

FAIRBANKS

Vernon L. Nash

ALASKA



Antique Automobile Club of America



### Fairbanks and Anchorage Antique Auto Clubs Joint Meet Line-Up at Denali – 1991

#### JOINT MEETS OF YESTERYEARS By Bill and Joyce Chace

What's this all about you ask? Well, I will elaborate on this most traditional of

antique car club events along with a short history lesson, and as a bonus, a pre check warning for your vehicle.

Almost immediately after the founding of the Fairbanks Car Club in 1971 a

connection was established with friends in the Antique Auto Musers of Anchorage.

Vernon L. Nash (Vern) was the founder and primary contributor to the establishment and growth of the Fairbanks



A "See More Butts" photo opportunity commonly occurs when someone has a mechanical problem on the road. Photo taken in 1989.

Car club. Within the year it became affiliated with and named the Fairbanks Chapter of the Horseless Carriage Club (HCCA) of America.

One day in May 1977 Vern Nash and George Clayton displayed two unique Ford Model T trucks inside the newly opened Bentley Mall. Their intent was to increase interest in the local car club. Clayton's 1925 Old Number 16 without the familiar top adornments and the

Nash's 1915 right hand drive dump truck were the two trucks on display.

A club event was scheduled in June at McKinley Park. This was a three-day event involving traveling the highway together and enjoying good food, car games, and camaraderie with the Antique Auto Musers of Anchorage. My interest in the club was increased, but my Plymouth was still in Sacramento. In fact my wife Joyce wasn't here either. I had been transferred to Eielson AFB and was not allowed to move my family until a housing unit was available for my family.

Hearing about the club outing at McKinley Park from Vern was enough to peak my curiosity. I explained that my '52' Plymouth was not in Alaska, and if it were, it would be seen as a new car in comparison to other club members cars that all dated from the teens through the forties. Through this conversation I was invited to join the club as a guest for my first Mckinley Joint meet.



1991 Joint Meet at Denali (Some of the cars still look familiar)

At this time a grouping of old Alaska Railroad cars were serving temporarily as a hotel since a recent fire had destroyed



Car Games: Blindfolded Glass Fill Competition

the lodge.

Making new acquaintances with others of similar interest led to many stories being shared around the camp fires. Car games were held. There were always more stories and lots of food, and this became the prime traveling event for both clubs every year in June.

As the number of McKinley Park tourists increased, our club outings expanded into other surrounding areas such as McKinley Village and local airstrips outside the park until 1991. The Joint Event was then moved to the Gakona Lodge from years 1992 to 1995. A meet scheduled for the Big Lake area was canceled in 1996 due to a fire in the area. In 1997 VLNAACF hosted the meet at the Wasilla transportation museum. In the years that followed, the joint meet changed each year to various locations in the state including Trapper Creek, Healy, Palmer, Copper

Center, Chatanika, Delta, Majestic Valley, and now back to Fairbanks in 2009.

Traveling to and from the meet became an event in itself. Always traveling in convoy for maintenance sake, the Model T's would depart 4 hours earlier, and other newer cars would follow, perfectly timing their arrival at the destination together.

With every trip, even in convoy fashion, there were still break downs, but one always had help. This gave rise to "see more butts" photo opportunities. Everyone would literally put their heads together under the hood to solve a



Car Games: Hansons spearing the potato - 2007

problem. In this configuration, with heads down, like a tick on a dog, the oncoming or passing traffic would be treated to a literal "rear end" view.

Thinking about departing for McKinley causes me to reflect on a story which topped any hard luck story at the next year's meet. The leader of our convoy was anxious to get back to Fairbanks and was last seen in the distance rounding a curve

heading into Healy. As we rounded the same curve, some minutes behind, we saw the 49 Buick stopped along the road. The



Squeezy grills burgers for a BBQ at the Delta Joint Meet. 2007

hood was up obscuring a vehicle that was parked in front just out of sight. As we approached slowly, rolled up and stopped, thinking trouble had developed, we noticed what looked like a flashing gum ball machine just beyond. As the story unfolded, we found the driver had been stopped by a trooper who was giving a thorough vehicle inspection to the 49 Buick, including the speedometer which was found inoperative. The driver was being questioned as to whether he was abusing this very nice old car by driving over 80 MPH. After a very long inspection by the side of the road the 49 resumed without a speeding ticket. The trooper reasoned he wasn't employed by the State of Alaska to furnish proof in writing that the 49 Buick could go over 80 MPH, which would likely be displayed at the next car club meeting. The trooper also stated that he did not want to risk

being chided at the station for giving a ticket to a 49 Buick going over 80 MPH. Who would believe him?

Most of the problems encountered with our vehicles over the years have involved loose points, condenser and plugs, corrosion on electrical components, flakes of rust or dirt in the fuel line, and rotted belts. Whether stopping to blow the rust out of fuel lines, changing points or coils, tending to the steaming screams from overheating radiators or loose caps, gathering water from near by streams, or fixing flats, the interest peaks from the mostly minor problems and usually eliminates any chance of boredom during a trip. It's all fun and games folks. However, a smart alternative is to check your vehicle over before departing on the first event of the year.

Each year the Joint Meet host responsibility alternates between clubs. Desserts are supplied for 2 meals by the non hosting club. Salads and other food items are supplied by the hosting club.

There is always an event BBQ upon arrival Friday evening at 6 pm. Visiting with friends and hard luck trip discussions are the topics of this evening. Following are some examples: "Guess what happened as we left home? I turned back because my wife forgot the dessert. My wife broke a finger nail. You broke down where? The manifold cracked when I hit a \_\_\_\_\_. You ran out of gas? I have never heard nor has it ever been mentioned that "I just didn't take the time to get it all together."

Usually car games begin at 10:00 am on



Car Games: Danes at Majestic Valley in 2006

Saturday. A lunch BBQ separates the morning and afternoon events which includes some activity or a tour. Saturday evening ends with a 6 PM banquet and car game awards. Club chairpersons design and officiate over the games, plan the tour and set up for meals. Volunteers are always welcome to purchase prizes, cook, time events, and clean up. Everyone participates in the fun.

Car games involve your car, driver and passenger in skills of communication in driving, car handling, and ability to navigate over varying surfaces. This sometimes involves a blindfold, reverse gear, directing or lending an opportunity for back seat drivers to excel. There may be feats of skill involving contestants identifying items in a bag by feel or controlling a moving object. There's always fun, food, and fellowship on the menu.

There is some truth to the rumor that swapping parts has occurred and will not be discouraged.

If you know of a new and unique place for an event or a suggestion to enhance a game, let us know about your ideas.

Sincerely,

Bill and Joyce Chace, Squeaky and  
Marion Benham, Event Coordinators

### **THIS YEAR'S JOINT MEET WITH ANCHORAGE AUTO MUSHERS IN FAIRBANKS**

**By Bill and Joyce Chace**

Our meet this year will be held June 12-14 2009, in Fairbanks. We meet at the Wedgewood Resort Friday night for a 6:00 pm barbecue. VLNACCF is hosting this year so our club will provide the meat. VLNAACF members are to bring a main dish or salad. The Anchorage group will furnish deserts. Saturday morning we will begin car games on the Wedgewood property at approximately 10 AM. There will be a BBQ for lunch on Saturday, and in the afternoon we will tour the Car Museum collection. There are many very old pieces of history which we will become familiar with. The final event in the afternoon will be cocktails in the museum at 4 PM and a banquet at 6 PM in the evening, in which car game awards are presented. We hope many will be able to attend. Call the Benhams 474-4966 or Chaces 488-3805 if you plan on attending, so we have an approximate head count for purchasing the meat and for arranging for the banquet. For room rates or a reservation for parking a motor home, call

Bill Chace 488-3805. We'd love to have volunteers to assist with the meet. To volunteer, contact the following persons:

**BBQ...**call Squeaky and Marion Benham 474-4966

**Car Games...**call Bill Chace 488-3805 or 322-0512

**Purchasing prizes and wrapping them...**call Willy Vinton 456-2261

## RAFFLE CAR UPDATE

by Ron Allen

The first raffle event of the year was a huge success. Several volunteers helped sell tickets at the April Outdoors Show at the Carlson Center including Scott Grundy who coordinated our part in the event. We sold \$2,200 of tickets in two days. Scott said that the car seems to sell itself.

Scott also said that Frank Salmon deserves recognition for our presence on Saturday when we earned \$1,400. Per Scott, "He called me & volunteered. I advised we were having difficulties trying to get organized. His words



Rick Larrick, Scott Grundy and Jill Larrick pose with the raffle car at the Outdoors Show.

of encouragement led to our presence! New members are great!"

I overheard a KUAC disk jockey say that he attended the show and that his favorite item was not in the Center. It was sitting outside in front of the Carlson Center, and it was a 1956 Porsche Raffle Car. He said someone there told him it isn't really a Porsche, it's a replica. He said, "Who Cares? It's a really cool little car."

We will be coordinating raffle sales events and soliciting volunteers at the next general membership meeting. Help is needed to sell all 3,000 tickets.

## DON OINES HEARING REPORT

Don Oines reported at the April meeting that he had just visited the audiologist and has good news about his hearing. The doctor said that he has 65% in one ear and 35% in the other ear. That totals 100%. Congratulations Don.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

Cromer, Jr.	George	5-May
Rixie	Howard	6-May
Whitledge	Terry	18-May
McCarthy	John	20-May
Oslund	Gred	29-May
Kirschner	Linda	1-May
Bennett	Margaret	2-May
Karpik	Katy Rice	5-May
Allen	Nancy	6-May
Grundy	Linda	6-May
Oines	Angie	6-May
Lounsbury	Lorna	15-May
Eddy	Karen	26-May

### Anniversaries

	Saulo and	
Angulo	Bryana	3-May
Wright	Marvin	4-May
Merced/Naquin	Julio and Marily	19-May
Brabham	Mel and Jan	22-May

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**Model "A" Repairs:** Bill Wright, an active VLNAACF club member, does re-babbitt work on A's, B's, and T's, complete engine rebuilds, and carburetor, oil pump and water pump rebuilds. Call him at 479-8506 or his cell phone 388-2118.

**Welding, Repair and Fabrication!** Need it done? I can do it! Tom (Blue) Hinchsliff 479-0478.

**Automotive and Diesel Machining:** Serving Fairbanks since 1974. R&S Machine, Ric Smoyer, Proprietor, 515 Noyes Street in Fairbanks. 456-6496

**Black vinyl covered racing bucket seats for sale:** They are new and never installed in a car. They came with the donated raffle car, but were too large for the small car and appeared incorrect for the car's vintage as well. Make offer. Contact Willy or Ron.

**1957 ¾ ton Stepside Chevy Pickup:** Low milage, 6 cylinders, 4 speed transmission, good body, runs great. For more information contact Jim at 907-547-2315 in Eagle, AK.



Car Games 1983: Gene Yurkovich wearing the full raccoon coat and Bill Chace with a full beard are observing a competition.

### Tentative schedule of Events by Rochelle Larson



#### VLNAAC sponsored events

- Now thru July 25 at 6pm Raffle Sales
- June 3 to August 26 Wednesday Night Runarounds
- June 12-14 Joint Meet w/Anchorage club
- June 7 or 20 Poker Run Chena Hot Springs (Nash Cabin)
- June ? Car Rally (Gary Nash)
- June 21 Solstice Show and Shine
- June 28 to July 8 "Adventure Before Dementia" run to Canada
- July 12 VLNAAC Show and Shine Airport equip
- July 22 Golden days Kick off pioneer park
- July 25 Golden Days Parade
- July 25 Raffle car drawing 6 p.m. pioneer park
- September 5 or 12 Poker Run to Chatanika Lodge

#### Other Possible Events (Not sponsored by VLNAAC)

- June 6 Car Show at FTWW
- June 21 Sourdough Fuel Father's Day Car Show
- July 1 Canada Day at Dawson
- July 4 Eagle 4th of July
- July 4 North Pole Parade 4th of July
- July 4 Plow days North pole (antique engine and tractor club)
- May 16,17 Fbks Racing Lions Drags FTWW
- June 13,14 Fbks Racing Lions Drags FTWW
- July 18,19 Fbks Racing Lions Drags FTWW
- August 2 30th annual car show Anchorage park strip -- Valley Cruisers Anchorage
- August 8 Hot summer nights Palmer-- Valley Cruisers Anchorage

## OFFICERS:

President	Willy Vinton	<a href="mailto:wvinton@acsalaska.net">wvinton@acsalaska.net</a>	907-456-2261
Vice President	Scott Culbertson	<a href="mailto:sdculbertson@gci.net">sdculbertson@gci.net</a>	907-451-7911
Secretary	(Not filled)		
Treasurer	Ron Allen	<a href="mailto:ronandnancy@gci.net">ronandnancy@gci.net</a>	907-488-3965
Director	Gary Nash		907-456-2103
Director	Scott Grundy	<a href="mailto:grundy@mosquitonet.com">grundy@mosquitonet.com</a>	907-457-3526
Director	Ray Mcleod	<a href="mailto:rmcleod@gci.net">rmcleod@gci.net</a>	907-456-7877
Newsletter	Ron Allen	<a href="mailto:ronandnancy@gci.net">ronandnancy@gci.net</a>	907-488-3965
Webmaster	Wilma Vinton	<a href="mailto:wvinton@acsalaska.net">wvinton@acsalaska.net</a>	907-456-2261
Events Coordinator	Rochelle Larson	<a href="mailto:Rochelle1987@hotmail.com">Rochelle1987@hotmail.com</a>	907-456-6736
Membership Chair	Rick Larrick	<a href="mailto:rlrarrick@alaska.net">rlrarrick@alaska.net</a>	907-457-4344

### NEXT MEETINGS

The general membership meeting is **Thursday May 14 at the Mayflower Restaurant**. Dinner is at 6:00 PM and the meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

The Board Meeting is at 6:30 PM at the **Food Factory** on **Tuesday May 12**. Everyone is also welcome to attend Board Meetings.

### Newsletter Deadline

All materials for the newsletter should be in by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to be considered for the next newsletter. Email [ronandnancy@gci.net](mailto:ronandnancy@gci.net) or call 907-488-3965. Items can be mailed to Ron at his home address; 1288 Rangeview Dr, North Pole, AK 99705.  
*Have a story about how you got your car? A favorite trip? A real repair hassle? Send it in!*

