

April Meeting Cancelled

This is not an April Fools prank, although we wish it were. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has officially become a pandemic, and everyone is under orders to stay at home until told the danger is over.

According to statistics, those most vulnerable to fatality are seniors,

specifically those over 60 years of age. By and large, that's who many of us in AAMA are.

In addition to the age demographics of our club, we meet at the Turnagain Social Club in Anchorage, an adult day care center. Outside visitors, any one of whom

could be a carrier of the virus, are not allowed to enter senior care centers due to the chance of infecting the more vulnerable clients.

This is a particularly vicious bug, and we all want to do our part to stop it in its tracks.

We are waiting till the danger plays itself out and we can all go back to our routine lives, such as cruising in our cars, eating out, giving hugs, shaking hands and—in general—just being together with friends.

What To Do On My COVID-19 Vacation?



Face Masks

We are "sheltering in place," and by now, TV is probably getting a little more than annoying, so why not do something useful to help us through this crisis?

Long-time AAMA member, Barb Henningsen, has suggested a very useful activity she has been doing: Face masks. According to this morning's paper, first responders and medical personnel have a fairly good supply, but hospital patients and visitors, (as well as your friends and neighbors, other club members, and you) will need the protection.

We have included some instructions for those who know how

to sew and who may just have some extra fabric lying around.

Needed Supplies

- •2 pieces of 6" x 9" 100% cotton fabric of varying colors
- •1 piece of 6" x 9" cotton fabric lining or light weight interfacing for lining
- •2 pieces of 1/8" x 7" elastic OR Fabric Ties - Cut 4 strips of fabric 1-1/2" x 18"
 - Sewing machine
 - •Scissors or a trimmer
 - Pins or clips
 - •Pencil or Hera marker
 - Thread
 - •Iron

Alternate Sizes

Elastic straps: 1/8" x 6" (women), 1/8" x 7" (Men)

Kids size: Cut fabric 5" x 7" and elastic 5" long.

Tip: Use two different fabrics, one for the front and one for back of the mask so you can remember which side goes by your face. Keep in mind (See p. 4, "Mask Instructions")

April Meeting

Our regular April Meeting has been cancelled.

We are all hanging in there and not taking any chances with COVID-19.

Stay tuned. We will keep you notified, both by the Tinkering Times and by email. In the meantime, do what you can to avoid the bug (and we don't mean a Volkswagen.)

Since we have no meeting, David Jensen and Mike Wiedmer get a bye (they were scheduled for refreshments).

We want to offer a special thanks to Marcy Cresap and Donn Reese for last month's food.

Running Board Reflections



Siblings, David, Laura, Karen and Paul Jensen, peer out the rear window of a 1962 Ford Country Sedan Station Wagon in the spring of 1963.

A Sentimental journey.

As members of AAMA, antique cars aren't the only things we collect. We also hold onto fond memories of days gone by. This is especially true when the road is bumpier in the world around us. It's comforting to recall times when life had fewer potholes. This is true for most everyone.

Recently, I came across a photograph of my family's 1962 Country Sedan Station Wagon. Packed like sardines in the back window of the car were four Jensen kids. We were ready to burst out of that old Ford to find sturdy willow sticks to carve down. Soon, they'd hold hotdogs and marshmallows over a campfire. Wow, I wish I had that car today. It brings back so many stories.

Everyone has their own favorite memories of life growing up. In a way, that's a part of what our club is about. Our cars inspire childhood memories in others. They remind Alaskans of simpler times, or at least the perception of simpler times. They instill happiness, conversations and brief distractions from the weight of the same old day-to-day.

Which brings us to the 2020 Calendar of Events as organized by AAMA VP Scott Hulse. While planning your summer activities, Tinkering Times and the AAMA website will be more important than ever as we wonder which events are happening—who, what, when and where. I encourage all members to keep an eye on these tools, and your email, for updates which may come along at the last minute.

If all goes well, we'll be back behind the steering wheels in May with a Spring Clean Up and then a rolling meeting. I hope to see you all in another month, healthy and excited to kick off a new season of "Do you remember?" Perhaps we'll be able to close the chapter called Social Distancing by then.



2020 Officers

President: David Jensen 868-1680 Vice President: Scott Hulse 240-4028

Secretary: Greg Carpenter 891-4988

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)

Tinkering Times Staff

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

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Opinions expressed by authors of Tinkering Times—including references about how wonderful we are—are their own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Antique Auto Mushers of Alaska or any facsimile of reality, for that matter.

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 \$150/month for single 2 spaces-\$125/each Dave Syren



For Sale: Picnic trunk; from the days of the Model A; includes icebox and place for dinnerware and linens; \$150 OBO. Tom, 694-7510. (5)



Schedule of Events

- ★ April 8–6:30 Meeting CANCELLED
- * April 25-Model A Talkeetna Lunch Run (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115) TENTATIVE
- * May 2-Garcia's Lunch Run (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115) TENTATIVE
- * May 9-Adopt-A-Road (Marcy Cresap, 694-7510) TENTATIVE
- * May13–6:30 Rolling Meeting (Driveabout chairperson?) TENTATIVE

All remaining activities will depend on further confirmation

- * May 16–18–Homer Trip (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115)
- * June 10-6:30 Rolling Meeting (Driveabout chairperson?)
- * June 11–1:00–2;30, Serendipity Senior Rides (Diane Allen, 345-6355)
- * June 12- 4:00 PM-8:00 PM, Palmer Colony Days car show, Palmer main Street (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115)
- * June 18-Turnagain Social Club Senior Rides (Diane Allen, 345-6355)
- * June 20– 4 9pm, MSSRA Solstice Rumble Car show at Mirror Lake will be on Saturday (instead of the normal 21st) Bring something for the pot luck dinner.
- * June 21–Father's Day Car Show at the Zoo (Dennis and Diane Allen, 345-6355)
- * July 4-Parades: Anchorage (Kurt Rein, 344-5554) Chugiak, Allens, 345-6355) After-parade potluck (Cresaps, 694-7510)

For Sale: 1987 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz Coupe; 4.1 Liter V8; 108,000 miles; automatic transmission; original paint and leather interior. Excellent condition inside and out. New tires. Always garaged. \$7,000 OBO. Charles Worthy, chasw@gci.net, 907-354-1853 (6)

For Sale: The Cramer family in Kenai is selling a beautiful black rumble seat '31 Deluxe Coupe. It had a professional restoration around 2010 by the previous owner. Mostly stock but also has a Borg Warner overdrive, turn signals, 17" rims/tires in addition to the stock 19" wheels. It has an alternator, leakless water pump, hydraulic brakes, and luggage rack and trunk. Asking price is \$18K. For more info, Brandon Cramer thecosmocramer@yahoo.com, or 907-513-8998. (6)



For Sale: 4 Model A Show spark plugs; all four, \$80. Regular price is \$37 each (\$148 for 4). Ricky Byrd, 907-855-0725. (6)

(More on p.4)

Joint Meet with VLNAACF Indefinitely Postponed

The 2020 Joint meet with AAMA and VLNAACAF is being Indefinitely postponed.

The last best plan was to meet near Trapper Creek at the





For Sale: New Model A rear fenders. Both left and right fenders; selling these as a set only; \$550; regular price is \$300 each plus shipping. Ricky Byrd, 907-855-0725. (6)



For Sale: 1957 Ford Custom 300; 2-dr hardtop; 292 V-8, 3-speed Manual w/OD; \$23,500. Bill Brown, 441-9261 or b.brown@bobsservices.com

Looking For: A 59A or an 8BA 239 cu. inch early post-war Ford flat head engine complete. Running or rebuildable. Walt Sonen, 907-234-8792

Princess Wilderness Lodge the 15th of May. Thanks to Bill and Joyce Chace, we were offered a rate of \$119/night for that or the following weekend.

The normal rate is \$189 or more.

I held off announcing to see how the COVID-19 issue developed. With the cancellation of the early Summer Cruises to Alaska, the Alaska Wilderness lodge is not sure what date they will open now.

It makes no sense to continue trying to schedule this event until the Virus issue is resolved, so I am no longer working to schedule it. If it makes sense to try again later this year I will work with Bruce McIntosh, (our Fairbanks Joint Meet coordinator) to set it up.

-Scott Hulse

Mask Instructions

(Continued from p. 1)

men and women will be wearing the masks when choosing fabric for masks that will be donated. DON'T HAVE ELASTIC? Use ribbon or fabric ties 18" in length. For fabric ties: use a strip 1-1/2"x 18-20". Fold one short end 1/4" in, this will be your finished edge. Next fold the fabric strip long edges in so they meet in the center then fold in half lengthwise again. Sew down the open edge to secure and backstitch on the finished edge. Tip: Make sure not to sew over the loose end of the tie as you sew around the mask.

Directions

Step 1: Layer 1 sheet of cotton fabric right side up on top of your lining.

Step 2: If using elastic, take 1 elastic piece and pin it ½ inch from the top and ½ inch from the bottom of the right side of your fabric. Repeat this process on the left side. Tip! Be careful not to twist the elastic! For fabric ties, place the raw edge of fabric tie along raw edge of mask, and pin in place, 1/2" in on all four corners.

Step 3: Place your second piece

of fabric right side down on top of your straps. Re-pin so that all three layers of your fabric and straps are secured together.

Step 4: Sew around the perimeter of your mask using a ¼" seam. Leave a 2.5 inch wide hole on the right side of your mask. (So you can turn it out later.) Back stitch at your stops and starts & double stitch where the elastic bands are because they will have some tension. Tip: Make sure not to sew through the strap of elastic!

Step 5: Trim the corners then turn out your mask right side out. Tip: Use a hera marker to turn out the corners of your mask. A pencil will do the job too!

Step 6: Use an iron to press your mask so the edges are crisp.

Step 7: Then fold your mask accordion style so there are 2 pleats on each side. Clip the pleats on both sides. Your mask should be about 3" in height. Press again with your iron.

Step 8: Sew 1/8" top stitch around the entire outside edge to finish.

Congratulations! You're finished with your mask!

He Was BUZZ Until He BUZZN'T

Buzz Wallace passed away last February 14. At one time, he lived in Homer, and Walt and Sachiko Sonnen were nearby (across Kachemak Bay, in Seldovia.) Walt recently offered these memories of his friend.

by Walt Sonen

Buzz Wallace. I knew him only by that handle for years. My first encounter with the fellow was coming out of Radio Shack in Homer 10 years ago. (I'd just scored a "buzzer" for my blinker set-up). Buzz was head and shoulders under my "A", parked out front, no small He was inspecting my thing. mechanical brake system. chatted for a while. It wasn't too much later that I ran into him again and he suggested that I ride up to anchorage for an AAMA monthly meeting. There was discussion of a trip to Prudhoe Bay. I had been tinkering with my little pick-up for years and Sachiko and I had recently sold our fishing boat, wow! summer road trip. I joined the club.

He sold his place in Homer a few years ago and became kinda scarce. He would write or email occasionally. He caught us off guard with a surprise visit to Seldovia a year and a half ago. But more recently I had written, emailed, called, a Christmas card. Zero. I learned of his death in the recent TT news. So Buzz has been in my thoughts.

Buzz knew lotsa folks from different walks of life, but mainly working folks. drove trucks He and taught equipment, auto mechanics, ran boats and fished, was a main man at the general store at the end of Homer Spit for years until it burned. A young gal, who is now our harbormaster, had a house next to his in Homer. I once mentioned Buzz to her and she laughed. Buzz was into airplanes. He flew, but he was old school. He had his airplane at his house and would test/tune the engine by

tying the plane to a tree and let 'er

Shortly after he had acquired a '30 Model A coupe, he invited me to accompany him from Homer to Soldotna in his new ride. A shake down cruise. We went to Barb

Dilly's annual picnic, affair attended largely Anchorage Kenai and area Model addicts. A We stopped every at creek to top off the radiator and finally figured that 30 was the top rational speed. When



Buzz. Wallace

we ran out of creeks, we shrugged and dumped in his assigned contribution, a gallon of sweetened tea for the final leg. We were only 45 minutes late.

Whenever we stopped thru Homer, he insisted we stay with him at his little self-constructed house. He never sent us off without corn flakes and a banana for fuel. We got to know him better as time went on, what a solid guy. He found a "B" engine for his car and made several of the summer long distance trips with the club. But eventually he trailered his "A" to Michigan, then Florida, and we never saw it again (nor the Harley that he kept there).

I never knew him to fly on his annual trips outside. He thought nothing of getting in his car or pickup and driving straight thru. He was a real trucker. We miss him.



Friends: Walt and Sachiko Sonnen and Buzz Wallace

From The Editor's Desk

Most of us know Rick Larrick, member of the VLNAAC, our sister club in Fairbanks. Rick is the editor of Nash's News, and his latest editorial was particularly thought provoking.

As many of us do, Rick digests a pretty healthy menu of national publications having to do with the oldcar hobby. He takes off in his commentary by lamenting the demise of the Auto Restorer, which suddenly pulled the plug recently. "It was my kind of magazine-it told me how to do 'stuff.' There aren't any more car magazines like that," he writes, and more to the point, he goes on, "It is like those who write about our hobby think it has gentrified to be more like stamp collecting, or museum collecting of 'fine art.' One of the worst is our own national AACA publication, Antique Automobile-it often reads like a Christie's art catalog or Sotheby's auction flyer, rather than having stories about how I can restore my cars myself."

I have to agree with Rick, even though I do see the AACA and the Antique Automobile as representations that belong to a different level of the car hobby—car collecting rather than nuts and bolts car restoration. By using that approach, AACA leaves me behind in the dust and grime working on my cars.

It's not that AACA members do not sometimes do their own work, it's just that the interest is geared more to winning the First Junior or Senior Award. It is a passion driven by collecting and ownership-somewhat similar to stamp collecting and fine art ownership. And it has its place in the hobby, it's just not my cup of tea. Where else than in the AACA would you expect to find an aficionado who would go through the hoops to find and preserve-referring to the latest issue of *Automobile*–a Antique Cadillac or a 1909 Rambler? The same issue contains an almost incredible odyssey of a 1958 Corvette that was shared by two brothers and eventually meticulously restored. In September-October issue, we find the story of 1964-1/2 Mustang, a onefamily trip that ended in the capable hands of an owner who brought it back to concourse quality. It is a different level of passion.

Once you recognize that different—and very esoteric—level of automotive appreciation and cut through the many levels of bureaucratic pastry of AACA, you can find some very charming, and heart-warming stories of other people who have worked a labor of love to achieve an admirable end product: the car of their dreams.

Yes, as Rick says, we have been left behind, but not really abandoned. We still have magazines and organizations that cater to the hands-on approach. The Model A Restorer, Model T Times, Vintage Ford all have how-to articles, and they are more down-to-earth. My favorite is *Generator and Distributor*, the Vintage Chevrolet Club rag.

I want to thank Rick for his insightful article. It made many of my own thoughts surface, and it made me think of our own club, our passion and our mission. I have published how-to articles in the past, and I hope that maybe I can come up with some others. I doesn't hurt to be on the search for improvement.

-Tom

AAMA Business Meeting March 11, 2020

Location: Turnagain Social Club, 3201 Turnagain Street, Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by President David Jensen

There were 27 members present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2020 business meeting as published in the Tinkering Times. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Milt Tanora provided the financial report. He reported that the club made \$56.00 in popcorn sales from the For Rondy car show.

Old Business

**Karen Avila-Lederhos will help co- chair the Show and Shine car show the first weekend of August.

**Kurt Rein was not present but forwarded a message thanking everyone for participation in the Fur Rondy parade.

**Tam Isham filled in for Jim Fredenhagen and gave a brief update on the Model A's trip to Fairbanks this summer.

**Donn Reese reminded anybody that needed a new club name tag to see him.

New Business

April business meeting is cancelled.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

Birthdays and anniversaries for the month of March were read by President Jensen.

Club Video

Tom Cresap showed a video of the club's trip to Prudhoe Bay in August 2012. The movie was produced by Donn Reese.

Split the Pot

Split the pot winner Howard Hansen

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm

Refreshments

After meeting food was provided by Donn Reese and Tom and Marcy Cresap.

Respectfully submitted Greg Carpenter, Secretary

Christóbal Colón Slept Here

Humor by Rich Golding

While on a trip to Europe with my wife early last year, I was struck with a rather novel idea.

"Instead of hopping from place to place," I asked of my ever-loving," Why don't we elect to stay in one city for an extended period of time? We could rent an apartment in a nice neighborhood, and live like locals."

The notion seemed to strike a chord with Linda, and we went about making our vacation plans for the next fall. After much consideration of areas we have already been to, and truly enjoyed, such as Italy, or Portugal, a decision was finally made to set-up camp in Seville, Spain.

Mind you, we have been to Spain together, several times. We love the food and wine and culture there. And although we have seen much of the country, we have never been to Seville.

(See p. 7, "Christóbal Colón . . .")

Christóbal Colón Slept Here

(Continued from p. 6)

People who have been to Sevilla (as it is known by the locals), *love* Sevilla. Who are we to argue with these people?

Plans were made. Airline reservations, rental car, and short term apartment letting arrangements were all made.

Our apartment in Sevilla was located in the Triana neighborhood, across the river and within easy and pleasant walking distance from the old city. Triana is magical. It has it's own particular Spanish flavor and culture. An ancient neighborhood full of history and architecture, that counts among past inhabitants, it's favorite son, Christopher Columbus. Ferdinand Magellan, although Portuguese, had his Spanish expedition that led to the first circumnavigation of the earth, consecrated at the Iglesia de Santa Ana, built in 1276, just down the street from our apartment. Triana is also the birthplace of flamenco, and host to many wonderful local tapas bars and tabernas. And, best of all, there are very, very few tourists.

For an entire month we would eat, drink and make merry, every chance we had. Visiting and lingering over the spectacular sights, of which there are many, only leaving our home base to occasionally take day trips to the nearby hill towns and cities.

One afternoon, whilst visiting Sevilla's vast and impressive Plaza de España, replete with it's wall-to-wall American tourists, I ran across a family taking pictures of themselves. I nudged my wife with my elbow and whispered to her, "watch this."

Before Linda could respond I had already walked up to a nice young couple, toting along their three kids. Via pantomime gesture, I offered to take their picture with their camera, thus allowing the whole family the opportunity to treasure this "Kodak moment" forever. Mother happily surrendered her camera, pointing out the shutter button to me, and they all gathered together into a group pose.

After I was all done snapping, I handed the camera back to Mom, and she thanked me. I turned, winked at my wife, then turned back towards the lady, and in my best Andy Kaufman non-specific Eastern European accent (remember his character, Latke on the sitcom Taxi?) I

broke my silence and inquired of her aloud: "Ahmericaan? Are you Ahmericaan?"

"Why yes, we are!" she responded gratefully, smiling.

"I love Ahmericaan!" I continued squeaking, "I want go Ahmericaan. I want live Ahmericaan someday!"

"That's nice, I'm sure you would like it there," she replied, her voice sounding a bit uncomfortable.

"You love Ahmericaan? What like, living in Ahmericaan?" I queried louder, sporting an earnest grin across my face.

"It's a nice place," her husband interjected, stepping between his wife and myself. "And where are you from?"

Dropping the Latke voice, I responded in my best Illinois born and raised midwestern timbre, "Actually, I'm originally from Chicago, but my wife and I have lived in Anchorage, Alaska for the past 45 years," I motioned over my shoulder towards Linda, who, red-faced, was now trying to find a large Spanish rock to crawl behind.

This has always been one of my favorite travel related amusements. Long, protracted trips abroad can often become dull and boring. Breaking up the monotony with such diversions can shake up foreign trips, often injecting a droll, much needed levity.

Occasionally, some of you have asked me why I often travel internationally alone, without Linda. Now you know.

After a week in Sevilla, we decided to hop into our rental car and travel some 200 kilometers south through the rolling Spanish countryside on a day trip to the southernmost tip of Europe, and into the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar. The way I figured, after paying Prudential Insurance Company monthly premiums for decades, we should avail ourselves this opportunity to visit their headquarters.

Crossing from Spain into Gibraltar can lodge in one's Gulliver as quite a culture shock, as you instantly vacate all things Spanish, and enter a community that is quintessentially UK. The language, the food, the money and the people are all very, very British.

Linda and I picked a nice pub and enjoyed a lunch of London style fish and chips, washed down with a couple of pints of Strongbow, then headed towards the Rock. You hop on a \$36.00 cable car aerial tramway that in six minutes takes you clear to the top, where you can enjoy spectacular views in all directions – Spain, the Mediterranean, and especially the African continent, which lies some 14

kilometers south, across the straits.

Alighting at the top, you no sooner exit the tram than you are greeted by the indigenous inhabitants of the Rock of Gibraltar – their wild, sharp toothed, rabies infested Barbary macaques. These monkeys also speak with a pronounced British accent, but have better teeth than their human neighbors.

Even though there are posters and signs everywhere warning you of these thieving buggers, and how NOT to feed them, or how NOT to bring any food in your purse or backpack, we were not one minute nor three feet off the tram platform before they came swooping down on a group of young ladies in front of us, ripping their bags off their arms, like a group of stiletto wielding juvenile delinquents snatching purses and making off with them into a quite corner, where they ripped them apart, voraciously devouring anything they contained that looked conceivably edible. All their sunglassed, baseball-capped, flip-flopped, Bermuda-shorted American victims could do was to look on aghast, as the slightest provoking of these furry thieves resulted in their snarling and screaming and a very effective presentation of their long, sharp white teeth.

Those of us who know how to read and heed the advice of the posted warning signs, enjoyed the aforementioned views of two continents, laughing and pointing, soaking in the sunshine and taking pictures.

An older American couple off to our side, obviously still shaken up, having just lost their backpack and purse to the neighborhood guerrilla gang, were attempting to recover their composure and make the most of their situation, taking each other's picture with the rock in the foreground.

"Oh my, I feel so sorry for those people, don't you?" Linda whispered to me.

Their ordeal was definitely a downer. Being mugged by toughs in a marauding gang of sniveling, smelly, stinking, sarcastic, skanky simians thousands of miles away from home can ruin your whole day. I felt their pain. If only there was something a caring fellow American could do to offer comfort and ease their suffering, I thought.

Then it came to me.

"Watch this," I said, nudging my wife, as I approached the elderly pair, waiving my hands, and motioning that I would be happy to use their phone to take their picture.

"Ahmericaan? Are you Ahmericaans?" €



Mitt Romney received a lot of (negative) attention for transporting the family dog on top of his car in 1983, but Brian Anderson's relatives solved the dog hauling problem long before that! Here's are his grandfather and uncle sitting in their 1929 Model A, with "Skipper" riding on the running boards during an outing at the Indiana Dunes National Seashore. Appears that the dog's leash was held within the car, demonstrating utmost concern for safety.

April

April BIRTHDAYS
Brian Leinon –4th
Marcy Cresap–7th
Kathy Centoni–12th
Diane Allen–14th
Leonard Kelley–14th
Mike Stoddard–16th
Kaye Cruse–20th
Joanne Overly –20th
Nathan Dennis –22nd
Curly Packer–29th
ANIVERSARIES
Carolyn & Jack Rathert–3rd
Valerie & Donny Bell–26th



