



Many Christmas Revelers Unite For Fun

by Tamea Isham

Most everyone probably already checked the AAMA website, where

the party pictures by several members appear.

There was quite a crowd at the

celebration, as the photos show, and everyone had a smile on their face. Sixty-one people were making themselves at home anywhere that they could find an empty space.

The food was delicious and plentiful. No one left hungry, that's for sure. The gift exchange was as expected, slow, but very entertaining. Lots of fun and unique gifts were passed around to the delight of everyone.

Fresh snow on the ground helped create a happy Christmas mood. Thanks to all of you for making the evening a wonderful start to the Christmas Season.

Editor's note: We all want to give a special thank-you to Art and Tamea Isham for hosting this annual event again. I want to thank Tamea for writing this article.



Reese

Over 60 guests joined in the festivities at the beautifully-decorated home of Tamea and Art Isham. There was lots of food, and everyone was able to cozy up for a comfortable evening.

January Meeting

Our first meeting of 2020 will take place on January 8, at 6:30 PM in the multipurpose room of Turnagain Social Club in Anchorage.

MC's Tamea and Art Isham will do the honors installing the 2020 officers, after which we will welcome guest speaker, Geoff Herd, owner-operator of G&M Auto Detailing.

This month's meeting will concern upcoming events and other club commitments.

Refreshments: Christmas leftovers supplemented by Donn Reese.

Running Board Reflections

Here's to Layla

President David Jensen is seen walking Layla, his constant companion at almost all our activities. We all enjoyed this four-legged friend and member of our club. And we joined David in mourning her when she passed away this year.



I'm pleased to report that the club continues to thrive thanks to your support and the great work of board officers, committee chairs, volunteers, and especially the Tinkering Times publishing team of Tom and Marcy Cresap.

A new AAMA board takes office in January. We have several returning board members. Greg Carpenter is taking over duties as club secretary. He's filling big shoes thanks to outgoing secretary, Brian Anderson. Brian was a meticulous record-keeper for the club this past year and I thank him for all of his hard work and advice. Mark Graber is stepping in as an at-large member of the board. He's taking over for Gwyn Weidmer who has been so very helpful this past year. Thank you for your continuing service to our club, Gwyn and Brian.

And, thanks to longtime AAMA members Tamea and Art Isham. They'll continue with their roles as officiants with the installation of officers during the January 8 business meeting. They always find a way to blend laughter and ceremony.

2020 will bring plenty of activities and new adventures for our club. VP Scott Hulse will review our annual calendar of events during our January business meeting at Turnagain Social Club. We'll discuss

our traditional events and any proposals for new official club activities. General membership will finalize the calendar at our February meeting in accordance with our bylaws and Antique Automobile Club of America guidelines.

A continuing topic of discussion in the months to follow will be the August 2020 Jay Ofsthun Memorial Car Show. Our friends at Midnight Sun Street Rod Association have, for years, absorbed the costs of this longstanding community event. Continuing to sustain those costs alone has been a challenge. AAMA's Scott Hulse, Karen Avila-Lederhos and Dutch Overly are coordinating with MSSRA to develop options that might help sustain this centerpiece car show. It attracts 300-500 cars and participants on the Anchorage Park Strip each year. It was founded by both clubs in 1979. The board hopes to present an update within the next couple of months.

Finally, Donn Reese and Tamea Isham have been working on new AAMA name badges for members. It's the board's hope that everyone will have new, spiffy-looking badges for the upcoming Rondy Car Show at Bob's Services, February 29-30.

Happy new year.



2020 Officers

President: David Jensen
868-1680
Vice President: Scott Hulse
240-4028
Secretary: Greg Carpenter
333-1923
Treasurer: Milt Tanora 868-1575
Sergeant at Arms: Dutch Overly

Members at Large

Mark Graber 745-8570
Tamea Isham 688-3671
Donn Reese 748-0036

Past Presidents (10 years)

Gwyn Wiedmer (2017-18)
Brian Anderson (2015-16)
Mike Wiedmer (2013-14)
Howard Hansen (2012)
Donn Reese (2009-2011)
Jeff Hassler/Donn Reese (2008)

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-dj

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 In West Downtown Anchorage

9'x18'x 7-1/2' high space
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2 spaces-\$125/each
Dave Syren



Model A engine work: If this is the year to refresh your motor, keep Jim's Model A Motors in mind. I have the capability to insert the Model A or B main bearings locally using AER inserts. Cost is around \$700. Jim, 351-3115.

For Sale: 1949 Olds; straight six and automatic transmission; interior very good and original; outside needs work. Was running a few years ago; very reasonable price. Ron Strode, 907-315-1194, ron_strode@hotmail.com (3)

Schedule of Events

- * **January 8–6:30** Installation of officers and Meeting at Turnagain Social Club; Installation of Officers (Refreshments: Donn Reese) Guest speaker: Geoff Herd, G&M Detailing
- * **February 11–6:30** Meeting (Refreshments ?)
- * **February 29–Fur** Rendezvous Parade (Kurt Rein, 344-5554)
- * **February 29-30–Fur** Rendezvous (Art Isham, 688-3671 and Donn Reese, 748-0036)
- * **March 10–6:30** Meeting (Refreshments ?)
- * **April 8–6:30** Meeting (Refreshments ?)
- * **May 13–6:30** Rolling Meeting (Driveabout chairperson?)
- * **June 10– 6:30** Rolling Meeting (Driveabout chairperson?)
- * **July 6-12–Model A** trip to Fairbanks (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115)
- * **July 8– 6:30** Rolling Meeting (Driveabout chairperson?)
- * **July 16-19–Hope** Weekend (Dennis and Diane Allen, 345-6355)
- * **August 12– 6:30** Rolling Meeting (Driveabout chairperson?)
- * **September 9– 6:30** Rolling Meeting (Driveabout chairperson?)
- * **October 14– 6:30** Meeting (Refreshments ?)
- * **November 11– 6:30** Meeting (Refreshments ?)
- * **December 6–** Christmas party (TBA)



For Sale: Project 1956 Ford F-100; includes extra set + original pair of front fenders and running boards. Glass is good; floor in cab was replaced; some new parts - headliner, shocks, generator and hoses. A mercury engine installation begun; it starts. \$3600–Sandra Lane, rsnjlane@gmail.com (3)

Free: Four 600x16 bias-ply tires and tubes; good shape; free. Howard, 440-1002. (4)



For Sale: Three piece set of Multnomah/ Paul Bunyan Air Luggage, good condition, I think made in 1937; good for display with car; \$250 OBO; 229-1305 Bill Rediske bvrediske@yahoo.com (3)

Join us for the installation
of 2020 officers
Also, hear our guest-speaker
Geoff Herd,
owner of G and M Auto Detailing.

AAMA Adopts Newly-Designed Member Name tags

by Donn Reese

During recent club business meetings it was approved that we would go with a new design for member name tags. This new version will be 1½" high x 3" wide, it incorporates the updated club logo

2020 Trip to Fairbanks Confirmed

by Jim Fredenhagen

This is to confirm the dates for the biennial Fairbanks trip so that we will be able to make reservations well in advance.

The dates July 6th to 12th (Monday-Sunday) appear to be the least conflicting with other trips and shows.

I talked to the Wedgewood hotel. The Bear Lodge (where we usually stay) is not available, so they've given us their government rate in the Wedgewood suites, across from the Bear Lodge. It's \$154/night for single and \$194 for double suite.

I reserved 15 rooms under the AAAC720 group code. They have more if we need.

Please feel free to explore other places as you wish.

My idea this time is to have time in Fairbanks to explore the favorite places of the Vernon Nash Club as well as others we've not been able to do in years past.

In particular, these include: The UAF Museum, Ft. Knox gold mine tour, Steese Highway tour, Dalton Highway tour to Arctic Circle, Riverboat Discovery tour and Chatanika.

Please feel free to give me touring ideas.

Also, let me know when you book the Wedgewood so I can keep track.

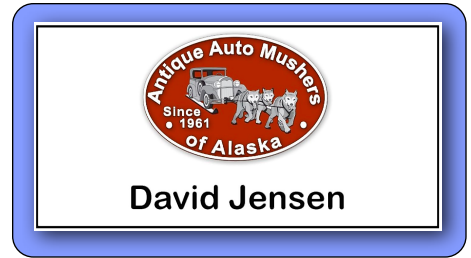
Thanks—Jim (907-351-3115)

adopted in 2011, and it will be preprinted with the member's name.

The new nametags are \$11 each, payable by members to the club treasurer. The default attachment type will be a rare earth magnet with the attaching plate on the inside of one's clothing. Other attachment types are available upon request.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the January business meeting to collect member names. In the week

following the meeting I'll provide additional means of contact to submit names for those not able to attend.



Example shown here on blue background for definition

Building the Alaska Highway: A rough recollection

Part 2:

(Continued from our December issue)

by Kenneth D. Jensen

My father had light brown hair. While on the highway he grew a full beard and mustache, which turned out to be red and black respectively. The hands in his camp nicknamed him "Jesus."

My maternal grandmother, who was self-educated and a marvelously opinionated student of the bible, had spent a good part of her life disapproving of Dad notwithstanding that his earnings had for years been the sole source of extended family income. I suppose her disapproval was appropriate, given the disapproval of the son of recent immigrants was obligatory to a pedigreed—though impoverished—Daughter of the American Republic.

Whether Dad's nickname was because his given name was Christian or for some other reason I do not know. I do remember vividly the relief in our house when my eccentric



but much-loved Grandma did not blow her cork about sacrilege. She looked at Dad's picture and profoundly announced that he, with his beard, looked a whole lot more like Saint Peter than Christ. The whole family was greatly relieved, caring not at all about the historical accuracy of the assessment. Actually, I think that is the only nice thing I ever heard Grandma say about Dad.

There were several ways in which time was passed by the crews building the road. One, at least around the Peace River Bridge where Dad was working, was to manufacture rings out

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Building the Alaska Highway

(Continued from p. 4)

of silver Canadian coins—quarters and fifty-cent pieces. The process was tedious but the result was a wonder.

The coin would first be drilled in the center with a hole just big enough to tightly hold a nail. Then, with a piece of steel below on a table or bench, the edge of the coin would be lightly tapped with a hammer as the coin was turned. In time, the edge flared and widened, leaving the legend of the coin on the inside. Finally, the center hole was enlarged to ring size with a rat-tail file creating a silver ring.

Of course, Dad and other workers made more things during the long and boring nights in camp. Knives were very popular. Truck springs were laboriously cut down by hand and filed to shape. Handles were made of anything from fibre washers to moose horns. One such handicraft - another product of boredom—caused considerable trouble for the craftsmen who made them when they returned home (presumably to a grateful government): footlockers fashioned from—God forbid—U.S. government plywood.

When Dad and the other Midwesterners returned, Minneapolis was again the mustering point. To the complete bewilderment of this bearded and scruffy bunch, they were met by a contingent of G-men intent upon apprehending the larcenous culprits who had imperiled the war effort by stealing that plywood.

Believe it or not my Dad, who was spared from this particular disgrace only by virtue of his inability to drive a nail straight, was deposed months later in the continuing investigation. For all I know the prison gates closed on the guilty.



Just imagine living in this camp at 50° below zero!

Thank God for the FBI.

I guess what I have written about sheds little light on the construction of the Alaska Highway. Dad spoke about wolves, circling the outhouse and resultant yellow glaciers that flowed off the back door of the barracks. He told of losing his brakes while hauling a crew down the hill to the Peace River Bridge (the crew in back screaming bloody murder until he came to a stop on the uphill grade.) He laughed about the long lines of thirsty hands cued up for the occasional whiskey allotment.

All I know for sure about that magnificent stretch of gravel, over which I have driven countless times since, is this: My Dad, Chris Jensen, left Evanston Illinois as a person pretty much like everybody else in our neighborhood. When he returned he was a man possessed. He was a man with a dream in which the familiar environs of Evanston, Illinois had no place.

In 1948 he, my mother and I realized the dream and ventured north to Alaska over that wonderful road.

But that's another story.



Art's player piano was a favorite at the Christmas party.

Auto Memories . . .



Brian Anderson's grandfather Anderson stands next to his 1960 Chevy Biscayne sedan somewhere in Illinois. You can almost hear the ladies in the background shouting "would you hurry up with the picnic basket already!"

January

BIRTHDAYS

Dutch Overly—2nd

Ralph Centoni—7th

Dave Syren—7th

Rebekah Harding—13rd

Bruce Campbell—23rd

Cheryl Martin—24th

Terry Young—24th

Donald Morfield—29th

ANNIVERSARIES

Pam & Milt Tanora—11th

Kathleen & Carl Godsoe—
26th

David Nolta & Donn
Reese—29th



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AAMA

