



Tinkering Times



Resurrection of the Phoenix: David's Bird



Like the fabled Phoenix, David Jensen's pretty little T-Bird is on the road again. It recently joined David's sidekick, Beau, sun basking at Beluga Point along the Turnagain Arm.

Most everyone is aware of the saga of David Jensen's 1957

Thunderbird at last year's 4th of July parade in Chugiak, when it had to

have a ride home on a rollback.

Later, David related his further adventures of finding a replacement transmission, getting it shipped to Alaska and getting it installed.

It is now on the road again. David reports that he "Took the bird for its first Turnagain cruise since early last summer. She's running smooth." He added that "This was also the first time touring with the completed soft top, as well. It was a good day."

Thanks to Art Isham and Tom Cresap for their help with chrome header on the top. And thanks again, Art, for helping with that tranny washer and tech specs.

David, who is enjoying a little free time after retiring from the rigors of three years as president of our fair club, is looking forward to summer and some time to join the club on the road. 🌞

Come Have Lunch in Talkeetna

by Jim Fredenhagen

The annual Talkeetna lunch trip is set for Saturday, April 30.

We'll leave the Northway Mall gas station at 9:00 am, meet the Valley gang at Three Bears Pittman Rd. north of Wasilla around 10:00 am. We'll continue to Talkeetna, arriving at Latitude 62 lodge and restaurant around noon. There, we will have lunch & car display. We will leave for home at around 2:00 pm.

This event is being dedicated to Heidi Packer, wife of Curly Packer. Heidi passed away earlier this year, and we miss her greatly 🌞

2022 Homer Trip

by Jim Fredenhagen

This is our annual event, sometimes referred to as the Ken and Peg Stout Tour. We leave Carrs Huffman 8am, Saturday, May 21. Lunch stop will be at Gwyn's in Cooper Landing, and dinner will be at AJ's Steakhouse in Homer at 5:00 pm.

Hotels available are the Aspen, \$109/ night, 907-235-2351, (mention old car club) and Ocean Shores motel, 907-235-7775, \$129/night, (mention old car club.)

Our car show is on Sun, 10am - 3pm, Homer Chamber Commerce

(See p. 3, "Homer Trip")

April Meeting

Our April 13 business meeting will take place at the Hope Community Resources Building off of International Airport Road in Anchorage at 6:30 pm.

Come and get the low down on upcoming events.

Will we cruise afterwards? Come and find out. There is sometimes a meal involved at the end of the drive. Here's to fun in the sun!

Running Board Reflections



Maybe president Linda can't see Russia from her cul-de-sac, but she is beginning to see over the snow enough to see an open road, where summer car activities can-and-will take place. With temps in the mid 40's and new snow this morning, we'll see . . .

It's beginning to look a lot like "car time." After late February and early March snow dumps, I am cautiously optimistic that we will see pavement again. My own driveway is nearly clear of snow, even though the street leading to the driveway is still a bumpy, slippery morass. As can be seen from the photo, the cul-de-sac snow mountain (which, just last month, had borne a striking resemblance to Denali) is now only eight feet tall.

Plans for a very full summer schedule were finalized at our March meeting. Highlights for this summer include our yearly trip to Homer in May, with a car show hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

We are re-introducing the long-distance tour after a Covid break; this year to McCarthy. Some drivers will go overland; others will take the Whittier Ferry with a night's stop in Valdez, after which the two groups (with the addition of a few Fairbanks members) will meet in Chitina (now

where the hell is that?) before braving the final sixty miles to McCarthy itself.

But the brightest highlight of our summer will be our 60th Anniversary Party on August 13th at the Aviation Museum on Lake Hood! The committee is working feverishly to finalize arrangements. Be on the lookout for invitations in the mail later this month.

Lastly, although not last in my thoughts, it has come to my attention that April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month. So, to our Officers and Board Members, our Tinkering Times editors, our Website gurus, our Membership managers, and our Event leaders and committees, I wish to say a huge thank you. I certainly appreciate the time as well as the hard work you give to the organization. Let's all thank each other for keeping our club strong.

—LMG



2022 Officers

President: Linda Mattes
Golding
351-3251

Vice President: David Jensen
868-1680

Secretary: Greg Carpenter
Treasurer: Scott Hulse
240-4028

Sergeant-at-Arms: Dutch
Overly

Members at Large

Brian Anderson-748-1698
Tamea Isham-688-3671
Donn Reese-245-7203

Past Presidents (10 years)

David Jensen (2019-21)
Gwyn Wiedmer (2017-18)
Brian Anderson (2015-16)
Mike Wiedmer (2013-14)
Howard Hansen (2012)
Donn Reese (2009-2011)

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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: Brand new mechanical advance (25 deg) electronic distributor for four cylinder, six volt, positive ground; includes coil, extra module, plug wires. \$400 value for \$300. Call Jim 907-351-3115.



FOR SALE : 1936 Airflow Chrysler Imperial C-10 - Unrestored refurbished original. 128 inch wheelbase, Straight 8 (130 hp), 3 speed with overdrive, new brakes, new wiring, wide white radial tires, original shop manual, rebuildable power brake unit and some spare parts. Headliner and upholstery good. Sealed beam conversion, Runs well. \$20,000. Art Isham 907-688-3671.

Schedule of Events

Summer Wednesday Driveabouts begin on May 11 and continue throughout the summer as weather permits.

- * April 13—6:30 Meeting
- * April 30—Talkeetna Model A Lunch Run (all cars invited)
- * May 7—9 am Adopt-A-Road (Marcy Cresap, 907-694-7510)
- * May 11—6:30 Meeting
- * May 14—Shake Down to Dutch's Place in Chickaloon (Details later)
- * May 21—Ken and Peg Stout Memorial Run/Homer Car Show
- * June 8—6:30 Meeting
- * June 8-13—McCarthy Tour (Tamea Isham, 907-688-3671)
- * July 2—9 am Adopt-a-Road (Marcy Cresap, 907-694-7510)
- * July 4—Parades and barbecue
- * July 13—6:30 Meeting



The Tinkering Times has again received an Award of Excellence from the Antique Auto Club of America. We have received newsletter awards from the national organization beginning in 1994. A string of Master Editor Awards during the 90's culminated in our being awarded the highest AACA award, Ann S. Eady Award in the year 2000. We have always been grateful for the recognition, and we cheer on other well-deserving recipients each year. Thanks, AACA.

Homer Trip

parking lot, next to Fat Olive's. We'll gather for a Pizza party and movies at Aspen Hotel conference room...\$10/person. Monday, May 23, return home. Let Jim Fredenhagen know if you plan to attend. (907-351-3115) ☺

Half-Fast Found!!!



Tamea and Art Isham sent a photo proving that “Half-Fast,” Art’s race car fashioned from a Model A valve cover, is, indeed, home after being lost for two years.

by Art Isham

As you may or may not recall, *Half-Fast* (the valve cover racer made out of a Model A valve cover and owned by Art and Tam Isham) disappeared in February 2019 after the Fur Rondy Car Show. Some surmised that *Half-Fast* ran away and hid in embarrassment after being beaten in the finals of the inter-club competition, while others were sure that he was purloined by person/persons unknown and taken to an underground cave where his secrets of speed were reverse-engineered to be used in a super-fast valve cover racer that was to be unveiled at the 2020 races by person/persons unknown. Well, there were no races in 2020 or 2021 because of the Covid Pandemic, so speculation on *Half-Fast*’s fate continued for two years, causing worldwide anxiety and roiling the valve cover racing landscape.

Art and Tam continued to search for *Half-Fast*; announcing the loss in the *Tinkering Times*; offering a huge reward for his recovery (\$5); and searching every nook and cranny for the racer, with no success.

Fur Rondy Car Show 2022 rolls around and there are no valve cover races scheduled because the racetrack

is not available. Art and Tam remain concerned about *Half-Fast*, but not upset, because there is no honor to defend because there are no races scheduled. And what happens? *Half-Fast* reappears at the show, snuggled up against the hit and miss engine that runs the water pump that is part of the Model T sawmill display.

Why did *Half-Fast* do this? Did he feel sorry for the hit and miss engine, which was unable to start and

run until Ken Evans and Scott Hulse applied their magic on Sunday afternoon? Was *Half-Fast* lonely for the two years and need companionship from another mechanical device that needed care? We will never know, but as you can see from the photo, Tam and Art are now overjoyed at the recovery. They intend to rebuild *Half-Fast* and take on the competition in 2023. 🤖

UPDATE: McCARTHY LONG DISTANCE TOUR

by Tamea Isham

At the present time we have 16 cars committed to the tour coming from both Anchorage and Fairbanks. Depending on your chosen route, the tour begins either on June 8th or 9th.

There are three routes leading to Chitina where we meet at 1 pm on June 10 to start down the McCarthy Road. Routes are (1) Anchorage to Whittier (June 8th) take the Ferry to Valdez, drive to Chitina, (2)

Anchorage to Glennallen and Chitina, and (3) Fairbanks then road to Delta Junction-Glennallen and Chitina.

The Chitina Hotel is full up, but there is lodging available in Glennallen, Copper Center, and Kenney Lake, which are all reasonable distances from Chitina. Contact Art/Tamea Isham at 907-688-3671 for more information if you want to go but have not yet signed up. 🤖

Phonetic Pronunciations and Translations Included

Humor by Richard Golding

I came to Bourgogne (pronounced: **Bourr-gone-yeh** - ‘Burgundy’) for its cuisine, and especially to drink their wine. Linda and I had visited here several years ago, and together we had fallen in love with this region of France. Its rolling hills are covered with vineyards. Unending country roads criss-cross its terrain, overlaying its picturesque landscape like a spider’s web. Farmhouses occupy whatever ground is not occupied by grapevines.

One would be hard pressed to find a gentler, more idyllic setting, anywhere.

I rented a *gîte*, (pronounced: **zheet**, - ‘a country cottage’) in the quaint hamlet of *Meloisey* (pronounced: **Mell-is-say**). It has a terrace in front of it, where I can spend the long, sunny afternoons admiring the view, writing a bit, and enjoying a bottle or two of the local vintage, as well as consuming some of this country’s wonderful cheeses.

France is truly heaven for those

(See p. 5, “Phonetic . . .”)

Phonetic Pronunciations and Translations Included

(Continued from p.4)

that love cheese. I had read once that there are so many varieties of cheese produced here, there is a different one for every day of the year – excepting, of course, for Rosh Hashanah (*pronounced: Rowsh-haa-shaw-nah*, –‘the Jewish New Year’).

I relax in one of my terrace’s comfortable chairs, enjoying a bottle of red Burgundy, or ‘*vin rouge*’ (*pronounced: Vaan roozh* – ‘red wine’) together with a platter of cheeses. I quietly absorb the sumptuous pastoral scenery that

surrounds me, deliberating in silent contemplation and, after a few glasses of wine, eventually recognizing and resolving the true meaning of life.

My plate of cheeses, now mostly devoured, have been nibbled down to their rinds.

There are workers in the fields, tending to the vines. Simple folks toiling in the sunshine, looking very much like a van Gogh painting. These are people of the soil, whose simple manner and dress are probably no different than that of their ancestors that tended the same vines, day in, day out, lo over the centuries – excepting, of course for Yom Kippur (*pronounced: Yoam Kee-pur* –‘the Jewish high holiday of atonement’).

. . . And a Very Happy Unbirthday to Him . . .



Our treasurer, Scott Hulse, has been a loyal customer and friend at House of Bread off of Old Seward Highway for years. One of the employees "punked" a newer employee into offering Scott's healthy breakfast with a birthday candle. Problem: it was not his birthday. You can usually find Scott at HOB throughout the week around 8:30 a.m. for conversation and occasional birthdays, real or not. (Photo and comment by David Jensen)

Every once in a while a tractor, or some other farm vehicle drives by. Its driver waves from out its open window, bellowing a hearty “*Bonjour Monsieur*” (*pronounced: Boan-jur Miss-sure* –‘Hello Sir’) my way. I reciprocate by waving back, and echoing their greeting as best I can, given my Touristic, dilettante French.

A breeze blows lightly from the south, across my platter of cheeses, carrying their piquant scent past my nostrils. I raise my glass and toast the red tailed hawk flying over me, as he surveys the fields below him for mice.

My ears perk up and strain to recognize the faint sounds of a song, a simple melody, heading my way, sung by a farmer to himself as he walks down the road with his dog. I hold my hand out over my brow, attempting to shield my eyes from the sun, and see him better as he passes. His dog, which follows alongside of him like an obedient servant, appears to be limping.

“*Bonjour!*” I exclaim, raising my wineglass towards him in a gesture of friendship. He is obviously a local. He wears a farmer’s sweat-stained shirt and dusty trousers. A red and white checkered kerchief is knotted about his neck

“*Bonjour!*” he responds. “You are an American, no?”

“Yes, I am.”

“Enjoying our local wines. I see,” he exclaims with a smile.

“Yes, they are wonderful! Monsieur, why don’t you take a few minutes off your feet, and join me?” I motion at the empty chair alongside mine. This seems a golden opportunity to get to know one of locals better. And luckily one that appears to speak some English! A treat indeed!

The farmer ascends the stairs of my terrace, followed by his limping dog. He plops himself down in the chair next to me, while the dog lies quietly at his feet.

(See p. 6, (Phonetic . . .))

Phonetic Pronunciations and Translations Included

(Continued from p. 5)

He wipes his right hand on the side of his pants, and thrusts it towards me. I shake it with mine. His hands are huge, weathered and very strong, no doubt the result of many years of hard work in the fields.

“Jules” (pronounced: **Jools**), he exclaims, introducing himself to me.

“Richard” (pronounced: **Ree-schard**), I respond in kind.

“And this is Napoléon (pronounced: **Naah-pohh-lee-ahn**), he explains, pointing down at his dog.

Upon hearing its name, the creature stirs, and rises to his feet. It looks up at me and grunts. It was then that I realized Napoléon was not a dog, but rather a pig. A large grown pig wearing a red and white-checked kerchief, knotted around his neck. One of his front legs seemed a bit odd. Upon closer examination, his aforementioned limp explained itself, as I determined that the pig had a wooden leg!

“Oh my goodness!” I exclaimed. “Hello Napoléon! I am glad to make your acquaintance!”

Napoléon snorts quizzically at me.

“I am sorry, Monsieur. He does not speak the English,” the farmer explained.

“Oh, *excusez-moi!* Pronounced: **exx-kuse-say-mwah**-‘excuse me’). Bonjour, Napoléon!”

The pig shakes his head and snorts enthusiastically.

“Let me get you a glass,” I say to Jules, running back into the cottage. Whilst there, I grab a second platter of cheeses, and a bowl of water for the pig.

I pour a glass of wine for the farmer and place the bowl of water at the pig’s feet . . . er, I mean foot.

Napoléon snorts and scowls.

Puzzled, I ask the farmer, “Is there something wrong?”

“He does not drink water, Monsieur.” Jules tosses the bowl’s contents off the side of the terrace, and reaching for the bottle of wine, pours a healthy portion of the red liquid into the bowl, then replaces it at Napoléon’s feet . . . er, foot.

I watch, amazed, as Napoléon cautiously and ever so ceremoniously sniffs the wine in the bowl. When I look up, I see Jules doing the same to the contents of his glass. Both appear to approve of the vintage and quickly imbibe the contents of their respective vessels.

–It’s a French thing.

“Would you like some cheese?” I ask the farmer as I pass him the second platter. “I ate most of those pieces on the other plate, except for the rinds . . .”

Before I have fully spoken the words, the farmer has seized the older plate of moldy rinds in his hands. He picks out the rind that is exceptionally musty and speckled with some sort of black fungus, raises it up under his nose and sniffs whilst closing his eyes. A moment later, with one eyebrow raised precariously, he pops it into his mouth and chews away happily.

Napoléon grunts and snorts at his master, and Jules tosses several of the rinds into the pig’s empty water/wine bowl. The pig sniffs cautiously at them, then apparently approving, devours them voraciously.

“So tell me, Jules, what’s the low-down on Napoléon?” I inquire whilst topping off his glass.

The farmer appears perplexed by my query. “Low down? What is ‘low down?’”

I point at the pig’s wooden leg. “What gives?” I ask.

“Well, one evening, not long ago, in the middle of the night, *avec ma femme et mes enfants* (pronounced: **ah-veck mah fem e mees enfah**-‘with my wife and children’) asleep upstairs, the house it caught fire! We would have all died in our sleep, but Napoléon rushed *en haut des*

escaliers (pronounced: **ah-haw-de-is-cal-yeh**-‘up the stairs’), and dragged us from our beds! He saved us all, Monsieur!”

“Yes, but what about his leg?” I asked, refilling his glass yet again.

“Well, another time, when *mon camion* (pronounced: **mone camion**-‘my truck’) had a flat. I was under it, to fix *le pneu* (pronounced: **leh new**-‘the tire’) when the jack fell away, and the truck, it come down on me. *Mon Dieu* (Pronounced: **Mone Dyeuh** - ‘My God!’), I tell you, Monsieur, I thought I was *fini!* (pronounced: **phiney** - ‘dog meat!'). But Napoléon grabbed me by my pants and dragged me out from under le truck! He saved my life, Monsieur,” he said as he patted the pig’s head with great affection.

“Yes . . . but what about his leg? Why does he have a wooden leg?” I pointed directly at the pig’s leg, then held my arms out and shook my hands manifesting the universal sign of confusion.

“Oh, you mean his leg, Monsieur? You want to know why he has a . . . a . . . *comment dites-vous en anglais* (pronounced: **co-mon deet vou en ann-gley** -‘how do you say in English?’) . . . a . . . a wooden leg!”

“Yes! Yes! I want to know why Napoléon has a wooden leg! Why does he have a wooden leg?” I shouted in exasperation.

“Well Monsieur, Napoléon he is a very special animal,” insisted the farmer, seriously. “He is very smart. He has a kind heart. He is like one of my family!”

“I understand, but how did he get the wooden leg?”

“Well, Monsieur,” Jules exclaimed after polishing off yet another glass of wine. “Well Monsieur, I tell you truly . . . you do not eat a pig like that all at once!”

Napoléon squealed and shook his head up and down in agreement, scarfing up the final pieces of cheese on the second platter, rinds and all. 🐷

AAMA Business Meeting

March 9, 2022

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

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm by President, Linda Mattes Golding

There were 18 members present and no guests.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Hulse provided the financial report along with an update on member renewals.

The minutes were approved from the February business meeting as published in the *Tinkering Times*.

Old Business

***Linda Mattes Golding said she received several thank you's for the Hope Community Resources fundraising event. The theme of the event was the roaring 20's and Mike and Gwen Weidmer provided their 1927 Hupmobile. She also talked about the Fur Rondy car show at Bob's Services and dropping off a full shopping cart of canned food to the Food Bank that was collected at the*

event.

***The 60th anniversary committee is looking for old car parts to use as table centerpieces. The centerpieces will be given away at the event.*

New Business

***A motion was made by David Jensen for payment of the website fee for \$160.00 a year. The motion was approved.*

***Linda Mattes Golding went over the calendar of events for this summer. All the events are posted on the club's website. There was a motion to approve the calendar. The motion passed.*

***Drive arounds will begin on May 11 after the business meeting.*

***Jim Fredenhagen talked about the trip to Homer May 21-23. A car show will be held on Sunday May 22 at the Chamber of Commerce from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Jim has secured a block of rooms at the Ocean Shores Motel at a rate of \$129.00 a night for the event. To make a reservation you must call the motel at 907-235-7775 and say you are with the Antique Auto Musers.*

***The summer trip to McCarthy is planned for June 9 -13. For those who would like to break up the long*

drive you can spend a night in Chitina. Rooms are available for \$148.00 per night. Contact Susan Kilpatrick at 907-823-2244. Art Isham will check into the Alaska Marine Highway ferry schedule from Whittier to Valdez as an option.

***David Jensen suggested a different venue for the Father's Day Car show that usually takes place at the Alaska Zoo. Due to major road construction on O'Malley Road this summer he suggested having a rolling show and visiting local nursing homes. David said he will check with several of the facilities to see if they would be interested.*

***Kurt Rein has volunteered to organize the 4th of July parade.*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

President Linda Mattes Golding announced birthdays and anniversaries for the month.

Split the Pot

Split the pot winner Ken Morten

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Greg Carpenter, Secretary

Farewell to Ann Miller

For many years, the Antique Auto Musers has sponsored a gathered in the little town of Hope, the annual Hope Weekend. Among our memories lies the Hope Museum and Ann Miller.

The Spring 2022 Hope community Newsletter reports that the community lost Ann in February.

Ann moved to Hope in 1962 to open the Hope Trading Post. Unperturbed by the 1964 earthquake, she stayed and became the Hope Postmaster. Ann sat on the Hope and Sunrise Historical Society board for over 30 years. When the Hope and Sunrise Historical and Mining Museum opened in 1994, Ann was the first host. She oversaw the multitude of museum hosts for 15 years. She composed histories of the Hope Post Office and the Hope School, and She recorded an



Ann Miller posed with her dog in Tom Cresap's 1925 Model T during a past Wagon Trail Days in Hope.

interview with old-timer Carl Clark. She was hugely involved in Fourth of July Celebrations, the 1988 Hope Centennial Celebration, and Wagon Trail Weekend fundraisers. The Museum's Wagon Trail Race T-shirt collection started when Ann donated a dozen shirts. Museum visitors enjoyed her bubbly personality. She is greatly missed by all of Hope. 🍷

49th State Street Rodders Schedule

Eilene with the 49th State Street Rod Association has announced it is time to kick off the club's summer car show season with their Annual *Valley Chrome & Wheel* Classic Car, Truck and Cycle Show at MTA Event Center.

The show will take place Thursday, May 5th, the staging day from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm; Friday, May 6th is the shine-'em-up and the Matinee Show from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Saturday, May 7th is all day from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, and Sunday, May 8th, is the Final Day from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. All cars out by 6:00 PM.

49th State has many events planned for the summer months. If you have questions, their hotline is 907-761-3553, or you can check their Website or FaceBook Page for updates! Everyone is welcome to all the shows. 🍷



File Photo

1964 Palmer State Fair, the fall after the infamous earthquake—Fred Tisdell at far left next to his '36 Ford 4-dr, also Dr. Morgan's newly rewooded '23 Model T. The '30 Model A next to it was a beauty.

April

BIRTHDAYS

Marcy Cresap—7th

Darrell Krolick—7th

Kathy Centoni—12th

Diane Allen—14th

Leonard Kelley—14th

Mike Stoddard—16th

Joanne Overly —20th

ANIVERSARIES

Niki DeSanto & Alex

Roesch—1st

Valerie & Donny Bell—

26th



AAMA
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