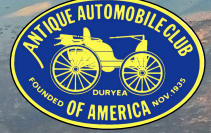


Antique Auto Musers of Alaska



Tinkering Times



Volume 61, Number 3

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March 3, 2021

2021 Rondy Parade Becomes Pop-Up

It all began when our traditional annual Fur Rendezvous events, the parade and car show, were cancelled for the first time in the long history of that venerable event. Quick thinking on the part of president David Jensen and some scrambling on the part of Mike Wiedmer to formulate a route gave us a workable plan of action.

Saturday morning, February 27th, four vehicles and their intrepid occupants met in front of the Anchorage Pioneer's Home on 11th Avenue in Anchorage. We spent a little time visiting and taking photos, being careful to be properly masked even though we had all received our vaccinations.

At a little after 11:00, we started our engines and headed out, first to pass by the windows of the Senior Home's cafeteria windows, then off into Mike's meticulously-planned itinerary.

The previous night's light snowfall coated the streets, but was not a problem for the antique cars, even though none of us had snow tires. The E Street hill, both down and up, presented the most insecure moments, but we all negotiated it quite well.

Even though we lacked the throngs of people we would normally have for a parade, we managed to get some broad smiles and waves from folks along the way at the footrace, the snow sculptures, the hockey tournament, the snowshoe soft ball game and the outhouse race.



Pop-Up parade participants included David and Carol Jensen in their 1957 Thunderbird, Tom and Marcy Cresap in their 1925 Model T, Art and Tamea Isham in their 1968 Volvo and Mike and Gwyn Wiedmer in their 1952 Chevrolet truck.

After a pretty full day, we gathered for dinner at the City Diner, a luxury none of us have had for almost a year. We drove home on sloppy

streets in above-freezing temperatures.

Thanks to David Jensen and Mike Wiedmer for making this 2021 Rondy Pop-Up Parade possible.

March 10, 2021 Antique Auto Musers of Alaska General Membership Meeting

5:30-6:30--Test your connection. David Jensen will be signed in to help you before the meeting.

6 PM--Social time

6:30 PM--Meeting begins

You can use your Smartphone, Device or Computer.

This information will be resent to your email a few days before the meeting.

Click the following link to join the meeting directly. Moderator will let you into the room when you pop up.

<https://zoom.us/j/93717096861?pwd=T21BeG50REVXU3o0d3NKN3hTQmkzZz09>

Or:

<https://zoom.us>

Meeting ID: 937 1709 6861

Meeting Password: 693456

Running Board Reflections



President Jensen and his sidekick, Sandi, do some posing in the snow during a recent photo shoot in Kenai.

As noted in your edition of Tinkering Times, a handful of auto musers toured the city this past Saturday as a tip of the hat to Rondy. It brought back plenty of memories and reminiscing for everyone as we drove by several perennial events. Mike Wiedmer drafted a perfect route to the delight of pedestrians and other drivers. A few onlookers probably wondered who would take “a nice car like that” out on the roads in the middle of the winter. Yet, they smiled ear to ear. And, all cars and humans made it back to their homes safe and sound.

After the drive about, we met up at City Diner for lunch. It was the first time some of us have been face-to-face, “in-person,” for a while. Hopefully this is a sign of better times to come as COVID vaccines are becoming more available and our community slowly opens back up.

This brings me to once again

encouraging you to join our ZOOM meetings. The next one happens Wednesday, March 10. While the membership meeting begins officially at 6:30 PM, you can sign in at 6 PM to enjoy some social time with other club members. Past meetings have included members from California, Oregon, Fairbanks, Eureka and more. We seem to be getting really good at adapting to this kind of communication.

Final note is about membership. If you haven’t already, please renew your membership to AAMA and AACA. Contact club treasurer Scott Hulse and he’ll help get you there. Membership keeps you in the loop with future events and helps maintain a strong club overall.

Spring and summer tours are just a few weeks away. Stay healthy! We hope to see you again soon.

–David



2021 Officers

President: David Jensen
868-1680

Vice President: Linda Golding
351-3251

Secretary: Greg Carpenter
Treasurer: Scott Hulse
240-4028

Members at Large

Brian Anderson-748-1698

Al Combs-242-6491

Tamea Isham-688-3671

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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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 Musters 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: 1990 Olds Toronado-free to first club member who tows it out of Sutton warehouse by 6/15. Len Kelley
5299395--len8185@aol.com (5)



For Sale: A genuine, 105-year-old 1916 Model T; restored by Bert Harrison of Salem Washington; located in Knik off KGB road; transition year between the old exposed brass radiators and the black sheet metal covered radiators; old auto shop teacher feels like it is time to sell. Asking \$16,000. Jim Uhl
uhldwm@mtaonline.net (6)

For Sale: NOS fender for 1939-40 Pontiac; left rear. John Fisher, 250-1643. (6)

Wants to buy: I am looking to buy a 1957 Chevy Bel Air for my husband 60th birthday. Do you know of anything for sale in Alaska, or where I could look? Genny R. Miller, daytime: 312-0215, evenings: 756-3980. (6)

Schedule of Events

- * March 10–Zoom Meeting
- * April 14–Meeting
- * May 12–Meeting
- * May 22-24–Homer Shake-Down (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115)
- * June 9–Meeting
- * June 17–Serendipity & Turnagain Soc. Club drive-byes (Dennis Allen, 345-6355)
- * June 20–Father’s Day car show at Zoo (Dennis Allen, 345-6355)
- * July 14–Meeting
- * July 16-18–(Tentative) Hope Wagon Trail Weekend (Dennis Allen, 345-6355)
- * July 19-24–Fairbanks Trip (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115)
- * August 11–Meeting
- * September 8–Meeting
- * October 13–Meeting
- * November 10–Meeting

From the Editor’s Desk

Taken from the obituary for Jay Klehfoth in Vintage Ford, MTFCA’s magazine: Jay said, “. . . you are only the current keeper of your Model T. It is yours for now, but the reason you love it and take care of it is so it can be passed on to another family or caretaker who will enjoy and love it like you did.”

From “Off the Running Board,” the president’s message in the January, 2021 issue of *Model T Times*, Morris Dillow, MTFCA president quotes Thomas Fitzgerald (Horseless Carriage Club of America): “Points to ponder. You pay for it, you service it, you pay for updates so you can tour it . . . but you NEVER own it, you only have possession of it for a while. It is your duty, your responsibility, to make sure it survives for the next caretaker. The car belongs to history: enjoy it, but make sure you do your part for the next generation!”

Something we could add to these words of wisdom about our old cars: As caretakers of these rolling pieces

of history, we need to share them by showing them to everyone.

In this issue, we feature our 2021 Rondy pop-up parade that took place in spite of cancelation of traditional events. It was a great opportunity to get out and spread the joy by plying the snowy streets all over Anchorage.

Thanks to our president, David Jensen, who encouraged us to get out of the house and enjoy the snow, and to Mike Wiedmer, who did the bulk of planning on the itinerary. –Tom

1938 COST OF LIVING	
<u>LIVING</u>	
New House	\$3,900.00
Average Income	\$1,731.00 per year
New Car	\$860.00
Average Rent	\$27.00 per month
Tuition to Harvard University	\$420.00 per year
Movie Ticket	25¢ each
Gasoline	10¢ per gallon
United States Postage Stamp	3¢ each
<u>FOOD</u>	
Granulated Sugar	59¢ for 10 pounds
Vitamin D Milk	50¢ per gallon
Ground Coffee	39¢ per pound
Bacon	32¢ per pound
Eggs	18¢ per dozen

AAMA Business Meeting February 10, 2021 Location: Zoom meeting from the comfort of your home

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President David Jensen.

There were 29 members present who logged into the Zoom meeting.

Special guests and remote members that Zoomed in were Dave and Marilyn Chioti (members) from Santa Rosa California and Myron Smith from Lincoln Nebraska. Myron is the Vice president of development support with AACA.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Hulse provided the financial report.

Minutes

Minutes of the January meeting were approved as published in the *Tinkering Times*.

New Business

****Scott Hulse provided an update on membership and dues.** Currently 56 club members have paid and 26 have not renewed their memberships.

****Kurt Rein informed everyone** that there would be no Fur Rondy parade this year, but possibly a club gathering to cruise downtown and around the park strip. Date and time still to be determined.

****Jim Fredenhagen talked about two planned trips this summer.** A five-day trip to Fairbanks July 19 to July 24 would essentially be the trip that was planned for last summer but was cancelled. Accommodations are at the Bear Lodge and 15 rooms are currently held for the trip. Call the lodge directly and mention AAMA for the special room rate.

****Jim Fredenhagen also reported** that the second planned trip is to Homer May 22 to May 24. The event will include a car show at the Wells Fargo parking lot. Accommodations are at the Ocean Shores motel. Call the motel directly to book a room and mention AAMA.

****Donn Reese talked about car related items** from club member Stan



Williams who passed away a few years ago. The Mueller's, who purchased his house, are trying to clean out their garage. Items include boxes of car related books and magazines along with Ford Thunderbird parts.

****March 7th, 2021** is the spring board meeting.

****The club now has a YouTube channel** that has the videos by Tom

Cresap and Mike Wiedmer, along with the January membership Zoom meeting.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

President David Jensen announced birthdays and anniversaries for the month.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Greg Carpenter, Secretary



Above: Mike's 2-ton Chevy Below: Masked marauders: Tom and Marcy Cresap, Sara Stoops, Gwyn and Mike Wiedmer, Tamea and Art Isham and Carol Jensen. David was behind the camera.

My Favorite Job

Humor by Rich Golding

I was back home this past week, in Zion National Park. Although my wife and I worked and lived in the park for just one summer 42 years ago, it has always held a special place in my heart. I try to return every few years. It feels like going home, again.

In 1979 we were residing in an old Dodge van that I had built into a sort of makeshift camper. We lived in it for two and a half years, crisscrossing the United States and Canada, searching for a place we wanted to put down roots, raise a family, and spend the rest of our lives. Within a year of our nuptials, we had Beelzebub (the Dodge van) all ready. Linda had finished her degree at the University of Illinois, while I worked driving my taxicab up and down the mean streets of Chi-town. We scrimped and saved every penny we could, until our war chest seemed sufficient enough to finance our great and glorious odyssey.

But a year and a half later, that aforementioned war chest was getting thin. While in Las Vegas, looking for gainful employment, we were recruited (more like Shanghai'd) to work in Zion National Park, some 4 hours away. We departed Sin City, and hit the road towards southwestern Utah, to claim our position as housekeepers; cleaning the guest cabins behind the grand old national park lodge, deep in the bosom of Zion canyon.

If you've never been to Zion, dear reader, let me enlighten you. It is a magical place, quite unlike any of our country's other national parks. Words like "stunning" and "magnificent" fall short, not really doing it justice. Zion is more a state of mind and being.

Linda and I made a pretty good team when it came to maid's duties. The park's head housekeeper, Clara, a middle aged, god-fearing Mormon

woman, taught us well. How to correctly clean a toilet (leaving a "sanitized for your protection" band over the seat). How to fold towels and vacuum rugs and clean windows. How to properly strip and make a bed. Military corners.

The park had a tour tram that gave three or four canyon tours a day, starting and ending at the front entrance of the lodge. A red jeep pulling four canopied cars of gawking old people. Just off the bus tourists. The driver spoke into a goose neck microphone affixed to the dash board, narrating and explaining the natural landmarks and history that they passed by at 25 miles an hour. The trip covered the entire eleven miles of the canyon.

Shortly after our housekeeping stint had begun, word reached me through the grapevine that Rudy, the park tour guide and tram driver of many years was about to retire. A local boy, he had lived and worked in the area all his life. He knew the canyon, it's sites and history, like the back of his hand.

Easy work, I reckoned. You got to spend your days driving in an open top jeep, taking in the clean air and sunshine. Basically just pointing and talking. No question about it, I knew that job was for me! So after a day's housekeeping shift, I lay down my toilet brush and approached the hotel manager, Mr. Brown. I explained to him that he need not search for any replacement, as I was just what he needed.

Mr. Brown was retired military. An army drill sergeant from WWII. Straight as an arrow, he called them like he saw them. A 'take no prisoners' type of fellow. He ran his hotel as if he were still in his Uncle Sam's uniform. Every evening in the

(See p. 6, "My Favorite Job")

Email From Val

Hi Marcie,

We flew to AZ, had Thanksgiving with daughter & family in their new home. We had left our car there last spring & flew home when they closed our airport down because of Covid. November 27th we drove to Weslaco, TX. We are 40 miles West of Brownsville, in between McAllen & Harlingen in the Rio Grande Valley. Usually a wonderful place to winter. Coldest weather they've experienced in 100 years last week.

We didn't have any damage to our home, but lemon & grapefruit trees froze all new growth, and flowers died. The orchards were hard hit, and citrus prices will soar. The wind was so strong they couldn't use the water/ice method to protect from freezing.

We're hoping for a stretch of nice weather before returning home April 7th. Take care & stay safe,

–Val Bell

P.S.: Got a chance to watch videos. What a remarkable production by you both & Mike as professor. Enjoyed the club history & seeing some people that I'd only heard of. What a great contribution you made. Thanks so much for all your efforts.

Notice

For anyone who wants to attend, the Board will hold one of its two annual meetings on Sunday, March 7, 2021 via ZOOM. President David will forward the link if you request it from him.

Notice

Homer Trip–Mistake on Ocean Shores contact

Please use 907-235-7776 to make reservations, and mention you are a member of AAMA for discount.

–Cheers,
Jim

My Favorite Job

(Continued from p.5)

break room he would show hotel employees black and white army training films from the forties. I remember learning all about trench foot and VD, and how to prevent them.

“Remind me please, where exactly are you from?” he barked.

“Chicago.”

“I see, I see. And tell me please, how long have you lived in Utah?”

“Uh, a couple of weeks now.”

“And you of course know everything there is to know about Zion canyon, correct? You know

every mountain’s name? The name of every tree and plant species? Mormon settlers history? –Not to mention public speaking, and the like, eh?”

I gulped quietly, when my eye caught sight of a volume on his office bookshelf. It was a coffee-table style book full of pictures and the history of Zion National Park.

“Lend me that book for a couple of days Sarge, and I’ll know everything you’ll need me to know, and more.”

“Kid, I admire your moxie. You’ve definitely got the gift of gab, I’ll give you that! Okay, here’s the book. I’ll give you a chance. We’ll

call it a ‘probationary period.’ You’ll get one week driving and conducting the tours. If you’re not half as good as the guy you’re supposed to replace, then it’s back to scrubbing hair out of tubs, *capeesh?*”

I memorized the entire book, cover to cover. I stowed away as a passenger with all the old people in the back of the tram, for a couple of trips, listening and committing to memory just about every word that Rudy uttered. His lecture about the Mormon settlers of the area. The names of every mountain ringing the canyon. The plant and bird species. I soaked it all up like a sponge. I was only one step away from having a big Z tattooed on my chest!

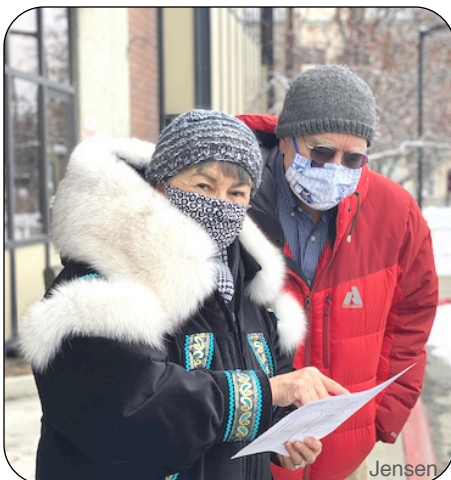
One short week later Rudy retired and it came my chance to pilot the tram. Mr. Brown, running reconnaissance, stationed himself in front of the lodge whilst my passengers boarded the tram cars. I distinctly remember overhearing him muttering under his breath how ‘this kid’s not gonna last one day.’ He waved good-bye to the tram and it’s passengers, as I maneuvered the jeep, it’s aged passengers in tow, out of the circular driveway in front of the hotel.

No one recognized the new driver’s shortcomings more than I. But if I wasn’t sure of my facts I figured I could fill any voids with jokes or tall tales. Somehow that ‘gift of gab’ managed to harmonize with my known facts, seamlessly. Within fifteen minutes I had those oldies eating out of the palm of my hand.

An hour and a half later, the tour nearly over, I navigated the jeep and it’s Zion-satiated seniors towards the lodge drive.

Unable to think of any germane tidbit to leave them with, I recited a limerick that had little to do with Zion. Something about a young man

(See p. 7, “My Favorite Job”)



Pop-Up Parade Pied Piper, Mike Wiedmer, leads his attentive listeners, (l) Marcy and Tom (r) Art and Tamea, through parade directions, which lead the group literally all around Anchorage.

Fur Rondy 2021!



March

BIRTHDAYS

Ingrid Woodard–10th

Roy Foster–13th

Sheryl Hulse–14th

Donny Bell –15th

Will Lord–16th

Chris Brown–18th

Laura Kelley–22nd

Mark Graber–23rd

Joyce Chace–28th

Barbara Henningsen–30th

Mike Wiedmer–31st

ANNIVERSARY

Trudy & Ron Keller–17th



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