



Rondy Parade and Show Find Appreciative Fans

The Parade

It is a little difficult to break out of the winter's shroud—even a somewhat balmy one like we had this year. But when February's Fur Rendezvous hits Anchorage, doors and shutters crack open and eyes squint out at the emerging sun and the faint promise of spring. Tentative expressions of joy come first, but soon shouts of joy fill the air.

This pent-up exuberation leads to the success of the Rondy as the nation's premier winter festival. Since 1935, Rondy has proudly represented the pioneering spirit of Alaskans, offering wild and wacky fun for all ages. Clearly, we all need it.

Back in 1935, when Anchorage was just a small town of about 3,000 people and stretched between Park Strip and Ship Creek, there were no televisions, malls or movie theaters, no video games, iPods or computers, so a wild and crazy guy by the name of Vern Johnson—who apparently had a keen understanding of the psychological needs of his fellow citizens—decided to establish a 3-day winter festival that would coincide with the time that miners and trappers came to town with their yield.

Well, folks, it is still here, and from all indications we still have a need to defeat the winter blahs.

On the morning of February 22, the streets were lined with spectators for the 79th annual Fur Rendezvous parade. The Antique Auto Musers have been gracing that parade route for a long time. This year would be

(See p. 4, "Carrying on. . .")



The many youngsters (of all ages) who attended the Rondy car show at Bob's Services focused on three particular cars: the late Bob Brown's little red BMW Isetta, Rick and Liz Mingo's Pink Nash Metropolitan and Dale and Ingrid Dryden's Model A fire truck. Above, Gwyn and Mike Wiedmer's grandson, Kayden, enjoys sitting at the wheel of Dryden's fire truck.

The Show

by Donn Reese

The annual AAMA Fur Rondy Antique Car Show for 2014 was well attended both by club member cars and by the public in general. Saturday and Sunday each saw a fairly constant stream of folks checking out the old iron, and we counted 351 total in the popular votes for cars. Since this probably represented about 10% to 15% less than the total in attendance, we figure we had about 390–400 guests.

There were 31 old cars total with the oldest being Dave Syren's 1915 White and the newest being Brian Anderson's 1983 Jeep J10. There was a wide range of interesting vehicles in between including Howard Hansen's less common 1953 Kaiser and Mike Wiedmer's 1927 Hupmobile.

Our Model A contingent also made a strong showing, with Dale

Dryden's ever-popular 1930 fire truck and really snazzy taxi.

Long time club member Mike Spezially showed a Packard and Buick from his collection. The late Loyal Hahn's buzzsaw (now housed

(See p. 5, "AAMA Show Busy")

March Meeting

Our March 12 business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the AAMA clubhouse at the home of Marianne and Robbie Robinson, 3318 Jerde Circle.

Dick and Barb Henningsen will provide refreshments for after the meeting.

Many thanks go to Milt and Pam Tanora, Peg Stout and Colleen Kimzey for last-month's goodies.

Running Board Reflections



Hobnobbing is one of the major pastimes during car shows, and it's just what we caught these folks doing at the 2014 Rony Car Show at Bob's Services in Anchorage. From left: David Jensen and his friendly golden retriever mix, Layla, our president, Mike Wiedmer, Lucy Peckham (former owner of Mike's Hupmobile in background) and first lady, Gwyn Wiedmer.

Last year at this time I was scrambling to restore our 1949 Ford convertible's steering wheel in time for the beginning of the driving season. This year I find myself in the exactly in the same position, although this year's project is the speedometer cluster. During the winter, Ken Evans and I pulled the engine, transmission, and radiator. We brought the engine to ADB, who worked their magic, Don's Transmission had already gone through an overdrive transmission I was given, and we had the radiator repaired and tested at Dean's.

Ken and I (mostly Ken) worked steadily to get the car ready for the Fur Rony Parade and Show, and the pressure was on as I had promised a ride to the Collector Button Designer. With the help of Dylan, Ken's 10-year old grandson, and Gwyn, both of whom have the slender hands necessary to reach remote locations on the installed overdrive, we had the car drivable in time.

On the way to the parade, however, we discovered that the speedometer, which had been resting

disconnected from the transmission for decades, was not happy about working again. So today the speedometer will come out, which is OK as the phosphorescent dial paint has long since stopped glowing. Again I will push the limits of the driving season by working on a key system in late winter.

March is here, the sun is rising during the morning commute, and the energetic can chip driveway ice for a good hour and a half after getting home from work. The traditional start of my driving season—after the snow and ice has melted from the asphalt and most of the sand and gravel has been swept away—is only six weeks away, so that speedometer better be finished for our scheduled inaugural drive.

We enjoyed a fine Anchorage Fur Rendezvous last week, and the parade and show were both a great success, thanks to the contributions of many. Club members again chauffeured parade VIPs, and I know our passengers were all thrilled with their

(See p. 3 "Running Board")



www.antiqueautomusersak.org

2014 Officers

President: Mike Wiedmer 243-7005

Vice President: Brian Anderson
345-9244

Secretary: Pam Tanora 868-1575

Treasurer: Donn Reese 245-7203

Sergeant at Arms: Sara Stoops

Members at Large

Ralph Centoni 345-0869

Tam Isham 688-3671

Kurt Rein 344-5554

Past Presidents (10 years)

Mike Wiedmer (2013)

Howard Hansen (2012)

Donn Reese (2009–2011)

Jeff Hassler/Donn Reese (2008)

Jim Fredenhagen (2006–2007)

Fred Schurman (2005)

Diane Allen (2004)

Tinkering Times Staff

Editor: Tom Cresap

Proofing, scheduling and keeping the old man in line: Marcy Cresap

Send correspondence to:

Tinkering Times

Tom Cresap, Editor

P.O. Box 770703

Eagle River AK 99577

or email:

tmcresap@mtonline.net

The Tinkering Times is published monthly by Alaska's premier classic and antique automobile club, Antique Auto Musers of Alaska, P.O. Box 232086, Anchorage AK 99523-2086.

Opinions expressed by authors who contribute to Tinkering Times are their own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska.

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: Model T chassis and extra parts; everything is there; crank turns engine; \$1,000. Kurt, 344-5554 (6)

Wanted: I need a 1932-34 Ford Model B oil pan. Will buy or swap. Ken Holland, 907-317-9580. or doris.holland@gci.net (5)



For Sale: Model A touring/camping trunk/ice box; to be carried on rear-mounted trunk rack; antique. \$200. Tom, 694-7510. (5)



For Sale: 1957 Ford Retractable Hardtop. \$20,000. Contact Art Isham, 907-688-3671 or 907-227-2307 cell. (4)

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

Schedule of Events

- * [March 12](#)—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (refreshments: Henningsens)
- * [April 9](#)—7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting (refreshments: Wiedmers)
- * [April 19](#)—12:00, lunch at Eagle River Garcia's followed by light shakedown and pics through Birchwood and potluck dessert TBA (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115)
- * [May 10](#)—Adopt-A-Road (Cresaps, 694-7510)
- * [May 14](#)—6:30 p.m. Rolling Meeting (Wiedmers)
- * [May 17-20](#)—Shake Down Cruise to Homer (Jim Fredenhagen 243-5214)
- * [June 6, 7](#)—Joint Meet with VLNAACF (Sara Stoops, 345-5992)
- * [June 11](#)—6:30 p.m. Rolling Meeting (leader?)
- * [June 20-26](#)—Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum 3rd Midnight Sun Summer Solstice Cruise-In, Fairbanks and Long Distance Tour to Wiseman (Tam Isham, 688-3671)
- * [July 9](#)—6:30 p.m. Rolling Meeting (leader?)
- * [July 12](#)—Adopt-A-Road (Cresaps, 694-7510)
- * [July 17-20](#)—Hope Weekend (Allens, 345-6355)
- * [August 13](#)—6:30 p.m. Rolling Meeting (leader?)
- * [August 23](#)—State Fair Parade and Show (Mark Graber 907-745-8570)
- * [September ?](#)—Kendall Car Show (Tanoras, 868-1575)
- * [September 6](#) — Adopt-A-Road (Cresaps, 694-7510)
- * [September 10](#)—6:30 p.m. Rolling Meeting (leader?)
- * [October 8](#)—7:30 Regular Meeting: Nominations (refreshments?)
- * [November 12](#)—7:30 Regular Meeting: Elections (refreshments?)
- * [December ?](#)—TBA Christmas Party

Running Board:

Kudos to Parade & Show Promoters; Now, on to Summer Activities

(continued from p. 2)

rides.

Please join me in thanking Parade Chairman Kurt Rein and Show Chairman Donn Reese, and a very big

thank you to Bill Brown, family, and crew for hosting our show, for the third year, in the shops of Bob's Services. I can't say enough how impressed and happy I am with the efforts and hospitality of the Brown family and crew.

This coming month is our last before our club driving season kicks off in April, so take this opportunity to draw a few breaths, finish your winter chores, and brace for the Alaskan summer whirlwind. Until next time, I wish you all the best.

—Mike



Carrying on the Tradition

AAMA Crowd Pleaser, Carries Dignitaries

(Continued from p. 1)

our 53rd year, if our arithmetic is correct. (1962 was the first time for AAMA.)

This year, we fielded a total of about 15 antique vehicles. An exact count was difficult to make, since we took part not only as a club entry, but also as transportation for parade dignitaries.

Each year, the Alaska Pioneers honor their Igloo presidents and other royalty and there are always the Rondy queen and princesses. Our members jumped into action, digging their cars out of the snow and ice, warming them up to happily and proudly carry these honorees.

The royalty chauffeurs were Tom and Marcy Cresap, whose 1925 Model T carried Grand Igloo

President, Troxell Hebert; Art and Tamea Isham, whose 1963 Imperial hosted Palmer Igloo King Regent, Ken Pysz; Wernor Monk, who drove Dale Dryden's 1930 Model A Taxi carrying Booster Button Designer, 10-year-old, Alex Pouzanov from Turnagain Elementary School; Kurt Rein, in his 1926 Packard, chauffeured the Pioneers of Alaska Cordova Igloo King and Queen Regent and Cordova Ice Works Festival King and Queen, Bill and Diane Cobb; Mike Wiedmer, 1949 Ford convertible, with 2014 Rondy Pin artist, Tara Gildow and Ken Evans, whose 1955 Cadillac Eldorado convertible carried Rondy Queen, Ardrienn Everett and Princesses, Jilene Galle and Quinsey Jorgenson.

Immediately following, the AAMA

contingent included Jim Fredenhagen (1930 Model A carrying the club banner) Boyde Watson and Larry Yates (Larry's 1930 Model A) Dale Dryden (1930 Model A fire truck) Carl Godsoe (1931 Model A pickup) David Jensen (1955 Ford Thunderbird) Gwyn Wiedmer (1927 Hupmobile) Tim Troll (Mike Wiedmer's 1941 Cadillac Model 62 Club Coupe) Bill Brown (1937 General Motors truck) Dick and Barb Henningsen (1965 Mustang) Donn Reese (1960 Imperial.)

The parade took place in chilly—but comfortable—16° to 18° temperatures, an improvement to -5° to -20° we have known in past parades.

Thanks to Kurt Rein for being our liaison with parade officials and for coordinating. Thanks go, also, to everyone that came out to participate.



Some snapshots of the parade taken by Kathleen Godsoe include Jim Fredenhagen, 1930 Model A, carrying the club banner; Mike Wiedmer, 1949 Ford convertible, carrying the 2014 Rondy pin artist, Tara Gildow; Tom and Marcy Cresap in their 1925 Model T carrying Pioneers of Alaska Grand Igloo President, Troxell Hebert; Kurt Rein, 1926 Packard, carrying Cordova King and Queen Regent and Ice Works Festival King and Queen, Bill and Diane Cobb; Werner Monk, Drydens' 1930 Model A Taxi, carrying 2014 booster button designer, Alex Pouzanov and Art and Tamea Isham, 1963 Imperial, carrying Palmer Igloo King Regent, Ken Pysz.



2014 Rony Show Sees Lots of Interest



Cresap



Cresap

(continued from p. 1)

at the Bob Brown Museum) was setup for viewing connected to Brown's Overland, and Loyal's water pump ran for a few demonstrations. Thanks to Scott Hulse, Ted Kimzey, Bill Brown and others who worked on each of those displays.

This year we ran the "Vote for your Favorite Car", a people's choice award, the winner of which gets lots of 'bragging rights'. This honor went to Brian Anderson's 1950 Hudson Hornet—an overwhelming win with 63 votes. Second place was garnered by Wiedmer's 1927 Hupmobile (36 votes). Third Place went to the late Bob Brown's Isetta (33 votes) which was perceived by all the kids as a toy. Rick and Liz Mingo's pink Nash Metropolitan (also a toy and favorite of girls) came in a close 4th Place (32 votes). It was great fun to see the guests react to all the cars, and the variety offered something for everyone.

I want to thank Colleen Kimzey and Tom and Marcy Cresap for working the popcorn machine for much of Saturday and Sunday. Gwyn Wiedmer, David Jensen and Chris Harding helped out as well (we hope to see more of Chris and his cab-over in the coming months.) Howard spent

all Saturday as host in his Kaiser vest. Thanks to Will Lord, who helped work the hospitality table Sunday and who also counted the cash box. Many other members hung out each day and talked shop, as it were—great job.

We had 28 members in attendance for dinner at Lone Star Saturday night, and by all accounts, everyone enjoyed the food and the visiting. It was a rare treat to have Clare Batchelor, Scott Hulse's mom, in attendance.

A special thank-you goes out to Bill Brown and his staff for providing the venue and for doing all the cleanup work they did before and after the show. Bill has taken on the responsibility of storing and showing the late Loyal Hahn's buzz saw—no small task in itself. He also donated a new popcorn machine that provided a very popular snack for everyone and gave us our best popcorn receipts in several years.

Finally, thanks to everyone who brought their cars out in the middle of winter. It can be a challenge, but the weather cooperated and the good turnout we saw shows how much people enjoy the old cars. I hope it inspires others to join in our endeavors to preserve these rolling time capsules.



Wiedmer



Wiedmer

The Rony show saw lots of traffic, about 390 visitors, and we asked them to vote for their favorite vehicle. All the kids liked Browns' BSA Isetta and Mingos' Nash Metropolitan, but the overall voting showed a preference for #1-Brian Anderson's 1950 Hudson Hornet, #2-Mike Wiedmer's 1927 Hupmobile and #3-Browns' BMW Isetta. Close behind was #4-Mingos' pink Nash Metropolitan.

WHAT GOES AROUND . . .

Humor by Rich Golding

Henry Ford was a genius. Of this there can be no doubt. He gave us mass-produced cars, the assembly line, and wire wheels that are incredibly strong, yet almost impossible to clean. My reference should be familiar to any and all, who, at one time or another, have tried to cleanse the intricate and unlimited spaces between the spokes on a Model A's wheels. For each 19 or 21 inch wheel, I have calculated a combined surface area totaling over 50,000 square inches (granted, my long addition can sometimes be a bit sketchy).

These wheels prove not only a daunting task to clean, they seem to magically attract and accumulate every bit of road dust, dirt and mud that comes anywhere near. Henry, the evil genius that he was, devised a heretofore-undiscovered method for manufacturing wheels that self-soil as you drive. It's true. Ask anyone who has owned one of his early cars with such magical spokes, and they will tell you how, no matter the degree of cleanliness as you pull out of your garage, they always return to said garage after the day's outing, absolutely filthy. The secret, I believe, is in the spokes' cleverly engineered ability to sling whatever that wheel comes in contact with in a spiraling circular motion, amassing the amazingly uncleanable results all over themselves and the vehicle.

With yet another year's Fur Rendezvous parade safely behind us, I remember fondly the first time I participated in this most auspicious of events. It was over twenty years ago. I had just joined the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska, and was eagerly awaiting the chance to drive Arthur, my 1928 Model A, in the parade with the rest of our intrepid arctic dwellers who annually defy the elements and Mother Nature to spend a glorious day in sub-zero temperature, in unheated cars, up and down the mean streets of the downtown area of our beloved

Anchor Town.

We follow a parade path shared by equally strange participants, marching or driving in procession. Amongst them: baton-twirling majorettes in short skirts, guys wearing plaid shirts and waving from open tractors, trained seals wearing seal skin coats whist balancing beach balls, uniformed mounted horsemen carrying banners, and the Dimond High Chess Club.

There are dozens of these groups, clandestinely staged in the nether regions of our central downtown avenues, freezing their posteriors off for hours as the organizers do whatever it is they are supposed to do, and we all wait for the word "go."

As I mentioned earlier, this was my first parade. I had spent a totally sleepless night before, frantically cleaning and polishing up Arthur in

Mending Members

Robbie Robinson reports that he went to Providence Hospital on Thursday, and Ralph Centoni was being prepped for knee replacement surgery.

Robbie checked later, and Ralph was at home on Saturday. He was coping with ice packs throughout the day to keep the swelling down and will start physical therapy within the week. Robbie had a good conversation with him, and he is in good spirits.

If you want to send him a card, his address is:

12701 Gander Street
Anchorage AK 99516

Dale Dryden reported that his wife, Ingrid, went through by-pass surgery and is resting quietly at the hospital. He is hoping she will be home by her birthday, March 11. Cards would be good: 2100 Roosevelt Dr. Anchorage AK 99517

the garage. The results were especially admirable. The car shined like a new penny. Henry would have been proud.

Back at the staging area, I distinctly remember almost freezing to death. My fellow Auto Musers and I all did the Rony Waltz—hopping from foot to foot, back and forth, next to our cars. Human icicles, awaiting the parade's go ahead signal to start. If memory serves, we were approximately the fourteenth participant group in the parade, just behind the Mounted Horsemen of the Mountain View Plains, and followed thereafter by the Spenard Irish Deep Sea Divers.

I remember receiving astonishing

(see p. 7, "What Goes Around")

A Radiator—Repair Tip

by Jim Fredenhagen

The Radiator Shop is located at 5650 Old Seward Hwy, Anchorage, 349-6723, Shawn Siegmann, across from AIH in the Safelite bldg.

I stopped in yesterday to see the operation and ask about repairs to a '30 Model A radiator I had with me.

Shawn said he was familiar with A radiators and was happy to work on them.

My radiator needed to have the frame re-secured in three places and four leaks fixed as well as cleaned and tested.

He started the job at noon, and my radiator was done and painted by noon today. Amazing.

Total bill was \$200, but it looks like new, and I expect will act like it.

Many of us have been disappointed with Dean's radiator over the last several years, but he's the only other radiator shop in town. He doesn't seem to want to work on A radiators except for flushing and testing.

The Radiator Shop seems to be a really good alternative, and I hope you'll enjoy meeting Shawn and his crew.

What Goes Around. . .

(Continued from p. 6)

news that the group decided to let Arthur lead the procession of Antique Autos! Though their reason was that he was the eldest vehicle in the group, I preferred to think it was because he was so beautiful, shining so stunningly in that day's morning sun. In any event, I was honored.

I shall never forget how my heart pounded with anticipation, as we entered our bone-chilling vehicles, and the word was given that the parade had begun. We waited as the marching groups ahead of ours started up, one after another, and sashayed proudly around the corner and up the street, greeted on both sides of our magnificent boulevards by the equally shivering crowd, dressed in parkas, fur mittens and mukluks. Collective clouds of human steam rising above them as they pirouetted their own Rondy waltz, cheering and generally trying to keep warm enough to continue feeling their extremities.

The time had come, and the horsemen ahead of us began to hoof off, when the parade marshal pointed his red flashlight at the lead car, that being Arthur, and gave me the signal to begin moving.

I recall the crowd's reaction. How they pointed. Their eyes and mouths wide open. A fitting tribute to the majesty and grandeur of my fine automobile, I thought. A minute or two into the parade, I began to

understand. A small child with a facial expression approaching undeniable disgust, pointed and let loose from his lips the truth that the Emperor was indeed wearing no clothes. Apparently, upon my taking that first turn onto the Champs d'4th Avenue, I had unknowingly driven straight through a large steaming pile of equine pucky, thoughtfully dropped there just seconds earlier by one of the hypothermic horsies.

Henry's amazing wire wheels did their job and splattered the warm defecation with perfect geometric precision along the entire side of my vehicle.

It was a parade to remember, and I doubt I shall ever forget it, nor the several weeks it took me to clean up the aggregated mess, nor the several years it took to live down that freezing February fiasco.

Editorial:

Congratulations Are in Order

by Tom Cresap

The Rondy is over, the Iditarod is in progress and although snow is predicted for the next few days, we are beginning to anticipate *spring*, which will be followed very quickly by our fast-paced, frenetic summer.

But wait. Things of note are happening now.

First, I am happy to report that Marcy and I have been recognized by AACA with an Award of Excellence for the 2013 *Tinkering Times*. We were both amused that we got separate awards. After over 50 years as a team, we have been recognized separately for this. Oh well—despite the awkwardness—thanks AACA for the

award. We don't intentionally do anything to receive an award—we just try to make things work for the club.

Along these lines, I would like to congratulate Rick Larrick of *Nash's News* in Fairbanks for having received the Master Editor Award. Rick has been editing *Nash's News* for two years, and I know he puts a lot of constant effort into the publication. As a result, he does an outstanding job of reporting the activities of Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club, which has experienced significant growth in the last few years and is a beneficiary of Tim Cerney's Fountainhead Museum.

Together, Fountainhead and the

(See p. 8, "Congratulations")

Mother's Day Plans Begun

Tam Isham has announced that Mother's Day plans are in the works. The date, of course, will be May 11, and the location of choice is The Boat House on Big Lake.

Plans include a buffet with a price in about \$40 range. The venue is nice and quiet with a beautiful view. Sounds like a fitting local for celebration of all the moms in our midst.

Cars needed for special events

We have some special-occasion car requests: Wedding, June 14, 4-8pm at Settler's Bay outside Wasilla: this is a 1920's-themed wedding, and the party would like a car 1929 or older to be used as a backdrop for wedding photos. No chauffeuring is required. They would prefer something "open" or a convertible if possible.

Birthday: July 23rd, 5:30-6:00 p.m. is pick up time; the honoree, an 80-year-old lady needs a one-way chauffeur service to her celebration, which will be held at the chalet at Tanglewood Golf Course on the New Seward Highway. This will involve giving her a ride from her house on Hillside to Tanglewood. The family is hoping for something from the 1940's to the 1950's and on the elegant side. It is a themed party with many costumed in the 1940s-early 50s era.

If you are interested in providing a car for either of these families, please contact Donn, 748-0036.

Congratulations All Around!

VLNAAC are doing great things for the antique auto hobby.

In fact, in recognition of the world-class quality of the Fountainhead Museum, AACA has bestowed an "Outstanding Achievement in the Preservation of Automotive History" on Cerney and his crew at the museum.

For this award, but more importantly for the eye-popping quality of their presentation of the history of the automobile, we join in congratulating Tim and Barbara Cerney, Willy Vinton, Nancy Dewitt and the many VLNAAC members who have contributed to such a beautiful and awe-inspiring facility. It is difficult to believe that such a place exists right here in Alaska. Congratulations to you all, and thanks for what you are doing!



Cresap



Cresap



*This series shows a
100-year-old buzz
saw powered by a
1916 Overland
truck.*

Cresap

March Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

Greg Lear—3rd

Ingrid Dryden—11th

Roy Foster—13th

Sheryl Hulse—14th

Will Lord—16th

Mark Graber—23rd

Ted Kimzey—23rd

Joyce Chace—28th

Barbara

Henningsen—30th

Mike Wiedmer—31st

ANNIVERSARY

Bill & Donna

Waldron—15th

Anchorage AK 99523-2086

P.O. Box 232086

AAMA

