



Tinkering Times



Finally . . . a Christmas Party!

by Art and Tamea Isham

December 4th marked our first Christmas party since 2019. The snow held off until the 5th, so 45 intrepid “party hardy” AAMA members started to show up around 3:30 pm for the annual Isham Carraige House tour for interested individuals, while everybody else gathered in the Isham House to swap lies and tell stories.

There was a lot to catch up on. At 5 pm we gathered for the usual potluck feast of turkey, ham and all the fixings. Shortly after dessert we determined that Santa had arrived with an antique truckload of presents



Lisa Nelson, Dave Syren’s guest, opens one of several gifts she received during the exchange. Why more than one? Gift thieves.



Greg Carpenter displays his gift after opening it.

and it was time to start divvying them up.

Santa had not bothered to indicate which gift was for whom, so we conducted an auction with each person selecting a gift from the pile, with the possibility/probability that they may not get to keep their initial choice because the next person in line may take what they selected, leaving them no choice but to go select another gift. This resulted in some highly desirable items changing hands multiple times.

At the auction’s conclusion, door prizes were awarded and everybody started to swap lies and tell stories—AGAIN.

It was a highly successful restart of our annual tradition. 🤪

Officers For 2023

Elections were held on November 9, 2022 for the 2023 officers. The N o m i n a t i n g Committee recommended the following slate:

- President - Linda Mattes-Golding
- Vice President - Brian Anderson
- Secretary - Greg Carpenter
- Treasurer - Louis Mestier

There were no additional nominations at the meeting and the slate was elected by acclamation with no dissenting votes.

(See p. 3, “2023 Officers”)

**No December meeting.
We had a Christmas party
instead. Merry Christmas!**

Running Board Reflections



President Linda Mattes-Golding presents Michele Girault, Hope Community Resources Executive Director, with a generous holiday donation from the members of the AAMA

Like most of our members, I had been anxiously awaiting our first Holiday party since 2019. Six months ago, I found the perfect present for the gift exchange, and then made sure I would not forget where I put it. Two weeks ago, I bought wrapping paper. Last week, I shopped for party food (stuffing my freezer in the process).

On Thursday, I made a list so I would not forget anything. By Sunday, I had made four lists, discarding the first three. Wrap the presents. Bake cookies. Defrost the shrimp. Make cocktail sauce. Find serving dishes; clean those serving dishes. Prep the broccoli casserole; don't cook it until Sunday afternoon because, "who wants mushy broccoli?" Bring the "Thank you" card for Hope. Have Richard brew tea. Don't forget a bottle or two of wine. And slippers!

Richard only arrived back in Anchorage from Scandinavia late Saturday night. After awakening Sunday morning, he was waxing rhapsodic about the Viking Museum. I responded by asking, "Have you

picked out a bottle of red wine yet?" He was trying to show me photos of the carbon fiber piano he saw in Oslo. I countered with "That Christmas tea is not going to brew itself!" He pushed a pile of Swedish museum brochures at me. My response: "Take your shower and get dressed; we have to leave!" By the time we had fully loaded the back of the Subaru, it appeared that we were off to the Thirty Years War!

But all the planning paid off. We brought an empty casserole dish home. The cookie jar found in June at Value Village was a hit at the gift exchange. The empty wine bottles were recycled. And the empty tea thermoses were a lot lighter on the drive home.

Thanks to Art and Tam for hosting a lovely party. Everyone enjoyed the food, however camaraderie was the best present we shared. We had a lot of laughs during the gift exchange. And very importantly, thanks to all the members who donated to Hope Community Resources, we collected \$675 for that worthy organization!

—Linda



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: 4 each Michelin Harmony radial tires P205/60 R15 90S; less than 500 miles on them; \$50/each. Art Isham, (907) 227-2307.

Help Wanted: I do Estates Sales and I am working on one now with many vintage Chevy parts. This man was also a drag racer. I am looking for someone who can help me price the parts. We are willing to pay them for their service. Karen Goentzel, Klgoentzel@gmail.com

For Sale: 1972 Jaguar v-12; second owner; located at Culmination Motorsports off King Street at 91st Ave. Owner says he imported it from England 15 years ago. Contact Dave Catchpole, 907-868-3911.

Schedule of Events

Merry Christmas!

—2023—

- * January 11—6:30 Meeting (Installation of Officers)
- * February 8—6:30 Meeting
- * February TBA—Fur Rondy
- * March 8—6:30 Meeting
- * April 12— 6:30 Meeting
- * May 10— 6:30 Meeting
- * June 14— 6:30 Meeting
- * July 4—Anchorage and Chugiak Parades; Picnic at Cresap's
- * July 12— 6:30 Meeting
- * July 14-17—Hope Weekend (Howard Hansen, 907-440-1002)
- * August 9— 6:30 Meeting
- * September 13—6:30 Meeting
- * October 11— 6:30 Meeting
- * November 8— 6:30 Meeting
- * December TBA Christmas Party



For Sale: 4 each new steel rims; 15x6 4.75 BC; For GM products in the 60's through 80's; \$50/each Art Isham, 907-227-2307.



For Sale: 1940 Dodge coupe; dual carbs and dual exhaust; radial tires. \$9,000. Call Howard, 907-440-1002.

2023 Officers

(Continued from p.1)

Three individuals volunteered to serve as Members-at-Large: Donn Reese; Tamea Isham; and Darrell Krolick.

The new Officers and Members-at-Large will be inducted at the January meeting. 🍷

Pay Your Dues

AAMA-\$20.00

Make check payable to AAMA. Include your AACA member number in the memo line. Send your check to:

AAMA

P.O.Box 232086

Anchorage AK 99523-2086

AACA-\$45.00

Make check to AACA. AACA number in memo Antique Automobile Club of America

501 W. Governor Road
Hershey PA 17033

Virginia Model A Club 50th anniversary

At their November, 2022 meeting, the Colonial Virginia Model A Club, Williamsburg, Virginia celebrated their 50th anniversary. Our own members, Art and Tamea Isham, had started the club in 1972 while Art was stationed there, so they were honored guests and they flew back to Virginia for the event.

Before the festivities, the club had a 60-mile Model A tour to the Berkeley Plantation along the James River in Charles City County, Virginia, where they were able to experience the tranquil environment of the 18th century. Berkeley's Georgian mansion is the birthplace of Benjamin Harrison V, signer of the Declaration of Independence, so they all got a taste of very early American roots.

From the plantation, they returned for a short business meeting, where Dave Westenberger (Colonial "A" News editor) presented a slide show of past CVMAC events.

At 2 PM, Model A Ford Club of America president, Jay McCord, and Joe Valentine, Model A Ford Restorer's Club, joined the celebration via Zoom and shared some kind words and congratulations with the club members.

Art and Tamea Isham completed the program with stories about founding the club in 1972, and the group adjourned for refreshments. 🍷



Colonial Virginia Model A Club founding members: Art and Tamea Isham, Butch Blanks, Ty and Anne Bland and John and Betsy Butts



The historic 18th century Berkeley Plantation



Carlos Alegre poses with his 1969 Ford Falcon.

A Wedding With *Old Car* Connections

My late father, Carlos Alegre posed for this photo with his 1969 Ford Falcon. It was all-original and had only 34,000 miles. He loved his car and took great care of it.

Thank you for your help [providing an antique car for our daughter's wedding] and please accept this donation. I can't thank enough.

Sincerely,
Claudia A Pace

Museum of American Speed

By Ken Morton

Every carefully planned road trip has some surprises. We were in Lincoln, Nebraska, to see Homestead National Historic Park and the International Quilt Museum when someone mentioned there was also a “speed museum.” Expecting to quickly tour a small museum, I found a three-story building, with over 3 acres of floor space, housing a century’s worth of fast cars and amazing engines. The museum’s stated mission is “preserving, interpreting and displaying physical items significant in racing and automotive history,” and every car in the museum tells a story. Here are a few of my favorites.



Rathmann Indy roadster

Jim Rathmann’s Leader Card Indy roadster won the 1958 500-mile “Race of Two Worlds.” The race at Italy’s Monza track pitted America’s best against European Formula 1 cars.

Louis Chevrolet’s Cornelian Indy car featured lightweight frameless monocoque construction and 4-wheel independent suspension in 1915. Such construction only became the norm at Indianapolis when the rear-

engine revolution came a half century later.



1919 Roof

The Ford-based Roof offered “16 overhead valve equipment” of the “Peugeot Type” three years after Peugeot’s advanced engine won its second Indy 500 in 1916. Ford flathead engines were the basis for many budget performance engines into the ‘50s and beyond.

(See p. 6, “Museum of Speed”)

AAMA Business Meeting November 9, 2022

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

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by President Linda Mattes Golding

There were 27 members present. Guests were Glen and Lorraine Bohn.

October Minutes

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

Treasurer’s Report

Linda provided the treasurer report since Scott Hulse was gone.

Old Business

The holiday party is scheduled for Sunday December 4, 2022, at 4:00 pm. The party will be hosted at Art and Tam Isham’s house. Tam passed around a sign-up sheet for

food to bring to the party. There will also be a gift exchange with a \$25 limit and a canned food drive for the Food Bank of Alaska. As a Thank You to Hope Community Resources monetary donations will be collected at the Christmas party so they can use the money to support their many special projects.

Renewal for AAMA and AACA membership is due now. The 2023 AAMA dues are \$20.00 for the year, \$10.00 for half year and \$30.00 for a printed copy of the Tinkering Times. AACA dues are \$45.00 and can be paid through their website.

New Business

Linda Mattes Golding went over the events planned for 2023.

Len Kelly has a 1947 Chevrolet 4-door Fleetmaster he would like to donate to the club due to his declining health. Since the club is a non-profit organization Linda will investigate if the club can accept the donation.

Art Isham performed the election of club officers. The nominating committee was Art Isham, Donn Reese, and Kurt Rein. The elected club officers for 2023 are:

President: Linda Mattes Golding

Vice President: Brian Anderson

Secretary: Greg Carpenter

Treasurer: Louis Mestier

Sargent at Arms: Dutch Overly

Members at Large: Donn Reese, Tam Isham and Darrell Krolick.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Split the Pot

Split the pot winner was Lorraine Bohn. She donated her \$40 winnings to Hope Community Resources.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Greg Carpenter, Secretary

The Best Things in Life Are Free

Humor by Rich Golding

I spent much of the sixth of December researching online and on the phone.

The next morning, on the seventh, I shook my sleeping spouse awake in the early morning. "Wake-up, wake-up, Birthday girl!"

"Grumble . . . grumble . . . grumble"

"C'mon, you've got to wake up," I cheered aloud. "You've got a big day ahead of you!"

"Huh . . . what?" she responded whilst rubbing her eyes. "Can't I just sleep?"

"Nope. It's your birthday, and I've got a special day all planned out for you. So get out of bed, brush your teeth and get dressed."

About half an hour later I had her loaded into the car, and we were off, bound for happiness.

"Where are we going?" Linda asked from the passenger seat.

"We're bound for happiness."

"Could you be a little more specific?"

"Are you hungry?"

"Well, yeah, duhh! You got me up and out of the door without so much as a cup of coffee, so yeah, I'm hungry."

I pulled a long scribbled list from my breast pocket, and shot a quick glance over its contents.

"Our first stop will take care of that!"

"First stop? I hope you're not planning on making a big fuss and spending a lot of money on me today. You know how I don't like you spending lots of money on my birthday!"

"Not to worry," I retorted, "I'm not gonna spend a dime on you!"

I pulled the car into the Starbucks lot.

"Oh good, I need a cup of coffee. You know how I need my morning coffee to start my –"

"Where's your ID?" I interrupted,

rummaging through her purse.

"What do you need my ID for?" she asked, handing it over to me.

"You'll see, let's go." and with that we exited the Subaru and entered the coffee shop.

"Welcome to Starbucks, what can I get you today?" chirped the young Barista from across their front counter.

I flashed my wife's driver's

license, clenched in my fist, directly at her.

"Today is her birthday," I exclaimed aloud.

"Well, happy birthday Ma'am!" she replied enthusiastically, smiling at Linda.

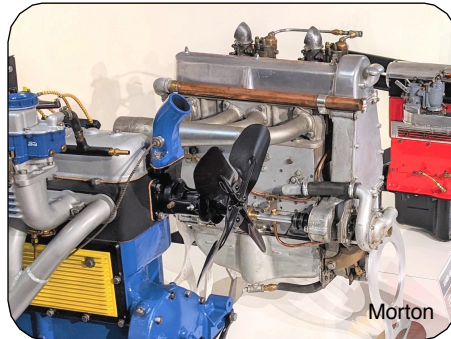
"She'll have your free cup of birthday coffee," I interjected.

(See p. 7, "The Best Things")

Museum of American Speed

(Continued from p. 5)

Independent builders developed overhead valve and overhead cam conversions for the fours and V8s.



Model A-based racing engines

Pete Aardema's #494 Streamliner claimed the title of "world's fastest Model A" in 2012. With two Subaru heads welded together and installed on a Model A block, Aardema reached 238 mph at the Bonneville Salt Flats.

Ron Main's "Flatfire" streamliner, with its supercharged Ford flathead V8 reached 302.674 mph at Bonneville in 2003 and laid claim to being the "world's fastest flathead."



Bonneville Thunderbird

Joe Walden's 1957 Thunderbird

became the first street-driven car to exceed 200 mph at Bonneville in 1964. Joe's T-Bird was powered by a 427 Mercury Super Marauder V8 obtained from Bobby Unser.

Engines from flathead Fords to purpose-built racing engines are everywhere in the galleries. Offenhauser dual overhead cam (DOHC) engines inspired by the 1916 Indy-winning Peugeot, and DOHC Ford V8s that challenged the Offy's supremacy in the 1960s. There's a Moser DOHC Chevrolet V8, a supercharged Studebaker V8, a 1931 Pontiac-Oakland V8, the infamous 1923 air-cooled Chevrolet 4, Chrysler V8s, and even an overhead cam Dodge slant 6.



Pedal cars and other toys

The museum is also a treasure trove of motorsports toys, from models and pedal cars, to scooters, soapbox racers, car-themed rock records and even guitars and surfboards. There's something here to interest every kid, no matter how old.

For more cars and stories, surf on over to <https://www.museumofamericanspeed.com/about.html>

The Best Things in Life Are Free

(Continued from p. 6)

“Oh really, you don’t have to go to any trouble” Linda piped in, rather embarrassed.

“That’s *no* trouble at all!” was the young lady’s only rejoinder, and handed her a steaming cup of coffee. “Is this for here or to go?”

“We’re gonna take it with us, thanks,” I explained, grabbing the coffee and the wife and ushering both out the door and back into the car.

“Couldn’t we have stayed a bit, so I could sit and enjoy my—”

“Put your seat belt on, we have another stop to make,” I cut in. “We’re on our way to breakfast, and we’ve got a tight schedule to keep,” I explained, glancing at the list in my pocket first, and then my watch. With that I pulled out of the parking lot and made a beeline south.

In a couple of minutes, we were turning into the parking lot of the IHOP. Linda gulped down her latte, as I undid her seatbelt and ushered her into the restaurant.

“Table for two?” asked the hostess. I nodded in the affirmative. “Follow me,” she said, menus in hand, leading us to a table.

“We’ve got a birthday girl here, today!” I proclaimed, flashing Linda’s ID at the young lady.

“Well Happy Birthday!” she responded.

“That entitles her to a free Rooty Tooty Fresh n’ Fruity breakfast, right?” I queried, checking over the details I had scribbled onto my list.

“That’s absolutely correct!” the hostess replied. “And what will the gentleman have this morning?”

“Nothing but a glass of water, thanks.” I replied.

“I see . . . uh, well enjoy your breakfast, Ma’am. And I hope you have a Happy Birthday,” she murmured out of the corner of her mouth.

Linda seemed a bit uncomfortable.

“I don’t wish to seem ungrateful after all the trouble you’ve obviously

gone to—”

“Hurry-up and finish your pancakes, we’ve got places to go; people to see!”

After checking my list again, we quickly exited the IHOP with tires screeching.

“Can’t we just go home now?” asked Linda rather sheepishly.

“Are you kidding? Not on your life! This is your big day!” I pulled the car up to the Buffalo Wild Wings. “Free birthday boneless wings!” I shouted through smiling teeth. Grabbing my spouse’s hand we marched in, brandishing my old lady’s driver’s license in front of me like a preacher wields a bible at a prayer meeting.

After that there were the free baby-back ribs at Applebees, and the free Snickers Brownie Blizzard at Dairy Queen, and the gratis Grand Slam at Denny’s, and a free tiramisu (with unlimited breadsticks) at Olive Garden,

followed by an on-the-house pepperoni pizza at Dominoes, a free double-scoop at Baskin Robbins, and a complimentary birthday bowl of chili at the Texas Roadhouse.

“Are we done yet?” asked my disconcerted soul mate.

“Not yet . . . and you’ve got a little of the chili there,” I responded, pointing at a spot on her chin. Linda wiped it off with the side of her hand, whilst emitting a muffled belch.

“Buckle up,” I commanded, and pointed the car towards the next stop on the list.

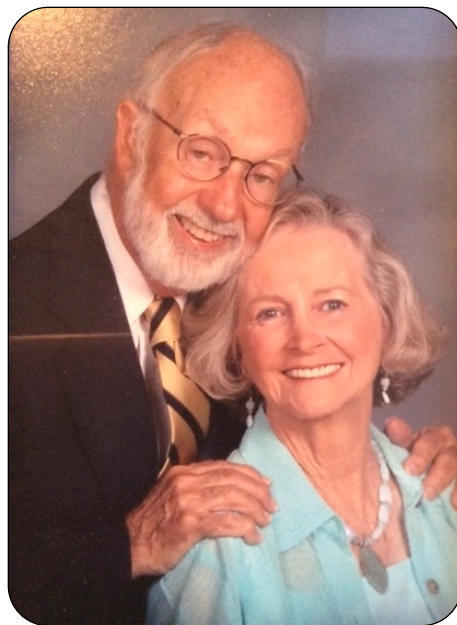
“Honey, I’m really getting full.”

“That’s what you say now,” I explained, pulling into the Krispy Kreme’s lot. “You’re entitled to a dozen deluxe chocolate iced glazed filled donuts,” I read off my list.

“Well . . . okay, but after that I think I’ve had enough free birthday food!”

(See p. 8, “The Best Things”)

Lee and Betty



When Lee and Betty Westcott-Plummer attended the 2001 Antique Auto Club of America awards banquet at the Radison Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, they were newly weds, having each lost a spouse.

As part of the convention, they

attended the meeting of region presidents, where each president got up and told about their long-distance tour for that year. One of these was a 3,000-mile tour in Alaska and Canada. It would go from Anchorage to Haines, Alaska, down the inside passage on the Alaska Ferry to Prince Rupert, Canada and back to Anchorage via the Cassiar and Alaska Highways.

Lee and Betty could hardly wait for the end of the meeting, and in the after-meeting melee, they found the Alaska couple, Tom and Marcy Cresap, and introduced themselves. They wanted to go on the Alaska trip.

So began an adventure that lasted the rest of their lives.

They fell in love with Alaska, joined the Antique Auto Musers and became snowbirds.

After a few years, they answered the call of family, health and other commitments and returned to Florida, where they lived out their remaining years.

We will publish Lee’s obituary in our next issue. 🍷

“Of course, Sweetie!” I smiled and winked. “Then there is the free facial at Ulta Beauty in the Dimond Center and then the free Marc Jacobs gel eyeliner, fresh face cleanser, and tarte lip gloss at Sephora downtown, followed by your complimentary birthday gifts at JC Penney, Kohls, Old Navy and Famous Footwear. Then let us not forget a free movie at the Regal Cinema, then—“

“Let me see that,” she hissed, and grabbed the list from my hands.

“There is no Bath and Body Works in Anchorage!”

“There isn’t?” I hummed.

“No, and there are no IKEA’s or Pet Supply Plus stores, either!”

“Yeah, but there is a Petco!”

“That’s a free treat for *your pet* on it’s birthday!”

“Huh?” I replied, grabbing the list back from her. “Let me see that . . . uh, well, okay. But there is a free DVD at Best Buy on your birthday,” I said,

pointing the car towards the Tikahtnu Commons.

“Honey . . . Honey,” she said, “you know we can afford all these things.”

“Yes, but you hate it when I spend a lot of money on you for your birthday!”

“I guess that’s true,” she answered with a shrug of her shoulders. “But do you know what else doesn’t cost anything, and it’s something I would really like for my birthday?”

“No, what?”

She reached over and whispered into my ear.

“Oooohh,” I replied with a blush, and quickly turned the car in the direction of our home.

Halfway to the house, I thought for a moment and cried out, “Isn’t that supposed to be free any day of the year?”

“Shut-up and drive, it’s my birthday!” 🤪

December

Birthdays

Howard Hansen–1st

Brian Anderson–2nd

Marilyn Chiotti–2nd

Linda Mattes Golding–7th

Dale Dryden–12th

Laura Smith 12th

Dennis Allen–17th

Art Isham–18th

Colleen Hansen–20th

Barbara Tullis 20th

Michael Campbell–21st

Tom Cresap–21st

Marl Campbell–28th

Jack Richter–29th

Anniversaries

Marilyn & Dave Chiotti–2nd

Doris & Barry Fowler–14th

Laura & Mike Smith 14th

Barbara & Dick Henningsen–
15th

Tamea & Art Isham–18th

Joanne & Dutch Overly–29th

A recipient of AACA Award of Excellence, Master Editor and the Ann S. Eady Memorial Award

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AAMA

