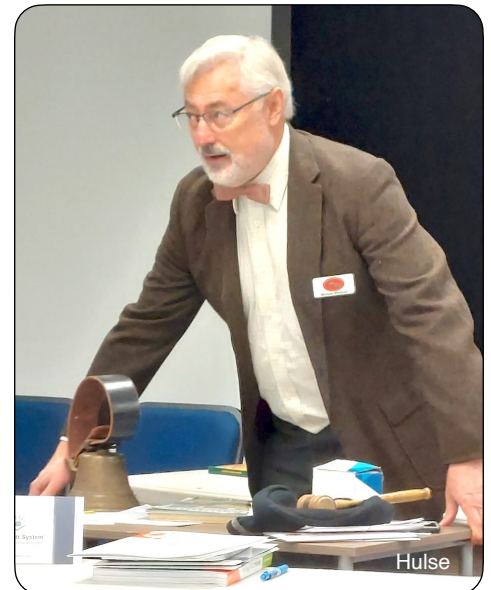


Installation of 2024 AAMA Officers



Above: Michael (The Professor) Wiedmer presides over the January 10th installation of 2024 AAMA officers. Left: president, Linda Mattes-Golding looks on as the lone new officer, Michael Packard is sworn in.

by Tom Cresap

The 2024 Installation of AAMA officers was challenging for the inducted

2024 Rondy Update

2024 Fur Rondy Update

by Art Isham

The Parade and Show are coming together, but as usual there are a few loose ends that we need to resolve.

1. We need more participation in both the Parade and Show on Saturday (24 February) and the Show on Sunday (25 February).
2. We need some closed sedans with heaters to carry three pairs of Pioneers of Alaska, so they don't suffer from the cold. Donn and Art have already called (See p. 4, "Rondy Update")

officers, as well as the club members present. As MC, Mike Wiedmer (AKA, The Professor), performed the ceremony, he asked qualifying questions about the origin, ramifications, and historical personages related to each office: i.e., who was the first Sergeant at Arms in the early United States Congress, and what were his duties? Almost all those present were stumped, but in the end, we all were entertained and better-informed about the workings of early national government and the duties of our own new officers.

All officers but one, Michael Packard (vice president) were returns from last year. So, duly installed for 2024 are:

President: Linda Mattes-Golding
 Vice President: Michael Packard
 Secretary: Greg Carpenter
 Treasurer: Louis Mestier

Congratulations, we all look forward to participating with you to make this year continue in our tradition of laughter and good times with antique cars, as well as preserving these rolling pieces of history.

February Meeting

Our February business meeting will begin at 6:30 pm February 14th at the Hope Community Center Resources building at 570 W. 53rd Avenue in Anchorage.

We will be hot and heavy in preparation for the Rondy, so come for the latest info.

We'll go for dinner afterwards, as usual.

Running Board Reflections



The Professor swears in 2024 president, Linda Mattes Golding at the January meeting.

Even though it is early February, our old car season is already heating up. In the last few weeks, I have had several conversations with members of the Vernon Nash Car Club, as well as the Horseless Carriage Club. We will definitely be connecting with some of the Vernon Nash folks as they travel to the Sutton Valley Trash Car Show in July.

Instead of "Barhopping," we hope to offer our Fairbanks friends a "Shop Hop," allowing them to visit three of our members' shops (Isham, Cresap & Golding), which are all located very near one another in Chugiak and Eagle River.

We hope to connect with the tour being offered by the Horseless Carriage Club in early August. In anticipation of their visit, Tamea Isham has proposed a long distance tour to Fairbanks and beyond to coincide with the Alaska portion of their trip. More on that at our February meeting.

Closer in time, the Fur Rondy Parade

and the corresponding Bob's Services Show is happening in just a few weeks. If you have not already signed up for the Parade, the Show, or both, please contact Art Isham or Donn Reese, who are generously coordinating the events.

In May, we will again take our drive to Homer for our annual car show before the start of their heavy tourist season. Jim Fredenhagen and Richard Golding will be working on details over the next few weeks. They hope to have more details by our March meeting.

We also hope to continue our community involvement by visiting some elder care facilities to show off our vehicles to the residents.

And of course, there will most likely be our Father's Day Car Show at the Zoo, the Show & Shine in early August, and the September Dimond Center Show!

So while the snow is keeping you inside, get your cars ready for a busy year.

—Linda



2023 Officers

President:

Linda Mattes-Golding

907-351-3251

Vice President:

Michael Packard-

907-382-1221

Secretary:

Greg Carpenter 907-891-4988

Treasurer:

Louis Mestier 512-507-8028

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Dutch Overly 907-338-1789

Members at Large

Tamea Isham

907-688-3671

Donn Reese

907-748-0036

Scott Hulse

907-240-4028

Past Presidents (10 years)

David Jensen (2019-21)

Gwyn Wiedmer (2017-18)

Brian Anderson (2015-16)

Mike Wiedmer (2013-14)

Howard Hansen (2012)

Tinkering Times Staff

Editor: Tom Cresap

Proofing, scheduling and keeping the old man in line:

Marcy Cresap

Send correspondence to:

Tinkering Times

Tom Cresap, Editor

P.O. Box 770703

Eagle River AK 99577

or email:

tmcresap@mtaonline.net

Tinkering Times is published monthly by Alaska's really-neat classic and antique automobile club, Antique Auto Musers of Alaska, P.O. Box 232086, Anchorage AK 99523-2086. Opinions expressed by authors of Tinkering Times--including references about how wonderful they 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 at 907-694-7510.

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
(907) 440-2982



Available to a good home: four AMC Eagles, three station wagons, one sedan. Very complete, bodies in fine shape; mechanical conditions unknown. Contact Mike Wiedmer if interested—(907)-632-1687



For Sale: 15" hubcaps for 1970's & 80's Ford; \$25; Jim, 907-351-3115.

Info Wanted: I have a 1936, 3-window ford I'm getting ready to start. I need to replace the frame. Does anyone know of one that is available? I want to keep the car as original as I can. Info would be greatly appreciated. Martin Barton, martini1015@yahoo.com

A list of Model A's and parts for sale in Alaska.

1. '29 Pickup, Sterling, Excellent, Show condition, \$31,000, Bill Eckhardt, 907-227-2755.

Schedule of events

- o February 14—6:30 pm Meeting
- o February 24—Rondy parade and show (Art Isham & Donn Reese)
- o February 25—Rondy Show
- o March 13—6:30 pm Meeting
- o April 10—6:30 pm Meeting

2. '29 Pickup, Anchorage, Good condition, '80s restoration, \$19,000, Eric Serballenger, 505-604-4376, extra rear fender, radiator shell.

3. '29 Tudor, Sterling, 100 miles on frame off, Mod B engine, O/D, 12 volt, alternator, LED, trailer hitch, \$24,000, Bill Eckhardt, 907-227-2755.

4. '29 Briggs Town Sedan, Anchorage, Excellent, frame off, total authentic, show condition, \$26,000, Terry Teilborg, 907-229-9696.

5. '31 Tudor, Sterling, Good condition, 12 volt, alt, Weber carb, new rad, \$22,000, Jim Fena, 907-252-3404.

6. '30 Coupe, Anchorage, Project w/2 chassis, 2 sets fenders/aprons, Chev 327 engine, \$6,000, Monte Handy, 907-230-8557.

7. Parts - Sterling, A & B engine parts, accessories, carbs, distribs, ign sw pop out, fuel sys parts, '30/31 front fibr fenders, left w well, turn sigs, wiring harnesses, trans/bell housing, 5 tires/ 6-19" wheels, '31 inst panels, \$2500, Linda Piper, 907-229-2766.

8. Parts - Peters Creek, numerous new A parts, lists available, catalog pricing without shipping, Art Isham, 907-688-3671.



For Sale: 1928 Model A Roadster; in Homer; good condition. Nice older museum restoration; used for parades/shows; garage stored; all stock; \$14,000, Linda Lempe, 907-299-1719.



AAMA Magnetic Door/ Parade Decals

We have the large AAMA Decals. These are \$15 each. If you would like Magnetic signs for use in parades and AAMA activities; I have heavy magnetic material for about 10 sets (of 2 decals each). I will cut and assemble two decals for \$15.

The Magnetic backing is .030" thick and holds great on a steel door or panel.
TOTAL COST FOR TWO MAGNETIC SIGNS IS \$45.00 (\$30 to AAMA for the decals and \$15 to Scott Hulse for materials).
Contact Scott Hulse at (907) 240-4028, or E-mail hulse@alaska.net, if you would like a set made.

From Hope Community Resources



President Linda presents our Christmas donation check to Hope Director, Michelle.

Dear AAMA Members,

On behalf of Hope Community Resources, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your wonderful gift of \$540.00. Your support plays a pivotal role in advancing our mission to empower individuals with diverse abilities, creating a more inclusive and supportive community.

At Hope Community Resources, we strive to create an environment where everyone, regardless of ability, can thrive and reach their full potential. Your contribution directly impacts the lives of those we are privileged to serve, enabling us to provide essential services, programs and resources.

Wishing you a New Year of hope!

With sincere appreciation,
 Cyndi Ramirez
 Development Officer/Public Relations
 Hope Community Resources
 540 W. International Airport Road
 Anchorage, Alaska 99518



Choose YOUR favorite antique auto at Piggly Wiggly

Interface with the Fairbanks Adventure Before Dementia Tour (ABDT)

by Scott Grundy VLNAACF & AAMA

It's been too long since we have exchanged hugs & greetings with the AAMA! The 2024 ABDT will

have activities in Talkeetna, Eagle River & Sutton and we are hopeful AAMA members will join one or more of the following activities!

1. Has the Mahay's Jet Boat excursion up the Susitna River to Devil's Canyon been on your bucket list? Well, Join us on Thursday, July 25 and enjoy good camaraderie at a discounted price. Contact me for details (sgrundy55ply@gmail.com, 907-322-9283).

2. On the evening of Friday, July 26 we hope to do a shop-hop tour of a few AAMA garages in the Eagle River area. Hopefully, we'll see many of your smiling faces in the process too.

3. We will participate in the Valley Trash Car Show in Sutton on Saturday, July 27. We encourage the AAMA to join us in full force to make this event their best fund-raising event ever!!

We're looking forward to seeing you. Let's have some fun!

Long Distance Tour

Tamea Isham, who has so graciously and ambitiously taken on the planning of our 2024 Long Distance Tour, reported today that she doesn't yet have the details finalized, but that she will soon. Those who have expressed interest can expect an "email blast" in about a week or 10 days.

Rondy Update

(Continued from p.1)

some members about this requirement, but don't be afraid to volunteer if you haven't been called.

3. Come to the meeting and sign up for the Saturday and Sunday Potluck or call Tam Isham (907-688-3671) to add your dish to the menu.
4. Don't forget the giveaways for car magazines.
5. Bob's Services will close up at 7 PM on Friday (23 February) so get your cars in early starting about 4 PM if you plan on bringing them down that day.
6. We still need to fill all the time slots for the Popcorn Sales and Greeting Booth operation, so think about signing up for that. Call Tam Isham at (907-688-3671).

This year we will also have a car parts giveaway so people can dispose of items that are hanging around their garage taking up space. Only catch is that if items are not carried off by the end of the show, the donor has to take them back to their garage. No items are to be for sale. Just giveaways.

Call Donn (907-748-0036) or Art (907-688-3671) to add your name to the Parade or Show lists.

Frederic Holland Keller January 15, 2024



Fred Keller, 81, passed away January 15th, 2024 at Mat-Su Regional Hospital in Palmer, Alaska.

Hank Raymond January 27, 2024



Hank Raymond (center) with Len Grau and Ted Kimzey at a Christmas party.

Long-time past member of the Antique Auto Musers, Hank Raymond, was found at home, where he had lived alone, during a wellness check on January 17th. We will offer a full obituary of this special past member in next month's Tinkering Times.

A Note From North Pole

Tom—

How are you doing? I have had another trip to Swedish Cardiac [Seattle] in early January and am going back the 4th of February. Too many AFib events and other complications. Just had Cataract surgery. Falling prey to Golden years syndrome.

Bill Chase (AAMA member)
North Pole, Alaska

Fred and his wife, Judy, were past members of the Antique Auto Musers. We remember Fred especially for the incredible engineering and craftsmanship in creating his 3.63-scale Radio Flyer Wagon on a 1976 Mazda pickup chassis.

He is survived by his wife, Judy. Services will be announced later.

James G. "Clutch" Lounsbury Jan 19, 2024.

Clutch" Lounsbury died Jan 19, 2024. He was 78 years old. He was a long-time member of Vernon Nash Antique Auto Club in Fairbanks and a charter member of Northern Lights Antique Autos in North Pole.

AAMA members might remember him. He hosted us at his mine and his beautiful home in Ester, north of



Fairbanks, and in the town of Wiseman, just off the Dalton Highway.

He was a great supporter of the car clubs and was a life member of the Pioneers of Alaska. He often played Santa Clause convincingly because of his portly build and beard. He played the wash tub in a local musical group.

There is no memorial date planned at this time.

From the Editor's Desk

According to an Anchorage Daily News article by Ned Rozel—science writer for the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks—Anchorage set a daily record low temperature on January 31: -18°F. My back porch thermometer registered -24° on February 3rd. And that is nothing, compared to Fairbanks temps of -49.1 reported by resident, Chris Swingley.

So, things are chilly, and in addition, we have received a total of about 110 inches of snow so far this winter. Sometimes, snow will go away due to Chinook winds, but this year, that hasn't happened. As a result, Anchorage has had a spate of roof collapses. We've had at least 19 of those, including the ones caused by the heavy snows last year.

Following these weather extremes, we have our winter carnival, the Fur Rendezvous, approaching in about three weeks. I'm hoping it warms up at least a little before then, because I plan to drive my 1925 Model T Touring, as always, in the parade. The coldest I've experienced while doing that was -5°. It made me wonder how they survived driving in the "good ol' days."

This may be the ultimate test of the Alaskan resolve demonstrated in our saying, "If you let the weather stop you,

you won't get anything done."

Here's hoping we succeed with our Rondo fun.

—Tom



Snowzilla is a giant 24-foot snowman that Anchorage resident, Billy Powers, has erected at his home on Columbine street in Anchorage since 2005. It is testimony to Alaskan's ability to thumb their nose at and have fun with the ubiquitous cold and snow in our winter environment.



Marianne Robinson and her daughter, Martha, are in Santa Maria Florida, and as they were going to dinner, they came across two cars they thought worthy of sharing. Marianne said she left an AAMA card (which she carries all the time) with a greeting on the window.

From Seldovia

ahoy tom-

not sure of [Louis mestier's] address, i shall shunt my obligatory membership fee through your offices. i renewed my AACA dues a while back and neglected the enclosed until your TT reminder.

and thank you for your continued loyal, constant, skillful, continuing publication of the tinkering times! i know that nothing lasts forever, but, wow, you've been at this ever since i joined ranks with club in 2011. Remarkable indeed. your efforts more than just "fill the bill." kudos to you and marcy!

Yes, i am tinkering w/my 'new' 1930 murry town sedan-sometimes considerably more than 5 minutes a day, but not always.

happy new year,
walt sonen

Walt-

It's always a pleasure to get your stylistically distinct notes. Thanks for your membership check-now forwarded to Louis, our treasurer-and your kind words about our little monthly publication. I started doing the "Tinkering Times" in January, 1993 and took an eight-year break starting in 2001 to build our house;

then I resumed in 2009. This is my 24th year. It's almost like walking or breathing, so-much as walking and breathing-someday the task will end. For now, I'm still having fun.

-Tom

AAMA Business Meeting
January 10, 2024
Location: Hope Community
Resources Learning Center
570 W. 53rd Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm
 by President Linda Mattes Golding

There were 28 members present
 and no guests.

November Minutes

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

Installation of Officers

The installation ceremony of new
 officers and members at large was
 performed by the history professor
 Mike Weidmer. Mike provided a
 history lesson in the form of multiple-
 choice questions for each elected
 position. Each elected person was
 sworn in by placing their right hand on

a copy of Hemmings Motor News
 along with reciting the oath of office.
 The 2024 AAMA Board consists of the
 following members:

President: Linda Mattes Golding

Vice President: Mike Packard

Treasurer: Louis Mestier

Secretary: Greg Carpenter

Sergeant of Arms: Dutch Overly

Members at Large: Donn Reese,
 Tam Isham and Scott Hulse.

Treasurer's Report

Louis Mestier provided the
 financial report.

Old Business

**The club donated \$540.00
 collected during the AAMA Christmas
 party to Hope Community Resources
 Center.

**President Linda Mattes Golding
 offered a big Thank You to Art and
 Tam Isham for hosting the wonderful
 AAMA Christmas party at their house.

**The club received a Christmas
 card from the Kaknu Kruzers car club
 in Kenai.

**Scott Hulse has AAMA logo
 magnets for sale to place on your car
 at events.

New Business

**Art Isham gave an update on
 the Fur Rondy car show to be held at
 Bob's Services and the parade.
 Multiple signup sheets were passed

(See p. 7, "November Minutes")

The Little Snow Blower That Could

Humor by Rich Golding

One of the duties that came along with the purchase of our new house is that of “chief snow removal person.” For the past thirty years, while spending all my time slaving at work, I paid a fella with a plow truck to remove any snowfall from the driveway at our old home. It was a simple matter of two or three swipes with his truck’s blade. But come my retirement and the new house, I had decided to personally tackle all manly chores associated with home ownership. So, before our new home closed, I started shopping for the best method that allowed me to remove the snow.

Whereas my older home had a simple straight driveway, the newer abode would not be not quite so easy. It has 4400 square feet of asphalt. Roughly the size of a Walmart parking lot. And to further complicate matters, there are several side sections jutting out here and there, along with semi-circular arced perimeters and gravel side pads.

In short, a nightmare scenario for any plower.

Thus, I ended up ruling out a truck with a plow blade due to two specific factors. One: it would be very difficult – nay, practically impossible to pilot around all the aforementioned side sections and rounded edges. And as for reason two: I am a frugal person . . . more accurately put, a ‘cheapskate.’ After I determined what a decent truck and plow set-up cost, smelling salts were in order.

Having spoken with many of my friends, who are themselves Anchorage area homeowners with driveways, I discovered that the majority of them were using snow-blowers, and not plows. They were also cheapskates.

But they were all forthcoming with advice (which is free), and they all had their own opinions on what kind, size, and brand of snow blower I should purchase. After commiserating with several of them, I found them all to be full of , er . . . recommendations.

I also discovered a sort of close-knit fraternity, perhaps best described as a ‘true brotherhood’ of these snow blowers. They are guys that I have known for

decades. Some of them close friends. All members of some niche clandestine following.

Who knew?

There are also the salesmen at the hardware stores. Each and every one of them passionate about snow blowers. Each with varied and totally unique advice regarding gas versus electric, and self-propelled versus push-behind. I shan’t even attempt to broach the topics of swipe width or snow height, let alone single vs. double vs. triple staged augers. My head was about to explode with information overload and the varied opinions that were continuously being cast my way.

But 4400 square feet is a lot of asphalt. That haughty number stuck in the back of my head and occupied my thoughts for days. It kept me up night after night. Gas engines, I am told, were laborious. They needed fuel drained and fouled spark plugs replaced, and were

quite loud and belched toxic smoke into the air. Worst still, I’ve been told that they always seemed to conk-out on you just when you needed them most. And they were “old school.”

On the other hand, battery powered blowers were definitely “new school.” They are clean, and much quieter. They don’t pollute your lungs or the planet. But to many ‘in the know’ they are a science in its infancy that is uncertain and still evolving. They need constant recharging and will not hold enough juice to cover 4400 square feet in one charge, or so say the experts. They are expensive, especially the batteries, which usually need to be replaced about every three years. The guy at the hardware store expounded to me, eye to eye, over his glasses perched low on his nose, that a new battery set can cost a thousand

(See p. 8, “The Little Snowblower . . .”)



November Minutes

(Continued from p. 7)
around for the members who wanted to participate in the parade, car show, working the popcorn booth and food for the potluck. Art also talked about valve cover car races and had the rules and regulations if anyone was interested in building a car to race at the car show.

**Tam Isham proposed a tentative schedule and plan for a long-distance trip this summer. The idea is to depart Anchorage on Tuesday August 6th and drive up to Healy. On August 7th drive into Denali National Park to Savage River and possibly meet up with the Horseless Carriage tour then on up to Fairbanks. On August 8th leave Fairbanks to Delta Junction then over to Chitina. Depart on August 9th from

Chitina for the drive back to Anchorage. Tam will continue to work out the planning and logistics for this trip.

**A motion was passed for a \$50.00 gift card for the People’s Choice award at the Fur Rondy car show.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Split the Pot

Split the pot winner Art Isham

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Meeting Adjourned

Dinner at Fire Tap restaurant

Respectfully submitted.

Greg Carpenter, Secretary

The Title Snowblower That Could

(Continued from p.7)

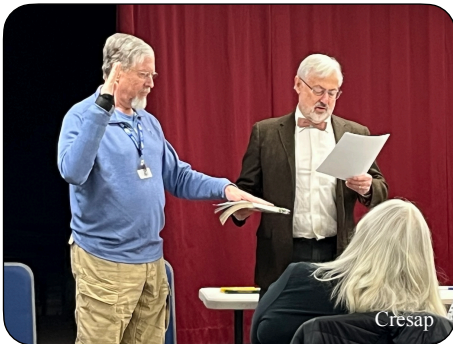
dollars (please reference “reason two” above).

The more information I was given, the more dazed and confused I became. Then, one semi-sleepless night, with visions of snow blowers dancing in my head, I got up out of bed and decided to consult the great oracle of intelligence that is the internet. There I stumbled upon availability of a totally different kind of snow blower. One that up until then was foreign and unknown to me. It turned out to be the best of all possible worlds, an electric snowblower – with a cord!

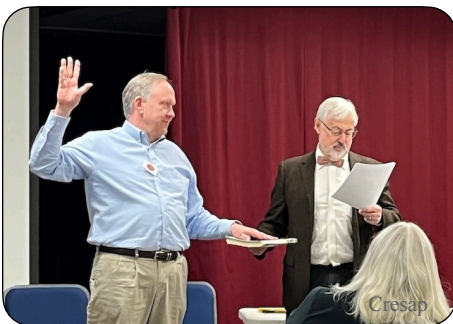
Powered by a tried and true ‘old school’ electric motor. One that needs absolutely no maintenance and has no parts to replace. You just attach an extension cord, plug it into the closest outlet and go. What a concept! And brother, there are outlets all over my new house, and I’m talkin’ inside and out! Best of all was the price (again please reference “reason two” above).

Unlike the gas or battery powered monsters, this baby only weighs 35 pounds. Even this feeble old man is capable of picking it up and moving it anywhere!

Who knew?



Dutch Overly, Sergeant at Arms



Louis Mestier, treasurer

I jumped out of my chair at the kitchen table, and yelled “Eureka! I have found it!”

I ran into the bedroom and shook my wife awake.

“Eureka, Linda! Eureka!” I screamed.

“Huh . . . wha . . . wha . . . what time is it?” She queried, squinting and reaching for her watch on the bedside table. “Oh my God, it’s three thirty!”

“I’ll tell you what time it is. It’s time for me to buy a snow blower! An electric snowblower! An electric snowblower without any batteries!”

“That’s nice, dear,” she muttered, yawning, then curled back to sleep.

I pranced to the kitchen and clicked-in my order.

The next day, I called several of my friends (my snow blowing brethren) with all the particulars. However, my good news was met with much consternation.

“It’s a toy,” said Tom.

“It’s only got one stage, you’ll need at least three stages for an Alaskan winter” bellowed Art.

“Mmmm, it’ll mmmm, but mmmm, won’t mmmm!” exclaimed Jim, whilst simultaneously eating a bowl of chili.

About a week later my new snowblower arrived in a big brown truck. The UPS driver handed me the package, all the while eyeing the box’s label.

“Snow blower, eh? I deliver a lot of snow blowers, but never one this small. Whatzit – something for a little kid?”

“No, it’s an electric snow blower that runs off wall current.”

“Really?” He chuckled under his breath. “I guess I’ll be seeing you again in a few days.”

“Why’s that?” I responded rather perplexed.

“When you have me pick it up to return it.”

Undaunted, I ran, my prize in my arms, into my shop like a kid on Christmas morning. Prying open the carton and gazing starry-eyed at my shiny new snow blower. At first it seemed rather small. And it is built almost entirely of plastic, but neither of those facts would deter me from assembling it as per the included 62 page instruction booklet.

My daughter and her almost-husband Josh, came over to the house for dinner that night. After the meal, I escorted him to my shop to show him my new precious.

“What’s that?” he asked, pointing and snickering.

“That’s my new snow blower. It’s

electric. It runs off a cord.”

“USB?”

“No. Regular wall current.”

“Uh-huh . . . It’s really small.”

“Son, haven’t you realized yet that size doesn’t matter?”

“I think I’ll stick to my Craftsman gas powered blower.”

I’ve seen his blower. It’s ginormous. “This one only weighs 35 pounds,” I explained, “I can pick it up and load it in the trunk of the car with one hand.”

He responded only with a “hmmm . . .”

A couple of weeks passed. And then came the snow. You remember that first storm, don’t you? Eighteen inches in Anchorage. More like two feet in Chugiak.

Donning my hooded parka, Sorel boots and heavy-duty water-proof gloves, I was ready. Linda tied a scarf around my neck.

“Play nice in the snow,” she exclaimed in her best motherly voice, tenderly kissing me on the cheek.

Much to my amazement, the little snow blower performed like a champ. While my neighbor next door struggled with his snow blower – a gigantic Ariens gasoline model with heated handles, six forward and two reverse speeds, a three stage auger, as well as a hot tub. I cleared all my asphalt with ‘the little snow blower that could’ in about the same time it took him to do his driveway and walkways, which are not even a third the size of mine.

“Hmmm . . .” he said, eyeing my rig and scratching his head.

Tom came over to the house a couple of snowstorms later. I took him out into my shop and showed him the mighty mini and pointing out the job it had been able to do on all the snow that had fallen.

Hmmm. . . “ he said, eyeing my rig and scratching his head.

Then Art came by.

“Hmmm . . .” he said, eyeing my rig and scratching his head.

Josh came over with our daughter for another dinner. Boy, can that kid eat! He was sporting a few bruises on his arms, and his back was bothering him. Seems his powerful snow blower had been beating up on him. I showed him the job Mickey Rooney and I had done on the snow.

“Hmmm . . .” he said, eyeing my rig and rubbing his aching arms. “Maybe I oughta’ check one of these out for myself.” 🌊

History of the Adventure Before Dementia Tours

by Scott Grundy, Cat Herder Jr.

The story begins in 2008. Lynn & I are also members of the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska (AAMA) in Anchorage. The AAMA is composed of many folks who are really eager to drive their vehicles on extensive road trips. They had just completed a tour to Yellowknife, NWT, Canada and announced their next trip was up the Dempster Highway to Inuvik, NWT, Canada via Whitehorse and return over the Top of the World & Taylor Highways to Tok, AK. I was really intrigued, so “we” purchased a 1955 Plymouth 4-door and I spent a couple of months changing fluids and fussing with her (Edith) in hopes she would make the nearly 2,300-mile round trip - hopefully without difficulty. Other than a flat tire, she did really well. Because the experience was so terrific, I became determined to get our club involved in such fun. Accordingly, I asked many questions of the AAMA leader Bruce Campbell (aka, Cat Herder). He’s a real character and became my mentor – hence my “Junior” handle.

In 2009 I proposed our first tour, but we needed a fun name for our group. Our club’s unofficial “Poet Laureate,” Ed McLaughlin, called me one evening and informed me he was talking with a chap from Australia who advised there

was an Aussie group called “The Adventure Before Dementia Tours.” We all loved it, so our group was named! But I caution you – It’s only properly pronounced with an Aussie accent!

VLNAACF Adventure Before Dementia Tour Events

- 2009 Whitehorse – Skagway Haines–1360 miles
- 2010 Valdez to Cordova to Whittier to Hatcher Pass–804 miles
- 2012 Cantwell to Seward to Majestic Valley–1053 miles
- 2013 Dawson City to Eagle–882 miles
- 2014 Homer to Seldovia–1200 miles
- 2016 Beaver Creek to Haines to Skagway to Whitehorse–1287 miles
- 2017 Wiseman to Galbraith Lake to Manley Hot Springs–592 miles
- 2018 Kodiak–1300 miles
- 2019 Whitehorse to Dawson City to Tok–1573 miles
- 2023 Dawson City to Eagle–882 miles
- 2024 Talkeetna to Eagle River to Sutton –770 miles**

What happened during the missing years you ask? In 2011 we interfaced with the AAMA on a really special joint tour to Kennicott – McCarthy to participate in the National Park Service’s celebration of the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Copper River & NW Railway that once joined Cordova to Kennicott. The AAMA arranged road access to the communities over a private bridge. Bill Chace created a beautiful large patch

for all participants, that is the best patch I have ever seen!

I canceled the proposed 2015 tour to Hope and Soldotna as it initially attracted little interest. But in retrospect I shouldn’t have, as Will & Theresa Chase joined the Grundys to spend a really fun weekend with the AAMA celebrating the annual Wagon Trail Festival in Hope. We had a great time! Had I not canceled, I suspect a few more cats would have joined this festive weekend.

Covid canceled our tours in 2020 and 2021. My busy schedule in 2022 was followed in 2023 by my hesitance and laziness to organize these fun tours. Then, in spite of me, and to my delight, the 2023 AAMA evolved as a result of the insistence of Ed McLaughlin who had to drive his newly acquired Citroen 2CV at age 97 on a long trip - my hat is off to Rick Larrick who organized the 2023 tour. I attended last year’s event and had so much fun, I’m eager to get us rollin’ again! I love driving an old car on road trips!! I guess I love all the thumbs-up attention from the public and the camaraderie developed with fellow club members.

We also made a few trips into Denali National Park with our southern AAMA club friends. Not AAMA’s, but fabulous excursions. The last occurred by special invitation by the National Park Service on Sept.19, 2019 - the day after the public lottery winners drove the roadway. We had the road all to ourselves and many of us drove to its end in Kantishna. 🌈



Cresap

We offer this photo in celebration of this year's snow, frost and sub-zero temperatures, after several years of mild winters.

February

Birthdays

Kathleen Godsoe—6th

Laura Therriault—6th

Louis Mestier—8th

Trudy Keller—11th

Morgan Blanchard—13th

Martie Black—20th

Pam Tanora—21st

Randy Canaar—22nd

Georgia Knazovich—24th

Anniversary

Denice & Ben Drury—29th

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

AAMA
P.O. Box 770703
Eagle River AK 99577-0703

