



Tinkering Times



Bluebird Day Graces Jay Ofsthun Show

by Linda Golding

On a glorious, sunny Sunday afternoon, the annual Jay Ofsthun Memorial Show & Shine returned to the Park Strip on August 1st. Most of the car clubs in town participated. One could walk amongst vehicles from the British Sports Car Club, Arctic Air-Cooled VWs, (alongside their cousins the Porsche Club), the Corvette Car Club, the newly minted Alaskan 2CV Society (with a whopping three cars), the Alaskan Model A's, not to mention the host clubs: the MSSRA and our own AAMA.

The turnout was very good, estimated at over 300 vehicles by the early afternoon. Our group was sufficiently protected from the fierce sun by two canopies, and were sufficiently fortified by hot dogs, chips, salads, and loads of desserts provided by our members. We could have easily sold food, if we had had the correct licensing and health certificates.

To judge the collected cars for the Jay Ofsthun Memorial Trophy, Alan and Beccy Monsma (who brought cars of their own from Fairbanks) were strong-armed to choose their favorite car (1996 or older). They were great sports, and chose Art and Tam Isham's



Art and Tamea Isham's 1936 Chrysler Airflow received the 2021 Jay Ofsthun award.

1936 Chrysler Imperial Airflow. It was very exciting to see Art's reaction to the award.

The Ishams also drove a second car: their 1963 Imperial Crown, star of Alaska USA commercials.

Several other members brought more than one vehicle. The Wiedmer's 1952 Chevy 6403 2-Ton Pickup (in Strata blue, by the way) was used for the sound system and the announcements, while their 1927 Hupmobile hung out with the Model As, and their 1941 Cadillac just hung out and looked beautiful.

Tom and Marcy Cresap drove their

1938 Chrysler Royal and showed off the new tires (finally) on the 1931 Model A Fordor. Brian Anderson drove his 1950 Hudson Commodore 6, while

(See p. 4 "Jay Ofsthun")



This very nice 1930 Model A hotrod won "Mr. Ed's Pick," the annual MSSRA Jay Ofsthun show award.

August Meeting

Our August 11th meeting will begin at 6:30 PM indoors at the Hope Community Resources auditorium off International Airport Road in Anchorage.

Masks and sanitizer are provided if you forget your own.

Join us and get the latest scoop on what is happening.

We need someone to lead the driveabout after the meeting. Call David to volunteer. Thanks.

2021
Alaska State Fair
see page 2.

Running Board Reflections



A partial glimpse of Carol with Beau. David and Maggie, too.

Hi all,

I hope you're enjoying a good part of your summer on the road.

A short note to give thanks again for the continuing behind-the-scenes efforts that keep our club strong. Whether it's a lonely AAMA guy sitting on the side of the road, hood propped up to ventilate the engine (me), or a car show requiring attention to details, our membership always seems to step up.

Our next business meeting happens Wednesday, August 11 beginning at 6:30 PM. Come on out to say hi. The accommodations are clean, roomy and comfortable. Sanitizer and optional masks are provided as per any mandates of the day. The conversations are fun, too. The drive-around and optional restaurant visit afterward is always a

bonus.

Keep an eye on the club's website. Along with regular [AAMA Calendar](#) updates, you'll soon see a new link dedicated to the club's 60th Anniversary celebration August 13, 2022. The planning committee has been meeting via ZOOM working out the most important part of that event ... Food!

Finally, did you know that you can read, download and print your copy of [Tinkering Times](#) through the website. An archive of past issues is also available online going back about two years. And, if you would like access to the exclusive [Members Page](#), remember that the password is 1961.

Happy trails!
dj

State Fair

by Mark Graber

Alaska State Fair Update—The Fair show will be Saturday, August 21, from noon until 4 or so. We won't be participating in the Palmer parade, but the show should be better than ever. We have a new show area near the start of the yellow trail and next to the events tent. For many folks, it

will be the first thing they see when entering the Fair. If you haven't been to the Fair show before, members take a short shift to watch the cars and answer questions while the other members can enjoy the fair.

I will be sending out more information including directions to the yellow gate after I tour the new location this week.

Hope to see you at the Fair! 🐾



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 Musers 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: Scott has ZDDP again. You can call, email or order at our meeting; \$9.00 per bottle, (add to 5 quarts of oil). This is my cost plus \$1 to cover shipping and handling. Scott Hulse, PO Box 111296, Anchorage AK 99511 (907) 240-4028,

Help Wanted: I am looking for someone to adjust the valves on my 48 Willys Wagon. It has the original 4 cylinder flathead. Darrell Krolick, 229-9456, or Krolick907@gmail.com (10)

For Sale: 1939 Ford coupe; interesting AK history; photos on request; \$12,000; Lauren Fatuch, 907-306 9766

Free: 1960 Austin Princess; restoration begun. Jerry Bankston; 907-727-3000 or jerrybankston0@gmail.com (11)

Schedule of Events

During our driving season, we will meet weekly at the REI parking lot on Northern Lights Blvd. at 6:00 PM on non-meeting Wednesdays.

- * August 11—Meeting
- * August 14—Kenai day trip, Carr's Huffman, 8:00 AM
- * August 14—4:00-9:00 Hot Summer Nights, Palmer
- * August 21—State Fair car show (Mark Graber, 907-745-8570)
- * September 4—9:00 AM Adopt-A-Road (Marcy, 694-7510)
- * September 8—Meeting
- * September 11—9:00-3:00 Dimond Center Car Show (Valve Cover Races)
- * September 25—9:00AM Huffman Carr's Seward Fall Colors (Jim Fredenhagen, 351-3115)
- * October 9—Trout House Run, 12:00 in Wasilla, Dessert at hotel in Palmer
- * October 13—Meeting
- * November 10—Meeting



For Sale: Model A; rebuilt engine; has radio; nice driver; \$7,500; Brent LaValley, 907-590-7362 (11)



For Sale: 1931 Model A tudor; good shape, starts well; new 6-V battery May of this year; photos available; \$20,000; Steve, 907-255-4933 or at Steves@cvinternet.net (11)



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> (10)

Wear Your
MASK
Get Your
SHOTS

AAMA's 2021 Fairbanks Tour

by Jim Fredenhagen

The difference between a *good* trip and a *great* trip is the synergy that develops within the group. Our group of 23 definitely had a great trip using synergy daily to locate places for dinner. The server shortage has impacted Fairbanks like everywhere and many of our meal plans had to be changed “on the fly.” Between members of the Vernon Nash Car Club, the Northern Lights Car Club, and our own group we had meals that were totally fun and tasty.

The goal of our trip was to explore Fairbanks in ways we hadn't



The AAMA boys (and girls) were whooping it up at the Malemute Saloon while on their sojourn in Fairbanks. (l to r) 1965 Chevrolet pickup, Dave and Elle Benesch; 1966 Mustang, Jennifer Isham and Brian Fay; 1963 Imperial, Art and Tamea Isham and Tam's step-mom, Linda Conyers; 1986 Citroen 2CV, Rich Golding; 1938 Chevrolet, Don and Val Bell; 1965 Mustang, Don and Karen Lederhos; 1931 Model A pickup, John and Sandra Tichenor; 1930 Model A, Jim and Victoria Fredenhagen. Robert Service would have been overjoyed.

done before—or at least for many years.

Many in our group wanted to see different things, so that's what we did; and then we met up for dinner each night to share stories.

A short list of events and places we saw were the Riverboat Discovery tour, Fountainhead Auto museum, UAF Museum of the North, Creamer's Dairy, the Steese Highway (See p. 5 “Fairbanks Tour”)

Jay Ofsthun Show

(Continued from p.1)

his son drove the 1983 Jeep J10. Valerie and Donny Bell brought the 1930 Model A Coupe, as well as their 1937 Chevy 2-Door Sedan. Louis Finch showed off his 1956 T-Bird and his 1956 Mercury Montclair. The Goldings brought their 1971 VW Squareback (another veteran of the Alaska USA commercials) who hung out with his VW pals, and the oft-seen 1986 Citroen 2CV in Celeste bleu.

Red cars were in abundance. Eli Powell's striking 1959 Cadillac El Dorado always makes an impression, while the Lederhos's 1966 Mustang holds its own in company with Darrell Krolick's 1948 Willys Jeep “Woody” Station Wagon, and the Hansen's 1936 Dodge Coupe.

There were many Model A's, including Marianne Robinson's 1930 Model A Town Sedan and the Godsoe's 1931 Model A Pickup. Other pickups included the Hulse's 1939 International D2, and Nat Gardner's bright turquoise 1956 Ford F-100.

Greg Carpenter's 1964 Plymouth Sport Fury spent the day with its twin, while Kurt Rein's 1966 Mustang,

Sarah Stoops's 1958 Chevy Bel Air, and Ken Evans's 1955 Cadillac El Dorado hung out together.

In a happy twist, Chris Ofsthun, the nephew of Jay Ofsthun, was visiting Anchorage from Washington state, and for the first time, actually attended the Show & Shine named for his uncle. Chris may be moving to Alaska. If anyone took a picture of Chris with the trophy, please let us know.

Many thanks to Scott Hulse and David Jensen for extra help in setting up and in getting media coverage of the event.

Editor's note: Linda Golding, Art

and Tam Ihsam, Mike Wiedmer and Scott Hulse—along with some helpers—did an outstanding job with the planning and execution of AAMA's part of the 2021 Jay Ofsthun Show.

Many of us were a bit concerned about how things would play out, but we should have known better considering we had this team at the helm.

We were happy to join forces with the MSSRA, and we hope next year will bring even greater partnership with them. The production work and the expense are simply too much for just one club to shoulder. 🍷



The 2019 winner of the Jay Ofsthun show award, Eli and Judy Powell's 1959 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz, sits in regal glory among AAMA's menagerie during the August 1st, 2021 show. The entire show played out in weather appropriate for a convertible.

Fairbanks Tour

(Continued from p. 4)

to Circle, the Malamute Saloon, Golden Days parade and car show, the Santa Claus House, the Chatanika Roadhouse, the Central Mining Museum, and the Lounsbury Gold Mine.

Other fun things included joining the Vernon Nash club in their weekly drivearound, a tour of Bill Chace's garage in North Pole, and a visit to Darryl McCulloch's Model A parts treasures.

Most of us put close to 1,100 miles on our cars during the six-day trip in perfect 75-to-80 degree weather.

Only one small mechanical glitch was noted requiring a new ignition

coil for Carl Godsoe's pickup—a mere hiccup in an otherwise flawless trip.

We veteran Auto Musers and Alaskan A's members welcomed a new couple—Dave and Elle Benesch—in their beautifully restored 1965 Chevrolet pickup, on their first tour with the Musers.

The rest included Jim and Victoria Fredenhagen (1929 Ford Tudor) John and Sandra Tichenor (1931 Ford PU) Carl and Kathleen Godsoe (1931 Ford PU) Art and Tam Isham and Tam's step-mother, Linda Conyers (1963 Imperial) Jim and Shirley Fena (1978 Ford LTD) Brian Anderson (1983 Jeep PU) Jennifer Isham and Brian Fay (1966 Mustang) Rich Golding (1986 Citroen 2CV) Howard and Colleen Hansen (1965 Barracuda) Don and Karen Lederhos (1965 Mustang), Don and Val Bell (1938 Chevrolet). 🌈



Fredenhagen

Willie Vinton uses a Fountainhead twnocar to chauffeur Victoria Fredenhagen, Linda Conyers and Tamea Isham around the museum campus in Fairbanks.

AAMA Business Meeting

July 14, 2021

Location: Hope Community Resources Learning Center, 570 W. 53rd Ave. Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm by President David Jensen

There were 22 members present.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Hulse provided the financial report. The only expenditure was a \$300 deposit for the 60th anniversary celebration at the Aviation Museum in August of 2022.

Old Business

***The 3rd Avenue Radicals* sent a Thank You note for the cars that participated in the downtown solstice celebration.

***David Jensen highlighted* the July 4th parades, picnic and adopt a road.

New Business

***Scott Hulse gave an update* on the status of the Show and Shine car show on Sunday August 1, 2021. MSSRA has everything ready but would appreciate help setting up at 8:00 AM. There was a group discussion about canopies, food, ice chests, etc., for the club to bring to the Show and Shine.

***Jim Fredenhagen gave an update* on the upcoming trip to Fairbanks on July 19-24. So far there are 9 cars planning to go. If people are interested, they can stay an extra day in Fairbanks to participate in the Golden Days celebration and car show. The group will be departing from the Northway mall on Monday July 19 at 8:00 AM.

***Donn Reese talked about the club's name tag badge order* and if anyone still needs to order one for themselves.

***Eli Powell brought up the idea* of selling club merchandise on the website such as hats and t-shirts. This

(See p. 6 "Minutes")

Stopping by the Yukon on a Summer's Afternoon

by Rich Golding

Two weeks ago there were hors d'oeuvres laid out on a table aside a door to a hotel room. Large silver platters full of cold cuts and cubes of cheese, each skewered with a toothpick. There was a large vegetable platter with three different varieties of dip. And there were fruits, all neatly sliced into bite sized pieces. Someone had spent a lot of time and trouble, carefully removing the seeds from chunks of watermelon.

All that food, and no one had yet taken any or eaten a bite. It sat as a sort of sad testament, alongside the entrance to the room the immediate family had rented. There were easels lining the walls that had photographic collages of the deceased on them. Most of them of Doug alongside members of his family. Many were taken when his kids were still youngsters. Tossing a ball between themselves. Sitting at Sunday dinner. Playing with the dogs. The photo's subjects smiled for the camera, freezing forever the memory of good times, recorded for posterity in paper and chemical emulsion.

Inside the room, there were many



Fredenhagen

Rich Golding adjusts his Citroën 2CV prior to his trip to Circle during the Fairbanks Trip. He and the Fenas were the only ones to make the trip to the Yukon.

people sitting around several round tables. Mostly people I had never met. Few there actually knew any sitting alongside them. All sat quietly, their hands folded in their laps. Some of them reached for and examined loose snapshots of their friend that lay in piles at the center of each of the tables. Round hotel conference tables, made somehow reverent and appropriate with the addition of white linen tablecloths.

Someone sighed, then bravely cleared their throat and stood up. He forced a smile, took a quiet gulp and addressed his fellow strangers.

"I knew Doug for over twenty years."

"Speak up . . . please," came a voice from the back of the room.

"I knew Doug for over twenty years. We worked together on the slope."

People adjusted their chairs, turning towards the speaker.

"He was a good friend, and a good man. He loved his family, and was always bragging on his kids. He knew more about baseball than anyone else I have ever met. And he could tell you jokes for hours. Jokes that were funny, but a bit . . . er, off-color"

Several people laughed at the last statement, and wagged their heads in agreement.

Adopt-A-Road



July 10th was our second scheduled Adopt-A-Road for 2021. The group, pictured here, consisted of David Jensen, Greg Carpenter, group leader-Karen Avila-Lederhos and Sara Stoops. Not in the photo were Mike and Gwyn Wiedmer and Gwyn's mom, Sherley. It was a nice morning, and the trash was light.

A large, bearded, rotund fellow stood and told a story of how he and Doug went fishing once, and how they drank so much beer that night in their cabin that they had to stay an extra day just to sober up. Everybody laughed.

Another person recited a short speech he had written onto a piece of folded paper he had removed from his shirt pocket. It was a funny story, too. Everybody laughed a little louder than before. A community of strangers began to form, and gradually we realized we were all a family of sorts. All related to each other, in one fashion or another, by a man whose life, hopes, and failures all adorned the easels that surrounded and somehow bound us.

Handshakes and hugs ensued. Tears and laughter were shared. Telephone numbers and email addresses were exchanged. Promises were made to keep in touch. And very soon the cold cuts and cheese chunks were all consumed. Their toothpick
(See p. 7, "Stopping by the Yukon . . .")

Minutes

(Continued from p. 5)

will be a discussion in the future.

***David Jensen said* he received a request for cars to participate at a Veterans dinner.

***Linda Golding went over* the upcoming calander of events which also can be found on the AAMA website.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

President David Jensen announced birthdays and anniversaries for the month.

Split-the-Pot

Split-the-pot was back and the winner was Ken Morton.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM followed by a drive to Gallo's Mexican restaurant for dinner.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Carpenter, Secretary

Stopping by the Yukon on a Summer's Afternoon

(Continued from p. 6)

handles laying in a crystal dish set out and designated specifically for their collection.

* * * *

Last week the River was grayish blue, and silty and very wide. It seemed to stretch on forever, disappearing into the horizon. The sign at its banks proclaimed it to be the fifth largest river in the world. So it is now. So it was fifty years ago.

I shielded my eyes from the midday Alaskan sun with my right hand, which I held above my head like a visor, and scouted the view up and down the river. There was a light wind that day. Alone with only my thoughts, there were no other people within sight. No birdsong. No sounds of cars crunching the gravel of the Steese Highway beneath their tires. All was still and silent. I became acutely aware of my heartbeat and the rhythm of my breathing in and out.

It was half a century since I last stood at this exact spot. Probably shielding the afternoon sun from my eyes, in much the same manner, gazing up and down river, with my hand held out above my brow, much as a salute. But back then I would first have had to brush back the tangle of unkempt curls that covered my scalp, descending into my eyes.

I remembered it all as if it were yesterday. The stillness, the summer heat, the quietude.

In the summer of 1971, my VW bus aside me, together we trekked the mighty Steese to the northernmost point accessible within the north American highway system (as per the sign erected there, alongside the river). I remembered I was in a hurry. I remembered in those days I was always in a hurry. I thought I

remembered it all, yet it seems I couldn't exactly recall what I was hustling towards, what I was hurrying to.

Some 219,000 generations of mayflies later, the sign by the riverside had been altered. It's wordage was changed. Seems there had been new highways built since, that traveled still further north.

And those thick brown curls that once I brushed from my eyes to gaze down the blue-grey river had greyed themselves, and receded, giving way to bare scalp. Eyes that once could see like an eagle's, now strained and squinted through thick glasses.

My old VW bus had long since turned to rust. I stood now alongside my tiny French car. It took me all the way to Circle City, and it would take me back to the lodge north of Fairbanks where I was to rendezvous with my fellow car club compatriots later that night for dinner. Having driven together up the Steese Highway to Central, the rest decided to skip the extra hour of gravel to Circle, and the banks of the Yukon River. But there resided an insistent voice deep inside my head, reminding

me of the need and significance of reaching Circle.

At least, perhaps, once every fifty years.

Having glanced at my watch, I climbed back behind the steering wheel. I'd better hurry, I thought, if I wanted to get to dinner on time. My Citroën 2cv's two cylinder engine roared to life, and with the Yukon River soon fading in it's rear view mirror, I sped southward.

Perhaps, I thought to myself, some things don't change.

My tires again crunching the gravel of the Steese, I recalled some lines penned a century ago (that's two times fifty years) by my favorite poet:

*But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep.
And miles to go before I sleep.*

Whilst on the long ride back, alone once more with my thoughts, I ruminated on my recently deceased friend, Doug. With the Alaskan sun now shielded by my turned-down sun visors, I wondered if, when the time comes, will somebody actually take the trouble to remove the seeds from my watermelon. 🍉



On Wednesday, July 27th, 6 cars and their slaves joined in a driveabout that ended up at the Arctic Roadrunner for dinner. 1936 Dodge with Howard and Colleen Hansen, 1979 Jeep CJ-7 with Brian Anderson, 1938 Chrysler with Tom and Marcy Cresap, 1978 Citroen 2-CV with Alex Roesch and Niki de Santo, 1986 Citroen 2-CV with Rich and Linda Golding and 1930 Model A with Jim Fredenhagen.



*The Artic Roadrunner: What do you mean, "Senior Citizen Parking only?"
Who in this group is a senior citizen? Ya gotta be kiddin'.*

August

Birthdays

Fritz Wohlwend—4th

Marianne Robinson—6th

David Tullis—8th

Barbara Russell—11th

Lester (Blacky) Black—15th

Karen Avila Lederhos—23rd

Scott Grundy—25th

Ellie Carty—28th

Sara Maurer—29th

Bill Chace—31st

Anniversaries

Marcy & Tom Cresap—31st



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