



# Tinkering Times



## New Officers Elected for Questioned 2013

The question is: will they have to serve?

At the November meeting, which took place at the Denny's at Denali and Benson in Anchorage November 14, we elected the officers for 2013.

Before the meeting, we enjoyed a nice dinner. The group, which numbered about 35, apparently overwhelmed the restaurant, because it took about 45 minutes to get our food. This gave us a generous amount of time to visit.

When Howard was finally able to

start the meeting, we made short shrift of the proceedings and had officers before you could say "vote."

We are happy to announce that the officers will be: President—Mike Wiedmer, Vice President—Brian Anderson, Secretary—Pam Tanora and Treasurer—Donn Reese. Congratulations. As one mosquito said to the other, it is always nice to see some new blood. Members at Large are Tam Isham, Tom Cresap and Ken Stout.

We are planning a gala installation at Robinsons' club house on January 9—that is, if the world doesn't come to an end December 21<sup>st</sup>. Notwithstanding earlier predictions of the world's demise, word is that life will go on, and we will have our new officers installed—. Conjecture is that the Mayans just ran out of rock on which to write.

## Directions to the Christmas Party

In case you have forgotten how to get there



You have two options

(three, if you arrive by reindeer and sleigh)

First, turn off at Peters Creek. Then:

### "Plan A"

- \*Turn right at Ski road.
- \*Turn right on Whaley Dr. (this will turn into Chugach Park Dr.)
- \*Turn right on Poniard Dr.
- \*Turn left on Upper Greatland.
- \*Ishams will be 2nd drive on the left.

### "Plan B"

- \*Turn onto Ski Rd.
- \*Immediately turn right onto East Side Dr.
- \*Turn Left onto Chapel Dr.
- \*Turn left onto Greatland Dr.
- \*Stay on Greatland Dr. past Poniard Dr.
- \*19944 Greatland (Ishams') is the 2nd driveway on the left.

## Christmas Wishes!

The Christmas party will take place at the home of Tam and Art Isham December 16 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Please remember to bring your potluck dish or appetizer. Turkey and ham will be provided (Ishams will prepare the ham, Kimzeys and Tanoras will do the turkeys.)

Also, be sure to bring canned goods for our food drive and, of course, a gift for the gift exchange.

This year, we will auction off the traveling Model A blanket that was donated as a club fund-raiser by Buzz Wallace. Bring cash if you want to bid. This time, it's "for keeps."

# Running Board Reflections

It's hard to believe another year is almost gone. The weather wasn't the best, but I don't recall any events that it spoiled. The Fur Rondy Show, which is heavily dependent on the weather, was a great success thanks in part to good weather. The Show & Shine and Long Distance Tour both had good weather. Even at the Joint Meet, which was cold and wet, it quit raining for the car games.

I'd like to thank all those who worked so hard to make our various activities successful. Too often it's the same small group of dedicated people who do most of the work. If you are hesitant about chairing an activity, offer to help or co-chair one to get your feet wet. Every bit of help is appreciated.

I'm looking forward to the last

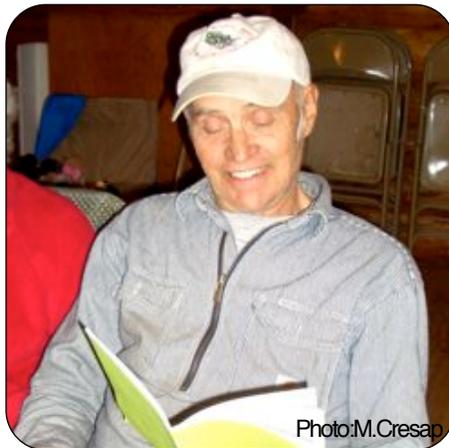


Photo: M. Cresap

President Howard is seen performing one of many presidential duties: singing during Hope weekend July 14.

event of the year—the Christmas Party. The Ishams are gracious hosts and the food and fellowship is excellent. See you there.

Howard



[www.antiqueautomusersak.org](http://www.antiqueautomusersak.org)

## 2012 Officers

President: Howard Hansen 345-1268

Vice President: Scott Hulse 349-8106

Secretary: Gwyn Wiedmer 243-7005

Treasurer: Donn Reese 245-7203

Sergeant at Arms: Sara Stoops

## Members at Large

Ken Stout 337-7047

Tom Cresap 694-7510

Tam Isham 688-3671

## Past Presidents (10 years)

Donn Reese (2009–2011)

Jeff Hassler/Donn Reese (2008)

Jim Fredenhagen (2006–2007)

Fred Schurman (2005)

Diane Allen (2004)

Fred Schurman (2001–2003)

Peg Stout (2000)

## Tinkering Times Staff

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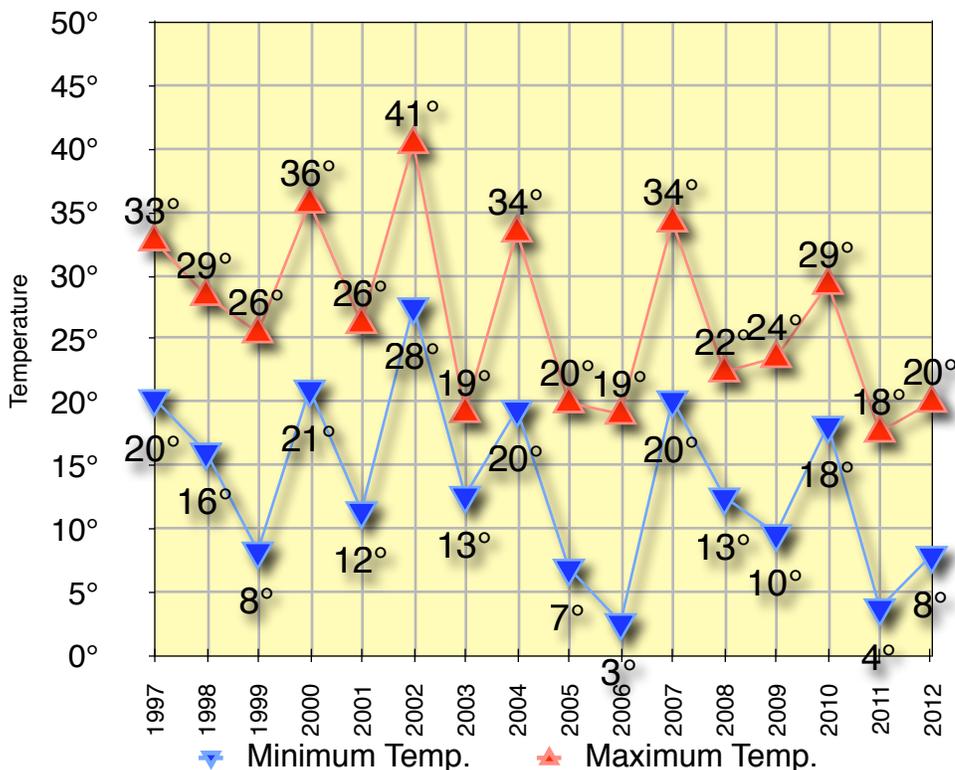
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## Average Temperatures: November, 1997-2012



Have you ever been curious about weather patterns? Fifteen years ago, a little before the climate controversy started to warm up (boo) I began to record daily temperatures. I did this out of curiosity to see what kind of patterns would be revealed when graphed. These are average highs and lows, Eagle River. —Tom

# One Man's Treasures

*Our ads are intended for members and others who wish to sell cars and related items. There is no charge, and the ad will run for three consecutive issues before being removed. To pull an ad, extend it or to place a new ad, contact Tom, 694-7510.*



**For sale:** 1931 Ford Model A Tudor; restored; runs great; \$17,000 OBO; Lowell Fair, 262-4916 or 262-1724. (2)



**For Sale:** 1931 Model A Deluxe Roadster; runs great, 12-volt, electronic ignition, halogen headlights, turn signals, Flathead Ted brakes, rumble seat; great, fun car; cosmetic work needed; \$17,000. Tom, 694-7510 (2)



**For Sale:** 1928 Chevrolet Imperial Landau Coupe with broken axle; ran well when I put in storage; needs to have axle replaced (I have two for it.) \$4,300. Tom, 694-7510 (2)

# Schedule of Events

- December 16–4-8 p.m. Christmas Party (Tam Isham, 688-3671)
- January 9–7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting; Installation of Officers for 2013 (Refreshments: Allens and Christmas left overs)
- February 13–7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (Refreshments: Hansens and Wiedmers)
- February–Fur Rendezvous
- March 13– Regular Meeting (Refreshments: Donn Reese and Pam and Milt Tanora)
- April 10– Regular Meeting (Refreshments: Mark Graber and ?)
- May 8– Regular Meeting (rolling)
- May–Adopt-A-Road
- May–Mother's Day
- May–Early Bird Cruise
- June 12– Regular Meeting (rolling)
- June–Joint Meet with VLNAAC
- June–Daybreak
- June–Serendipity
- July 4–Anchorage Parade
- July4–Chugiak Parade
- July4–Wasilla Parade
- July–Adopt-A-Road
- July–Bear Paw Parade, Eagle River
- July 10– Regular Meeting (rolling)
- July 18-21–Hope weekend; Thursday through Sunday (Dennis and Diane Allen, 345-6355)
- August 5–Jay Ofsthun Car Show
- August 14– Regular Meeting

## Secured Enclosed Storage

West Downtown Anchorage location

9'x18'x7-1/2' high space  
\$125/month

2 or more spaces–\$100 each  
Hurry!

Dave Syren, 274-9046 or 440-2982

## Dues Are Due

Our treasurer, Donn Reese, has announced that it is time again to pay dues. The easiest way to do this is to catch Donn at the meeting and pay him there, but if you can't do that, send your check to:

AAMA

Donn Reese, Treasurer

P.O. Box 232086

Anchorage AK 99523-2086

## Ten Commandments For the Car Collector

*The following is an oldie from the AACA "Rummage Box." We do not make it a practice of regurgitating previously-printed material, but couldn't resist this one.*

By Don Peterson

- I. Thou shalt not store thy cars out of doors, except for the wife's modern iron.
- II. Thou shalt covet not thy neighbor's car, nor his garage, nor his battery charger.
- III. Thou shalt not read thy Hemmings on company time, lest thy employer make it impossible to continue thy car payments.
- IV. Thou shalt not love thy cars more than thy wife and children—as much, but not more.
- V. Thou shalt despise not thy neighbor's Edsel, nor his Desoto, nor even his 1947 Plymouth.
- VI. Thou shalt allow neither thy daughters nor thy sons to get married during the holy days of Heshey.
- VII. Thou shalt not deceive thy wife into thinking that thou art taking her for a romantic Sunday drive, when indeed, thou art going out to look at another car.
- VIII. Thou shalt not tell thy spouse the entire cost of thy latest restoration—at least not all at the same time.
- IX. Thou shalt not promise thy wife a new addition to the house and then use it to store cars; also, thou shalt not store thy cars in the attic.
- X. Thou shalt not buy thy wife a floor jack for Christmas.

## SOMETIMES A 6-INCH RATCHET EXTENSION IS ONLY A 6-INCH RATCHET EXTENSION

by Rich Golding

"Come in, come in, put your coat on zsa rack zhere. Good to zee you again! Vhy don't ve get schtartet right away. You can lay down on zsa couch. Now vhere vere ve vhen ve last met? Oh yes, I believe you veer telling me about how your drop light hates you."

"Yes Doctor, that's right," I said.

"Tell me Richard, vhy do you zhink your drop light hates you . . ."

"Oh, I don't think, doctor, I know!" I interrupted brusquely. "It's hated me ever since I bought it, many years ago."

"Mr. Golding, my dear vellow, surely, you must underschtand zhat it is, indeed, only a tool. An inanimate object. It is incapable of hating anyzhing or anyone! Surely, you must recognize zhat fact!"

"Please doctor, don't call me Shirley."

Doctor Fahrvergnügen, responding with a light harumph, peered over the rims of his reading glasses now slung low over the edge of his nose, and repeated his query.

"I know it sounds crazy, Doc, but that damned light does hate me . . . it does, I tell you! No matter where in my garage I plug the cord in, there's always two feet more needed to reach where the job is on my car. And when I'm under the car, working on some vital system and I have both my hands full of tools, it decides just then to tilt away from wherever I need the light. I stop what I am working on, and contort my body to readjust it. And just as I get back into working position, it will do it again!"

"Hmmm . . . go on, go on . . ."

"And whenever I hang it up above me on its hook, it waits until I'm ready to do something important, and then it swings around with the light facing away from my work area. I tell you, it KNOWS what it is doing. It's mocking

me!

I can never get anything done anymore. My life is a wreck. And it's all due to that damned son-of-a-flashlight! I hate it, I hate it, I HATE IT!" I screamed, breaking down and laying my head in my hands.

"Come, come now, calm down my good vellow. You must be exaggerrrrating." He responded in his authoritarian, Viennese tone.

I began to weep. "It not only hates me, but lately I have even heard it plotting against me with the other tools in my garage!"

"Go on," Doctor Fahrv said, raising his hands, now palm to palm up to his lips while elevating his right eyebrow, "this is becoming velly intereschting!"

"Well my bedroom is directly above our garage, see. And sometimes, very late at night while my wife is asleep, I lie there, awake. I swear I can hear them downstairs, Doc, plotting against me!"

"Velly good, velly good. Go on, don't shtop now!"

"Well last night, I distinctly remember overhearing the drop light telling my socket set how to hide the 6 inch ratchet extension where I wouldn't be able to find it," I blurted with tear-filled eyes.

"Hmmm . . . I can zee zhis problem is rooted deeper in your psyche zhan I originally anticipated. Velly vell, let us continue vit zhe examination. Tell me, ven you vere a child, can you recall a time ven your mother ever beat you vit a lighting fixture of any kind? A drop light for example, or perhaps a candleschtick?"

"Not really, doc," I whispered between sobs.

"Zhink harder Mr. Golding! Zhere must be an episode zhat involved il-

(See page 5, "Socket Extension")

# Early Recollections of The Antique Auto Musers

by Remy Baker

Betty and I have a very special feeling for the [Antique Auto Musers of Alaska] because when we lived there ('53-'62), we brought two of our cars from NJ to Anchorage—my 1921 Rolls Royce in 1960, and Betty's 1923 Rolls Royce in 1961— and with the help of a couple of local nuts like ourselves, started the club.

The only founding members I remember were myself, my wife (Betty), Larry Barrett and a man who owned a 1935 Ford. Betty believes a Dr. Morgan may also have been a member. The 1935 Ford was the 'newest' car in the group. Believe me, there were very few of us. For the period beginning in the [early] 60s (which was when we tried to organize) until I departed in July, 1962, I was the President, with Betty operating as VP plus “chief cook and bottle washer.” There were darn few of us, and others (like a man with a truck and one with a “T”) would join us if we could get their machines under way.

When we started the club, the state did not have a special tag for antique automobiles. Making a long story short, I went to the state bureau and they agreed to issue a tag where the number on the tag was the same as the year of the car to which it was registered, and they did. I still have mine for my 1921 RR, and Betty's #1924 for her 1923 RR. My deal with the license department was that if we had two cars of the same year, one would get the correct year tag, the other car would get a tag adjacent to the correct year.

Some one had a 1923 “T” so Betty took the 1924 tag for her car. If you have a member who was in the club then - maybe the Graus - ask them if they had/have their tag. Don't know if any original club members

still have their tags, but found the one's the state issued for my 1921 and Betty's 1923 Rolls Royce. Note that the tags were stamped with the year issued - '62 - but were made so that the next year date could be clamped over the '62 date. (For some reason I can't recall, I also have a set of 1917 tags - but I didn't have another auto there, so can't recall why I have them. If any one of the 1961-1963 members has a 1917 auto, I'd be happy to give the tags to them.) Since I departed the state in mid-63, I never applied for the '63 clip on date to fit on our 1962 tags. In those days, Alaska was an easy place to get things done.

Sometime after mid June of 1961 when Betty got her 1923 RR to Anchorage, we were asked to put the cars in a show. The sponsoring company moved all its cars outside and we occupied the show room and I'm 99.9% sure we were the only ones inside. That statement doesn't leave much room for error does it, but that's what I remember. Also, I believe this company had the OK to order/sell RRs. Don't remember them ever selling one, but that's what floats around in my thinking. I spoke to my son (who is now back in Anchorage) and he said it was that show room (*present location of Alaska Sales & Service*) in which our two RRs were parked, but he said either the building was updated considerable or replaced. Except for a couple of parades, we didn't do much as our numbers just didn't opt for doing a great deal. For example, I had a couple of cabins on Big Lake, and with all the people who came and went - I don't believe the club ever made it.

One time, I made arrangement with the railroad to put on board all club cars and members and carry us to Seward, and return for their annual event where contestants had a

footrace up and down the mountain. My son tells me Seward still holds that event. My wife says when we went down to Seward for their holiday event, we put the cars on the train the day before, and we drove down as a group, and after the day's activities were done, put the cars back on the train and drove home. I have a hard time believing we didn't ride the train down, but I learned some time ago, don't disagree with the wife unless you can prove otherwise, and that doesn't happen often.

*Remy's story is too long to squeeze into one Tinkering Times, so we will have to serialize it. He spins a great yarn, and we are sure that it will please.* —Tom

## Socket Extension

(continued from p. 4)

lumination of zome zort," he insisted.

Pondering his question, I suddenly remembered something: "Once, when I was a small boy my father wouldn't let me blow out the candles on my birthday cake. It was at my seventh birthday party. I think he was worried that I might not blow hard enough . . . yes . . . I remember his using the word 'blowhard' on me in front of all my friends. They never stopped teasing me about it after that," I reminisced.

"Aha! Zhat iz eet! It is all zo zimple, don't you zee?"

### EPILOGUE

I won't bore you with all the psychological mumbo-jumbo that ensued. Suffice it to say that the good doctor was able to cure me of the relentless demons haunting me. It has been several months now, and I am feeling much better. My droplight and I are on speaking terms again. But lately . . . I have been noticing what seems like a rather menacing attitude towards me emanating from my floor jack.

## Rondy Needs Rides for Royalty

Kurt Rein has announced that the Pioneers are looking for 3 or 4 cars to carry dignitaries in the Rondy parade.

The dignitaries will be visiting from Fairbanks, Palmer, Seward and Homer.

Drivers and partners are entitled to a free pancake breakfast. Call Kurt, 344-5554.

## December

### December Birthdays

Howard Hansen-1  
 Brian Anderson-2  
 Kay Graham-6  
 Linda Mattes Golding-7  
 Jim Ede-8  
 Doris Holland-12  
 Hank Raymond-12  
 Dennis Allen-17  
 Art Isham-18  
 Colleen Kimzey-20  
 Barbara Tullis-20

Tom Cresap-21  
 Peg Stout-24  
 Robbie Robinson-26  
 Marl Campbell-28  
**Anniversaries**  
 Marilyn & Dave Chiot-  
 ti-2  
 Marianne & Robbie  
 Robinson-8  
 Barbara & Dick Hen-  
 ningsen-15  
 Art & Tamia Isham-18