

**H.H. Franklin Club**  
**August 4, 2013 Board Meeting Notes**

President Bob Harrison opened the meeting at 4:02 PM.

**Roll Call**

Present:

President Bob Harrison, Vice President Bill Eby, Treasurer Mark Chaplin, Secretary Janet Kilmer, Past President Marv Gage, Board Members; Keith Kilmer, Karl Nippert, Dennis, Egan, Randy Fusco, Mike Reeve, Dan Ferrara and Bob Metro.

Absent: Brendan Hogan, The Mid-west Regional Director, Board Members, Bill Fields, Dave Roberts, Tex Sorrell, Jim Stevenson and Chuck Steffensen.

President Harrison announced there is a quorum present.

**Secretary's Report**

A Motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting was made by Mike Reeve, seconded by Dennis Egan, and approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

By Mark Chaplin

This is the time of the fiscal year when we don't receive many revenues and expenses are high. As a result we had a decrease in our assets since the end of the last quarter of 12k (excluding the temporary increase in the Trek Fund a result of member Trek fee payments received), a result of reductions in the general fund of 9k (primarily from the printing of publications, and insurance, and of 2k in the FACHC fund (primarily a result of unrealized investment losses). In the next quarter we will continue to see seasonal declines in the operating fund for normal expenses.

The Air Cooled Show at the Gilmore was better than expected and the weekend gate substantially helped the fund. We do expect about a \$6000 shortfall next year.

We have a balance of pledges receivable from donors of \$86,000 which is expected to be paid according to the term of individual donor's pledges with the exception of probably \$5-7k due from deceased donors and pledge attrition. *Note: We do not reflect these on our financial statements as we are a cash basis taxpayer.*

An analysis of General Fund revenue and expenses and proposed 2014 Budget were discussed. Note that we continue to manage our expenses and maintain our income at typical historical levels within the existing dues structure.

FACHC income and expenses and proposed 2014 Budget were also discussed. Note that we are slowly building our operating fund. In 2014 we will likely see the first year that

pledges and other revenue will not exceed expected operating costs, causing us to tap our investment funds prior to reaching our operating fund goal of \$1.2 million. It is expected at the current rate of operating fund growth and expected pledges we will not reach the goal without bequests, or additional gifts until the year 2025.

A Motion to accept the treasurers report, the including the budgets for 2014, was made by Randy Fusco and seconded Dan Ferrara. The motion was approved.

### **Merchandise Report**

By Loretta Fusco

Opening Day's sales were fast & furious. She has received some email orders, inside and outside the US.

Jane at the Gilmore reported to Loretta on Thursday that she sent a check to Mark Chaplin for the sales that have transpired and has asked for more merchandise. Randy & Loretta & will hand deliver the items next month. Jane also reported attendance has been very good this year.

### **Club Projects:**

By Bob Harrison

Bob has received items to fill shortages in the inventory; lens', exhaust pipes, mufflers, etc.

There are 3 new projects with parts now in stock:

FCP-32 S-11 License Plate Clear Lens \$35.00 each

FCP-33 Ryan Parking or Fender Light Clear Lens \$40.00 each (note: only 4 in stock)

FCP-34 Valve Gear Case Cover Clamp #46637 (wire bails f or side draft engines) \$10.00 each (These items are on sale at the Trek for \$5 each and 6 for \$25)

Current New Projects waiting for delivery:

FCP-35 Pinion Dust Seal Cover #35110 (S-12 to S-16) made of aluminum and accept modern lip seal \$80.00 each.

Brake Line Fitting Kits that will contain enough Long Tapered Flair Nuts, both 1/4:" & 5/16" sizes, to replace all nuts in the brake system.

1/4: and 5/16" Conifer Brake Line Tubing

Paul Fitzgerald and Bob Harrison are making a kit this week for the brake system with all the flares & nuts. They should be available this week.

We have sold out of exhaust pipes and will order more.

### **ACN**

By Chuck Richardson & Brian McEntee

The non-Franklin issue was well received by Club members. The summer issue is at the printers.

They have received many contributions from club members and it is very much appreciated.

**FSS**

By Scott Dwyer

No Report

**Library:**

By Lloyd Davis

Library business has been brisk. A few new items and he finally has all the parts catalogs except the 9. Lloyd is very pleased with the printer.

Jim Stevenson is not here this year and wanted Lloyd to mention his regret at not being here and wished everyone well.

New Librarians have been found for Lloyd's retirement. Bouvard & Trillian Hosticka will be phasing in to take over the Library Department. The transfer should take place by next year with Lloyd remaining as back up. Bob Harrison thanked Lloyd for many years of excellent service of sharing your knowledge and recourses.

**Club Historian:**

By Sinclair Powell

During the past few months, Sinclair has been spending most of his time on medical problems and dealing with printers on cost estimates for printing-on-demand of the second edition of his Franklin book. He did receive a final estimate from a competent firm a day or two ago. The estimate was higher than expected. He plans to bring the estimate to the Trek and go over it with Mark Chaplin (who has had experience with publishing two books). Once this is done, and any further negotiations completed, he will turn the end result over to the Board. He is hoping this can be accomplished during the Trek, although it probably will take longer.

There are three areas of Franklin history, which should be explored in the years to come. These are:

- I. The Franklin dealership network in America and abroad. He has done a limited amount of research in Ohio and Michigan cities.
2. The Franklin Aircraft Company. This was also known as Air-Cooled Motors, The Doman-Marks Engine Company, plus other names.
3. Other manufacturers of Air-Cooled vehicles prior to World War II.

All of the above subjects would provide a challenge to budding Franklin historians! Sinclair would be happy to work with anyone on them.

**Scholarships:**

By Mark Chaplin

We have 2 students this year. Matt Goist is from Ohio. He is attending McPherson as a freshman. Brogan Smith joins us from Michigan and involved with the Gilmore Garage program.

See Mark if you know anyone who would like to receive a scholarship. They currently get one year membership of the club with their scholarship.

Conversation began wondering if we should we extend our scholarship program club membership to two or three years so students have the opportunity to attend the trek again.

It currently costs about \$500 per student per year. If we extended their membership, it would be about \$600 per student, with one free trek and free publications for 3 years.

Bill Eby made a motion to increase the scholarship recipient's membership from one year to three starting with the 2013 scholarship recipients. The motion was seconded by Sandy Bennett and carried.

### **Club Events:**

The Midwest meet was May 22, 2013, in Pontiac, IL. Alan Finkenbinder is hosted the event. Bill Eby reported there was a great turn out and fairly good weather. It did rain a few times and those with open cars may have gotten a little wet. Very nice tours with NO HILLS! There were interesting stops along the way. Chuck & Brian have not received reports of the Midwest tours for the Air Cooled News. Bill Eby will pass the word.

The Westrek was held June 23-27, 2013, in Pendelton, OR, under the leadership of Chad and Carla Windham. Chuck & Brian reported a large spread will be in the next ACN issue. It was an interesting Trek with 86 attendees. Chuck suggested the east coasters should come west.

Dan reported things are going pretty well with this year's trek, considering Melissa is ill and not in attendance. The weather has been cooperating. There have been lots of cars on the green and good number of people in attendance. Vehicles parked on the streets have been receiving parking tickets. They are being handled. We do not have to pay, the fees. Please put them in the box in Hubbard. Melissa has been working on trek business from home and sending Dan emails with details to follow up on.

The Mid-West Fall Meet will be held in RI, hosted by Bob and Pat Harrison. Registration forms were sent out and have reached capacity of 50 attendees. Registration will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, with the last day's events on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Plenty of driving and sightseeing, a cruise and a clam bake in the back yard.

Aus Trek was attended by Lee Webb. 20,000 miles were covered in total in about 18 months. It was completed in legs. Lee was there a month. You can get more information at [www.franklinaustrek.org](http://www.franklinaustrek.org). Information on the Aus Trek will be published in the ACN also.

**Registrar:**

By Chet &amp; Marlene Zimmerman

The 2012/13 Register Update has been prepared with all additions/changes/corrections received between January 1, 2012, and July 1, 2013. It totals to approximately one and a half pages (1 page printed on both sides) and will be included with the next Air Cooled News.

Chet & Marlene asked Ann Russell the status of her supply of the 2010 Register/Roster. Ann reported she has 100 or so at her home.

**Membership:**

By Ann Russell

Current Total Members: 793. 15 of them are gratis and 38 are International.

**Preservation:**

Forum update by Bill Eby:

The Forum is showing increased usage. Although, it does not seem to yet have the traffic that the Q&A web pages attracted. There were 23 days in the last 30 that one or more questions or an answer was posted to the forum, 48 in the last 60 days. We are hoping that more promotion will increase the usage. It is on the main club web page. The forum is also available via smart phones, which adds options for club members.

Bill had reported in April that since November 2012, when the Q&A process was superceded and the forum was instituted, there were 30 "threads" started in the Technical sub-forum and 30 "threads" in the Buy/Sell sub-forum. The Technical threads had received over 12,000 views, and 23 replies to the threads. As of July 26, 2013, there were 49 Technical threads with over 18000 views and 278 replies. Views are trending about the same the last 3 months, but participation in terms of responses, are up significantly.

There are some indications that there are people purchasing Franklins, who are not club members, using the forum and joining the club, although not necessarily as a result of their forum posts.

The committee still plans to compose a "how-to" for novice users to use and search the forum, however, events have conspired against us and that has been delayed.

The webmaster has been experimenting with a format on the Franklin web site that would facilitate use and searching the AACA forum from the club site. Bill has also tested a method of sending a notice and link of updates to the forum via email so that members could monitor threads via their inbox, rather than checking the forum.

**Franklin Collection:**

By Phil Weisenbarger

This has been an exciting three months at the Gilmore Car museum in Hickory Corners, MI. The museum continues to evolve and expand into the premiere historic automobile

venue in the Midwest. With the precedent set by The Franklin Automobile Collection's Hamlin style dealership, the Gilmore is fast becoming the place to see the best of automotive art and function in an original style location.

The summer opened with the dedication of the Model A Ford Museum. Strikingly mirroring the Franklin Collection across the street, the Ford museum also echoes a dealership location. Lincoln had "ground breaking" ceremony weeks ago and is getting foundations poured this week. At this point, the Franklin building had steel in the air and was well on its way to completion. The Cadillac Museum remains only a sign in the yard, but the concept of a street, of quality dealerships, and the chance to step in and "purchase" the one of your dreams off the floor, remains intriguing and unique to the Gilmore.

The third annual Air Cooled Gathering, June 15, 2013, again grew in both participants and spectators. People attended in spite of threatening skies, which finally opened in the afternoon and cleared the field. There were 1006 paid admissions during the weekend which generated over \$7,500.00 for the club. Along with Corvairs, Porsches, VWs, and other lesser makes there was a Holmes, Sears, and Holsman gracing the show.

The greatest part of the occasion was seeing twenty three Franklin Club members come from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Florida, with six Franklins on location. This is simply magnificent support of your Franklin Club and the museum. Plans are to hold The Midwest Meet in conjunction with next year's Air Cooled gathering on June 14, 2014.

There is a car for sale and will be posted in the dining room this evening.

Bob thinks close to 100,000 people tour thru the Gilmore each year between paid admissions and car shows. He expects at least half of them tour thru our building.

### **Web-Master**

By Sarah Hood & Paul Beckingham

No Report

### **Old Business:**

President Bob appointed Jim Stevenson at the April 2013 Board Meeting to head up a committee to find a way to preserve the possible disappearance of the stock of parts across the country.

Jim Stevenson reported it seems it is a very delicate subject, it isn't the club's business and we shouldn't be managing a private person's business. Lee Schopmeier said with a person's permission, parts available could be listed in one place.

Lee Webb, Lee S and Jim S will pursue a way to post this.

### **New Business**

Unanimous Written Consent was sent to all Board members to authorize John Rendemonti to title the cars in PA and then they can be transferred to MI if so desired. The forms were faxed to John's office by Secretary, Janet Kilmer on Thursday August 1, 2013.

Chet & Marlene are requesting that the Club sanction the next Westrek to be held June 14-19, 2014 in Sonora, California, under the leadership of Shel and Tricia Ball. (A one day tour to Yosemite Valley will be included.). A motion was made by Lee Webb, seconded by Mark Chaplin, approved.

### **Closing**

A motion was made to close the meeting at 4:49PM, seconded by Keith Kilmer, seconded by Sandy and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Kilmer  
Secretary

Trek Tidbits....

Ron Andrew was in attendance this year and also attended the very first Franklin Trek!

Al Nippert and Gordon Howard attended 55 Treks.

2014-2016 Board Elections: Bouvard Hosticka, Melissa Ferrara, Bill Joline, and Bill Woodcock. Darla Metro is selected as an alternate.

Mark Chaplin was presented with the Service Award.

Tony Adams drove his 1931 Franklin about 260 miles to attend this year's trek.

Sarah & Lee Schopmeier did a wonderful job with meal punching.

278 Attendees with 23 as first time Trekkers.

Trek Sales:  
Library \$729, Parts Department \$2585 and Merchandise \$5400.

Friday afternoon auction totaled \$273.01 and the banquet auction totaled \$525.00

The Boyer Report reported 1903A was the oldest car in attendance and total cars this year were 74.

2014 Trek Chair Committee include Dan Ferrara, Missy Brown and Andrew Sullivan.

2014 Trek Dates: August 2-9.