Meeting in Milwaukee next February 27 and 28. Both have graciously accepted this responsibility. Ray is already working on a dandy location for the meeting and has several ideas about a program. If any members have any thoughts about the format of the meeting, what they would like to see included in the program, or what contributions they can make, please let Ray know. He can be reached by letter at 4570 Lincrest Drive, Brookfield, WI 53005.

Our next Directors' Meeting will be in Madison on October 25. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in Room 734 Lowell Hall on the University of Wisconsin Campus (610 Langdon Street). All members are welcome to attend the Director's Meeting, so if you are in the area, stop in and say hello. Among other topics we will be discussing: relations with National, the SAH Hershey Meeting, The Wisconsin Automotive History Project, relations with the Wisconsin State Historical Society and the status of archival relations with them, and plans for our Mid-winter Membership Meeting.

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The young man at the machine shop that I use asked me if I wanted the rod bearing saddles trued up on the 1948 Chrysler 8 that we were working on.



I told him that I doubted it would be necessary but to give me a call if his bore readings differed from mine. He smiled knowingly. He expected to make the call.

A couple of days later I stopped in to check progress and he told me incredulously that the saddles were within half a thousandth of true. No need to mill the caps and rod ends and rebore. He was amazed that the rods had performed for about 100,000 miles and not stretched the saddles at all. I wasn't; I'd seen it before. Sadly, that too, is automotive history.

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#### WHAT'S HAPPENED

Our July 12 business meeting in Iola came off nicely with some half of our members present. A great deal was discussed and members had plenty of time before and after the meeting to wander about the Iola Car Show and Swap Meet ground.

The first order of business was the announcement of the new WSAH Board of Directors. Serving two year terms as officers will be: Matt Joseph, Director; Wally Wray, Associate Director; Chris Halla, Secretary; and Bob Lichty, Treasurer. Directors-at-Large, elected for one, two and three years respectively are: Phil Hall, Tim Tilton and Bill Cameron. To explain once again the terms of office -- In 1982 four new officers will be elected. In 1981 a new Director-at-Large will be elected for a three-year term. In 1982 a second Director-at-Large will be elected for a three-year term. And, in 1983 the third Director-at-Large will be elected for a three-year term. The elections were set up this way so that a group of four officers would have enough time to see projects through while the positions of Director-at-Large would insure a democratic infusion of new blood. This situation also should allow for a nice geographical representation. Finally, it means that by 1984 a maximum of 14, and a minimum of 7 members, will have had experience on the Board. This seems an ideal situation, and we're making it work.

It was further decided that one open Board of Directors meeting would take place yet in 1980, and that our Mid-winter Dinner Meeting would open the 1981 season. The open Board of Directors meeting, which all members are welcomed to attend, will take place in Madison on October 25 (an exact time and place of meeting will be set and all members will be notified). The Mid-winter Dinner Meeting will be held in the Milwaukee area on February 27-28, 1981 (plans for it are now being made). Milwaukee area members were asked if they could help set up the Mid-winter Meeting and they all responded affirmatively.

Chris Halla reported on THE SPARK and on his position as Chapter Liaison Officer for the National. Bob Lichty reported that while the treasury is small, the generosity of Krause Publications in donating goods and services has gone a long way in keeping expenses down. Our application for tax exempt status is well on its way to being accepted. Matt Joseph is working with Motorbooks International/Classic Motorbooks to develop a discount schedule for WSAH members. The members in attendance voted to make membership in WSAH a smaller burden on senior citizens wishing to join us by lowering their dues to \$3 with a senior citizen ID card number. It was voted further that the WSAH would express its concern over a rumored raise in SAH dues without a realistic demonstration of need. Chris was selected to communicate these concerns to the National.

The WSAH officers -- Joseph, Wray, Halla and Lichty -- met informally in Madison on August 14 to eat gyros and discuss the order of business for the October 25 meeting. Highlights of the October 25 meeting will be a report on the SAH meeting at Hershey (which we hope a number of you will attend), discussion of our dues structure (don't worry, WSAH dues are not about to be raised) and discussion on both the Wisconsin Automotive History Project (our book) and the forming of an Oral History Committee.



We will also talk about archives and awards. It is essential the entire board of seven directors be present at this meeting, but all WSAH members are welcome to attend. We especially encourage the attendance of present and past committee members.

At the October 25 meeting we will set dates and places for the remaining 1981 Board meetings. No extravagant program, but be there if you can . . . .

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### THE WISCONSIN AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY PROJECT

By Chris Halla

At every meeting we have had, in nearly every conversation where two or more of us have been involved, the subject of "our book" has arisen. We have called it by a lot of names, most often "The Encyclopedia of Wisconsin Vehicles." And who knows, that may well end up to be the title. We want the book to be more than just an encyclopedia. For that reason, while it is being researched and written, we have decided to call it "The Wisconsin Automotive History Project." That gives us a little more free play.

So far several members have volunteered to write and help produce the book. Leading the list is Chet Krause, with his offer to finance the production of the book. Bob Lichty has offered to apply his talents in the graphic arts to laying out the book. Matt Joseph, Gary Busha and I have agreed to do the editing. Of course, some of the rest of you have talent in the editing and graphics areas as well, and your input is welcomed. Some of the others who have volunteered to work on the project are Wally Wray, Ray Scroggins, Charlie Webb, Vince Ruffolo, John Kress and Bob Gary. If I missed anyone, or if there is anyone who would like to have his name added to the list at this point, let me know. Drop me a note with your areas of interest and what you would like to do.

Tentatively the book will be divided in several parts: an encyclopedia, historical articles and a calendar of events in Wisconsin automotive history.

The encyclopedia portion of the book will be put together after the style of The Encyclopedia of Motorcars and The Encyclopedia of Commercial Vehicles, as suggested by Chet Krause, but with extra space provided for major manufacturers such as AMC, Harley-Davidson, Case and a few others. Included in the listing will be all motorized land vehicles -- cars, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, toboggans, motor-bikes, go-carts, whatever. This will be the biggest task. We will need all the writers we can get. If you have never authored anything, here is your chance.

The calendar of events in Wisconsin automotive history is pretty much self explanatory. It will be a chronological listing of major events, beginning in the late 19th century and running up to the present.

Historical articles in the book will allow us to look at some of the areas not covered in the encyclopedia. For instance, we will include Gary Busha's article on roads and Wally Wray's piece on the great steam wagon race. Hopefully O.J. Thomppto will provide us with something on the filling/service station in Wisconsin. Other ideas might include advertising the Wisconsin vehicle and racing in Wisconsin. (Phil Hall, are you listening?). Biographies of some of the major figures in Wisconsin automotive history would also be a nice touch. In fact, biographies could possibly be a separate section.

The point is, the project is underway and we need volunteers in specific areas who can produce. Let's get this thing done. Let's make it a book that every automotive historian and every Wisconsin historian wants. Let's make it a book that every Wisconsin museum and library, and museums and libraries out of state must have . . . . .



RESEARCH COLUMN

W.J. Cameron (7495 Clearwater Rd., Minocqua, 54548) needs any and all information on the Cameron car, the Cameron brothers and the corporations they headed . . . . .

Chris Halla (509 W. Fulton, Waupaca, 54981) is looking for photos, information, reminiscences and data on or related to Harley- Davidson motorcycles and the company that makes them. Says Halla, "If it has to do with Harley, I want to know about it!" . . . . .

Floyd Jordan, Jr., (200 Warson Lane, Granite City, Il., 62040) is seeking to purchase a Jordan auto restored or restorable. He is also interested in information on where to purchase Jordan mascots, logos, literature -- anything Jordan.. . . .

Gary Busha (3123 S. Kennedy Dr., Sturtevant 53177) is seeking any and all information, data, photos, opinions and the like about the 1970 Ford Maverick. Information on the 6-cylinder 200 cubic-inch engine is especially welcomed. Busha says, "Anybody who can keep the '70 Maverick running this long deserve some recognition for 'enginuity' and patience" . . . . .

