

Antique Auto Musers of Alaska



Tinkering Times



Volume 55, Number 12

www.antiqueautomusersak.org

December 2, 2015

2016 Officers Elected at November Meeting

At the November meeting, we elected the officers for 2016. As often happens, the officers from the previous year volunteered to continue in their posts. This has worked well in recent years, and since there is not any

complaint or disagreement, we go with it.

So, Howard Hansen moved that the slate of corporate officers be accepted for 2016, that motion was seconded and approved by the members. President

Brian Anderson, Vice President Gwyn Wiedmer, Secretary Pam Tanora, Treasurer Donn Reese will continue for 2016. Voting was unanimous for the slate.

Three members volunteered as members-at-large, Scott Hulse, Howard Hansen, and Dennis Allen. Our Sergeant-at-Arms, Sara Stoops, wanted to take a break from her position and passed it on to Milt Tanora, and the membership approved.

These board positions will receive the full treatment of installation at our meeting in January.

The Adventures of a 1934 Ford

There is within us a follicle, a gene, a quirk of some sort that lies dormant for the most part. It can emerge when there is a trigger, and it is sometimes referred to as "car fever." Often it can be brought under control with simple reasoning, taking into account certain practical and financial considerations. Sometimes it cannot. Such was the case with me this fall. We were gone this summer for nigh on three months and returned to a formidable stack of unread car

magazines (I have 6 subscriptions, crazy!) Undoubtedly that was the trigger.

It started with a '41 Buick

(see p. 5, "1935 Ford")

Come to the Christmas Party!

The Christmas party is in gear and will be happening from 4-8 PM Saturday, December 12, at Day Break Center.

At the November meeting, co-chair, Diane Allen announced and firmed up plans for the food: she will bring fresh cranberry-orange relish, Fresh cooked cranberries and candied yams; Pam and Milt Tanora—turkey and gravy; Ted and Colleen—turkey and potatoes; Art and Tam Isham—ham, warming trays and table cloths; Mark Graber—mashed potatoes; Donn Reese—dressing; Mike Wiedmer—dressing; Dave Syren—rolls and butter.

Everyone else should bring a salad, dessert or side dish.

Donations: please bring canned food for the local shelters. We will also have a donation basket for Day Break as a gesture of appreciation for their having hosted us monthly throughout the year. Last year's

offering was over \$500.00, and we would like to top that this year for these wonderful folks.

If you want to volunteer, or if you have questions about the gifts or food, call Tam Isham, 688-3671 or Diane Allen, 345-6355.

See you there!

2016 Dues

It is time again to pay our dues. Incredible, isn't it how the years whisk by, but—yes—your treasurer will be sending his collector, Seth, to your door in the absence of payment. If that doesn't work, Donn claims to have a direct line to Santa and can put you on the "naughty" side of the list.

If you have paid, you are good. But to be on the safe side, get it done before December 24—at the very latest—so we can email Santa last minute in your behalf.

Of course, while you have the check book out, pay your national AACA dues, as well. It's all pretty painless . . . unless Seth has to come around . . .

No Meeting
for December
Join Us at
Day Break
for the
2015
Christmas
Party

Running Board Reflections



In 1988, our president was out galavanting around in the Turnagain Pass area with his canoe on top of his 1980 Jeep Wagoneer. He was obviously out for some adventure, but doesn't that Wagoneer look great? When you consider the condition of the roads in Alaska at that time, everything was looking pretty spick and span.

At the November business meeting, those in attendance confirmed the slate of candidates, all incumbents, for the 2016 AAMA officer positions. I think that one reason the current officers were willing to re-up for another year is the great support we've enjoyed from the membership, particularly all those folks who volunteer to lead activities or take on other club responsibilities. To round out the executive board, we also have three enthusiastic and experienced members-at-large: Howard Hansen, Scott Hulse, and Dennis Allen. I'm looking forward to working with the new board for another year, and invite you to contact any of us with your ideas on how to make our great club even better.

Looking back, it's been an amazing year. I wish that I had the means to calculate just how many days this year that AAMA member vehicles were either on the road or on display, but I know it was a lot of them. It all started with our car show to help kick off the Anchorage Centennial celebration last New Year's Eve, and it didn't slow down much from there. The centennial celebration kept us extra busy much of the summer participating in antique vehicle displays on the Park Strip and at Cyrano's Playhouse. Member's vehicles also provided key props for a

calendar project sponsored by the Palmer Senior Center. We gave rides to clients at a couple of adult day care centers, and provided a show and presentation at the Pioneers of Alaska luncheon. We participated in at least five organized parades including Fur Rondy, Independence Day, and Canada Day. Rain or shine, we endeavored to keep our Adopt-a-Road section clean. Our cars were on display at shows in Homer, Healy, Hope, Delta Junction, Anchorage, Eagle River, Whitehorse, Palmer, and other locations. Of course, our cars are always on display when they are out on the road, and the cumulative mileage really piled up this year. Few weeks went by when there wasn't some opportunity to cruise with fellow club members on drives around town or around the state. I hope you were able to take advantage of as many club activities as you wanted to this year and are as excited as I am at the prospects for another great year ahead.

Our holiday party on December 12 completes our activities for the year, and this one should be a dandy with great food and company, and a return to the always-lively gift exchange. Finally, now is the time to send in your annual dues, if you haven't done so already, and please don't forget to also renew your membership with our umbrella organization, the AACA.

Happy Holidays!

—Brian



www.antiqueautomusersak.org

2015 Officers

President: Brian Anderson 345-9244

Vice President: Gwyn Wiedmer
243-7005

Secretary: Pam Tanora 868-1575

Treasurer: Donn Reese 245-7203

Sergeant at Arms: Sara Stoops

Members at Large

Dennis Allen 345-6355

Tam Isham 688-3671

Kurt Rein 344-5554

Past Presidents (10 years)

Mike Wiedmer (2013-14)

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.

Secured Enclosed Storage

West Downtown Anchorage location
9'x18'x7-1/2' high space
\$125/month for single
2 spaces—\$225
Dave Syren,
440-2982



For sale: 1917 Model T delivery wagon/pickup; found in Seward, Alaska in early 1970's by Mike Spezialy; had been delivery for the Jesse Lee Home; rebuilt with 6-volt starting system in 2005 and has been run each summer since. Presently in good running condition. Contact Dom Spezialy, 344-2905.



Schedule of Events

- * December 12—4:00-8:00: Christmas Party at Day Break Center (Tam, 688-3671 or Diane, 345-6355))
- * January 14—7:00 Regular Meeting at Day Break: Installation of Officers (Christmas leftovers, Diane Allen and Tam Isham)
- * February 11—7:00 Regular Meeting at Day Break Center
- * February 28—Fur Rendezvous Parade (Kurt Rein, 335-5554)
- * February 28, March 1—Fur Rendezvous Show at Bob's services (Art Isham, 688-3671 and Donn Reese, 245-7203)
- * March 11—7:00 Regular Meeting at Day Break Center
- * April 8—Regular Meeting at Day Break Center
- * May 13—Regular Meeting at Day Break Center

Christmas Party

The AAMA Christmas party will take place at Day Break Center on Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 4-8 PM.

Gifts

You bring a gift—you get a gift. A couple of requests: (1) Please do not re-gift something you received at a past gift exchange, and (2) Try to keep the price of your gift under \$25.00.

Dinner

The dinner will be potluck. Bring a salad a dessert or a side dish. At the November meeting, volunteers received their assignments for mashed potatoes and gravy, turkey and ham. (See article)

Donations

Please bring canned food as a donation to one of the local shelters. We will have a basket for voluntary donations for Day Break. Last year, we collected over \$500.00, and we are hoping to do as well or better this year to offer in thanks for the use of their wonderful facility. If you want to volunteer, or if you have any questions about the gifts or food, or to volunteer, call Tam Isham, 688-3671 or Diane Allen, 345-6355.

New Member and More at November Meeting

We had a new member at our November meeting. Dom Spezialy, brother of the late Marco "Mike"

For Sale: Pair of '56 AK reproduction metal plates like new but slight scratches under mounting bolts. These plates do not have the more correct metal tag slots. \$125/pr incl shipping. Tim Godfrey / Portland OR. twgodfrey@hotmail.com or 971-279-5878

Spezialy, owns a 1917 Model T pickup that came from the Jesse Lee Home in Seward, where it was used for deliveries. Welcome to this new member.

Also, added after the meeting, Kurt Rein told us about some Packard events he attended in Switzerland and the United States this summer.

The Adventures of the 'Fearless A's'

Well, our Model A contingent has put the rest of us to shame, yet again. While the rest of us—largely as a matter of habit, and regardless of the warm weather—have tucked our precious antiques away, these guys have brazenly hit the road for continued fun. Jim Fredenhagen reports about the expanded adventures of the Fearless A's.

by Jim Fredenhagen

November 1st: Dave Burkhardt ('30 Model A sedan) and Jim Fredenhagen ('29 Model A sedan) left Northway Mall in Anchorage at 10 AM Sunday, 1 November to meet Lee Truesdell ('30 Model A sedan) and Dale Wright ('30 Chevrolet sedan) at the Valley Hotel in Palmer for lunch.



Three members of the "fearless A's," AAMA members, Dale and Ingrid Dryden (1931 Taxi) and Jim Fredenhagen (1929 Tudor) flank Dave Burkhardt (1930 Tudor) while on the latest foray into Alaska winter on November 30. They report that while conditions may be a little crisp at times, the overall experience is exhilarating.

Ted and Colleen Kimzey ('31 Model A sedan) were to meet us there later.

The drive was quite nice with dry

road and light traffic. Everyone got to test heaters in the 30-degree air.

The hotel restaurant was very accommodating and had a table for ten all set for us when we arrived at 11 am, and a nice leisurely lunch was topped off with coconut cream pie.

All in all, a fun lunch tour that we may do again over the winter months when conditions warrant. No hibernation for these A's.

November 30: There were three of us, Dave Burkhardt ('30 Tudor), Dale and Ingrid Dryden ('31 Taxi), and Jim Fredenhagen ('29 Tudor).

The drive was dry until Bird Creek where it got moist and misty. At 32 deg we slowed down for black ice, but it was just warm enough to be wet and not icy, thankfully.

Thought we'd have soup at the Bake Shop, but it was closed. So was Jack Sprats. We went to the Alyeska Prince Hotel and had a light lunch at the ski shop.

A leisurely drive back to Anchorage in light traffic made us glad we made the trip.

I expect we'll make several short A trips over the winter when conditions allow. No point in letting them rust, right?

So, there you have it: The zany adventures of the Fearless A's.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldron Go to Arizona

Couple Will Show 1939 Ford in Show There

Our treasurer, Donn, reports that Bill and Donna Waldron sent a note along with their membership that they will be showing their beautiful 1939 Ford convertible in Arizona as AAMA members. We should have a photo to show off some time in the future. It will be nice to be included in a show in Arizona.



No Downtown New Years Eve For Us

Last year, we had a blast at the Anchorage celebration of New Year's Eve. It was wet, cold, and pretty miserable, but we soldiered through and ended up adding another event to our list of unforgettable experiences.

This year, we are being given a reprieve. Someone else has taken our place—possibly because they found out how much fun we had. The following is the letter we received notifying us of the change.

Hello Brian,

Thank you for reaching out—I apologize for the delay getting back to

you; the events email address is only partially monitored, so this address is the one to use to get hold of me directly.

Kendall Audi is planning to have a car exhibit at this year's event, so to maximize their presence we will use only their display. We love having you at our events though, and will definitely reach out again once the Summer Solstice Festival comes up at the end of June!

Best,
Sofia Fouquet
Director of Events

Fan Letter From Fellow Comedian in Fairbanks

Mr. Golding,

I'm a seldom-seen member of your club from Fairbanks. I look forward to reading TT each month & always enjoy your articles & your sense of humor. I organize the long distance tours for the FBX club (VLNAACF) (we are in the process of

shortening our moniker, hopefully). We call our tours the "Adventure Before Dementia Tours." I laughed a lot while reading your treatment of the "upcoming" AAMA LD tour up the big mountain.

Keep 'em coming & my best to you,

—Scott Grundy, ABDT Cat Herder, Jr. (Junior because "Commissioner" Campbell has taught me everything I have chosen to forget.)

Chiottis Finance AACA Scholarship Fund

The following is an edited version of something published in the AACA website, Speedster.

AACA has announced a new scholarship, which joins four others it offers. This new grant is sponsored by AAMA members and California residents, Dave and Marilyn Chiotti, in honor of Dave's late mother, Louise (Bianchi) Chiotti.

Mrs. Chiotti was born on June 11, 1914 in San José, California. The family had a number of cars through the year, including a 1926 Dodge, a 1939 Studebaker, Dave's 1930 Ford Model A and 1959 Ford convertible, all of which became part of Dave and Marilyn's later collection.

They still own the Model "A," a Senior and First Place Grand National AACA Award Winner. The 1939 Studebaker, formerly owned by Dave's uncles, is now a Senior and First Place Grand National Award Winner. Dave converted the 1926 Dodge into a Woodie in 1976, and in 2000, they donated it to Luther Burbank Home & Gardens in Santa Rosa. After Dave and Marilyn's uncle's passing, they acquired his 1968 Cadillac El Dorado, which now lives in the AACA Museum in Hershey, PA.

This family's automotive heritage has prompted the Chiottis to proffer a \$1,500 scholarship through AACA, both a way to honor Louise Chiotti and to support youth in the antique car hobby.

1934 Ford has An Adventure to Alaska



Ted, Walt and Walt's Homer friend prepare to unload Walt's 1934 Ford Fordor from Ted's trailer in Homer after the trip from Anchorage.

(Continued from p. 1)

Sedanette in L. A. I had my brother take it for a drive; I wore the fellow down to a decent price: It was a beautiful car. During these negotiations, I had contacted my east coast cousin, an admitted car nut as well. He mentioned a dealer in Portland, Oregon, who had an interesting array of cars for sale on their website. There it was, a '34 Ford, 'Fordor' sedan, another of the models which I have held in high regard. After tossing and turning for a few nights, I backed out on the Buick. It wasn't "my car."

I was on call for jury duty for the month of October and elected to have the inspection done by an old pal in the Portland area. He subsequently drove and looked over the Ford for me and gave me a thumbs-up, no surprises report. So I made a deal.

I shopped around a bit and found an outfit to bring the car up by Alaska Car Transport. Unbeknownst to me, this operation with a local anchorage number operates out of NY! I was quite concerned that the car would sit outside at the dock in Tacoma as the soft top on the Fordor was old and

cracked at the edges. But it worked out fine, apparently enclosed all the while.

I caught a ride to Anchorage and had arranged with the Kimzeys to drive me to the port to pick up the car. The car was inside a moderately heated warehouse. It was pretty much as advertised: an old car, unmodified and complete. It started right up. I followed the Kimzeys to their house and we put the car in Ted's garage to assess it. It didn't seem like the brightest idea to drive the car to Homer. It had tire, electrical and brake issues and it was cold. I had made tentative arrangements to have the car hauled down the road the following week with our local Seldovia carrier. ("I'll give you a deal on Mondays, Walt.")

So, picture the three of us standing by the car in Ted's garage. Ted suggests that we could put it on his car trailer and take the car to Homer that afternoon. He went to the house, and Colleen mentions that "Ted's kinda antsy and needs something to do, you should take him up on it." So there it was. Colleen fixed lunch, Ted and I loaded up the car and off we went. Good weather and clean roads. We spent the night in Homer and unloaded the car the following morning. They had a good trip home, favorable weather holding for another day. A Homer friend and I attended to a carburetor problem and I made the ferry to Seldovia the following day.

Perfect! THANKS, TED & COLLEEN!!

Now I need to figure out a more permanent solution for workshop-storage for our model A as well. Car fever, beware!!

When Mom Drove

Humor by Rich Golding

I remember her driving Buicks. Mostly Buicks when I was small. They were a favorite of my Grandfather, and this infatuation seemed to rub off onto his daughter. I can remember being shuffled into the car, along with my sister, to go shopping. We would immediately fight for the front passenger seat. I was older, and faster, and smarter, so Debbie almost always lost and sat in the back. Good thing too, because she used to get carsick at the drop of a hat. I remember how the back seat of my Mother's Buicks always smelled of puke.

Mom did not like it when my sister and I fought over anything, especially who would get to sit next to her in the front seat. So one day she proclaimed loudly – as loudly as my soft-spoken mother could proclaim, that the front passenger seat was really “the death seat.”

“You know, don't you, that in an accident, the first passenger to be killed . . . sometimes the only passenger to get killed, is the one that sits there! They go sailing right out through the windshield. That's why it's called the death seat! –Are you sure you want to sit in the death seat?” she asked, staring at me with one eyebrow raised, like Mr. Spock.

Keep in mind that this was long before Uncle Sam required seat belts in passenger automobiles. We never really needed them anyway, because my mother possessed a special, maternal hair-trigger reflex in her right arm. Any time the car needed to make an abrupt stop, that arm shot out straight and rigidly to her right. Sort of an instinctual, autonomic motherly seat belt, sheltering her babies, no matter their age, from any harm and forward momentum.

I remember once reading that the amount of forward thrust a front seat passenger exerts when a collision occurs can equate to several hundred pounds of pressure. My mother's right arm could surely stop and hold back that or any other velocity force on this planet. I remember always feeling safe when driving alongside of her. May I add that this involuntary parental instinct must indeed be hereditary, for decades later, I did the

exact same for my kids – and they always wore their seat belts!

Then came the divorce, and the move from the suburbs back to the city, which mandated a more practical type of “Mom” car. We lived in an area on the north side of Chicago that had many car dealers. We must have visited them all, until Mom found just the car she wanted. Practical, economical and a massive storage area in the trunk. This was the first of a long line of Plymouth Valiants.

This was the car I learned to drive in. The car in which I started taking girls out. It was not a sexy vehicle. It didn't even have a racey V8, as Mom preferred the more economical slant six. But every one of those Valiants had an AM radio and an automatic transmission, and most importantly, a front bench seat – all essential equipment when it came to chauffeuring the ladies around and on the town.

My sister totaled the first of those Valiants one night while she and her boyfriend were on a date. As I recall the particulars of that story, the two of them were parked on a Chicago city street, necking. Debbie, apparently seized within the throws of passion, jammed her foot on the brake pedal, no doubt to brace herself. Some drunk driving down the street behind them apparently mistook the brake lights on the parked car to indicate that it was in the lane of traffic, and plowed into her. –Must have been a real wallop of a kiss!

Mom ended up getting another Valiant to replace the crushed love nest. It was red with a black faux-leather top. That was a lot closer to a chick-magnet type of car. It even had an AM-FM radio! But alas, that summer I had fallen in love with a blue VW van, which I absolutely had to possess, and seldom drove the Valiants again, unless of course it got really cold outside.

Funny, years later my love of VW's seemed to rub-off on my Mother, and when she moved to California, since my Grandfather was gone, she seemed to follow my lead and bought a Volkswagen Rabbit. Automatic transmission, AM-FM cassette radio, and air conditioning. Sunglasses were a mandatory

accoutrement, driving in and around the sunny San Fernando Valley. Linda and I were in Alaska by then. Debbie was married and living in Minneapolis. The Rabbit had no smell of puke in it's back seat, and it had been years since that rigid right arm needed to be deployed, as there were no children to shelter from harm.

Debbie divorced her husband years later, and moved to California to be near Mom in her waning years. She once confided in me, after Mom had passed, that whenever they went out shopping together, and Mom drove, she still threw that arm out whenever she had to make a quick stop. Debbie told me that she didn't even think Mom knew she was doing it, that it was just an instinctual reaction. Funny, as every once in a while I still catch myself doing the same, even though I haven't driven my kids around in over a decade.

My sister never had any kids of her own. These days she races around San Diego in her pink Mini-Cooper. She doesn't know what she's missed out on. No one to lecture to about sitting in the “death seat.” No one to shelter from harm with a rigid, extended right arm.

But, truth be told, her car does smell a bit of puke.

Merry
Christmas!



*Somewhere on the Negev Desert,
about 2,100 years ago.*

Antique Auto Musers of Alaska November 11, 1015 meeting

The meeting was called to order by the president Brian Anderson at 7:00. There were 24 members at tonight's meeting. The minutes were read and approved. The treasurer reported \$7791.00 in the checking account. The dues for 2016 are \$30 and people have been paying their dues.

There was discussion on the passing of Janice Reeve and her history in the area. David Jensen and Ira Perman are both running for an Anchorage Assembly position.

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

Officers for 2016. There were no nominations from the floor. Howard moved that the slate of corporate officers be accepted for 2016, that motion was seconded. President Brian Anderson, Vice President Gwyn Wiedmer, Secretary Pam Tanora, Treasurer Donn Reese. Voting was unanimous for the slate. Three members at large volunteered, Scott

Hulse, Howard Hansen, and Dennis Allen. Sgt. at Arms wanted to take a break from her position and passed the position to Milt Tanora which the group approved.

The Christmas party is set for Dec. 12 at DayBreak. Milt Tanora and the Kimseys will provide turkeys. Ishams are bringing a ham. Dressing will be provided by Donn and Mike, and Dave will bring the rolls and butter. We will plan on about 60 people. Dennis, Scott, and Kurt will help set up.

January refreshments are Diane and Dennis Allen and leftovers from the party brought by the Isham's.

Joint Meet: Led by Scott and assisted by Bruce, David and Howard, the committee is considering Valdez or Talkeetna. There is a need to get the Fairbanks folks to attend.

New Year's Eve celebration for the Downtown Partnership does not mention a car show. (Brian found out Nov. 12th that we are not being invited to participate this year)

Mike presented a thank you from MaryAnn Lisenbee for our participation in the Palmer Pioneers of Alaska men's luncheon. We were invited to the Hillside Rotary meeting at 7:00 am on November 19th.

Split the pot was \$42. And the winner of half that amount was Ralph Centoni. Sara collected \$.50 for lack of a name badge.

The members agreed to the Fur Rondy Parade and Car Show. Kurt will get the permit. Donn will check with Bill Brown about the car show.

Brian shared November birthdays and anniversaries. Jim Jacobson celebrated his birthday at the club meeting. Scott announced he will be retiring from Motorola at the end of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50. Tonight's refreshments were provided by Howard Hansen and Donn Reese, thank you for the treats.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Tanora, secretary

Added Distraction: Some Photos First-Hand From the Middle East



As Rich Golding was plying the 5,000-year-old streets of Jaffa during his recent trip to Israel, he captured this photo he calls a "bonus: '57 Chevy." At right are some interesting road signs in the Negev Desert.



Second sign: "Firing zone on both sides"

Here's the Test For the Day . . .



Does anyone have an idea what year and model Dodge this is? One guess so far is that it looks like a 1927 series 124 sedan or later. The photo was taken about 1929, and that is the editor's mom in the driver's seat and his uncle and aunt in the back. They had time to be out for a country drive, enjoying nature, long before internet or cell phones.

December

Birthdays

Howard Hansen—1st
 Brian Anderson—2nd
 Marilyn Chiotti—2nd
 Kay Graham—6th
 Linda Mattes Golding—7th
 Doris Holland—12th
 Hank Raymond—12th
 Dennis Allen—17th
 Art Isham—18th
 Colleen Kimzey—20th
 Barbara Tullis—20th
 Michael Campbell—21st
 Tom Cresap—21st
 Marl Campbell—28th
 Dom Spezialy—31st

Anniversaries

Marilyn & Dave Chiotti—2nd
 Doris & Barry Fowler—14th
 Barbara & Dick Henningsen—15th
 Tamia and Art Isham—18th
 Joanne & Dutch Overly—29th

AAMA
 P.O. Box 232086
 Anchorage AK 99523-2086

