



November, 2012  
Volume 41, Issue 11

## Always a Winner—The Willis Knight 1930 Model 66B

### Inside this issue:

Willis-Knight 66B	1
Most-Improved Award	2
Note from Secretary	2
Meeting Notes	3
Other Knights	3
CLUB CALENDAR	4
PREZ HEADLIGHTS	4
MEMBERS ADVERTS	5
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIV	5
Hershey	6
Ed Christiansen	7
A.B.D.T. Tour Dates	7

This newsletter is a publication of the Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club of Fairbanks, which is the farthest north region of the Antique Automobile Club of America.



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If you have material you would like to contribute, please contact our editor, Rick Larrick, at the club email: [vlnaacf@gmail.com](mailto:vlnaacf@gmail.com)

Bob Merritt brought the car to Fairbanks in the late 1960s. He was the second or third owner, purchasing the car from a Mrs. Haney of Scott City, Kansas, who had kept the car sheltered in a barn for the prior 34 years. The car was apparently just like one owned by Merritt's grandfather.

This was the third Willis-Knight Bob acquired for his collection – first was a

blue 1931 WK 87 and next a maroon 1930 WK 70B. The 66B was totally restored, and was flown up to Fairbanks in a C130 cargo plane rather than risk trucking or going by ship. Early on, it was rarely driven, but kept for shows and special occasions. Bob kept it in a heated garage under a special



Merritt Family (Darrellyn, Bob and daughter) with the 66B at Alaskaland in the late 1960s shortly after its arrival in Fairbanks

velvet lined car cover.

Bob and Darrellyn Merritt joined the club shortly after it formed, and rather quickly gathered the first place trophy from the club's first car show in the JC Penney lot on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1971. It won again at the

second show, a Golden Days car show at Alaskaland in 1972. By that time, Bob Merritt was President of the club. In the two decades that Bob owned and showed the car in Fairbanks, it was always a favorite.



Bernie Saupe polishing the 66B in 1990

The Merritts left Alaska in the late 80's, and the Willis Knight 66B was sold to Bernie Saupe. Bernie again pampered the car and kept it in heated storage at his Chevron Bulk Plant. When Bernie would enter the car in a local show, it would

win. Bernie drove the car more than Bob had, and it was a frequent participant in

*(Continued on page 6)*

Creativity is no substitute for knowing what you're doing.

# Nominations Needed for "Most Improved" Vehicle

## A Note from our Secretary:

CLUB SUPPORT and ATTITUDE:

A common problem within any group is willingness to assist. There is not a club on earth that operates with equal efforts by all members to make the club function well. Generally, there is a core group, willing to do the work. It is quite obvious, within our own club, folks wanting to lead, are hard to come by. I, myself, had to be tricked into accepting my position as secretary. (So WHEN are the Chip'n'Dales coming? I ask?) In truth, we are all busy, and so those who really give the extra time to make things work out, need to have support for the time sacrifice they are willing to give. It is important to respect and appreciate those hard working folks.

ALL members need to be willing to help a little. As a new or quiet club member, you may feel that there isn't anything you can contribute. Well, you are mistaken. The amount of time it might take to serve as an assistant, to a hard working club member, might make a BIG difference overall. A SMALL action, that alleviates the tiniest load, off the shoulders of another club member, could be a GREAT help within the mosaic of the WHOLE picture.

There are two sides to this situation. Hard working club members need to be appreciated. These hard working club members ALSO need to appreciate those they are serving. Being open and appreciative will result in being more approachable. NEW IDEAS result in MORE IDEAS, and more ideas mean MORE. MORE OF EVERYTHING from membership to events!!

Those who already work hard on the behalf of the club need to be open and appreciative. With an appreciative attitude, hard working club members could make way for more help from the general membership. Open minds and a willingness to try new things, and new ways to get similar results, will allow more members to feel less timid about volunteering.

It is important that we ALL try to foster an atmosphere of appreciation, and kindness within the boundaries of our club. This is true from the smallest effort from a single member, to the large group effort it takes to put on a big event. It is vital that we put forth added efforts to encourage, mentor, and appreciate our fellow club members. This will result in having the extra help we need in order to see more events, and enjoy more events, without the burden of making those events become reality fall on

*(Continued on page 3)*



Marv with his car at the Carlson Show



2011: Don Oines for his 1930 LaSalle

The Committee to select the "Most Improved" vehicle is the collection of past winners, traditionally



2010: Bret & Cindy Helms for their 1971 Dodge Challenger



The Most Improved Vehicle Trophy was awarded to Dave Rockney for work done on his family's 1932 Model 75 Rockney (2009).

chaired by last year's winner, Marvin Wright. Other members (in reverse historical order of award) are: Don Oines, Brent Helms, Dave Rockney, Ed McLaughlin, Kirk Larson, and Ron Allen.

proved" group so that they can consider the car for this year's award.



Kirk Larson receives the award from Willy in 2007



If you have completed (or substantially completed) a project in the past year or two, or know of another member who has but is too modest to self-nominate, then call Marv or one of the other "Most Im-



Ron Allen was the first winner—2006 Christmas

# You can't have everything in life. Where would you put it?

(Continued from page 2)

just a few worker bees. By welcoming new ideas, and new ways of doing things, we will grow as a club and see a more bonded happy group, with a greater participation in all club efforts.

It does not take much to do a lot. Small forms of assistance can only make the whole of us better. Better friends. Better events. Better community appearance. Better overall club strength.

As your secretary, I would like to ask that you write a comment, question, or idea on a piece of paper and give it to me as I pass through the group with 50/50 tickets each month. I will make it my personal effort to share these ideas to efficiently and compatibly match members up when help is needed.

- Nancy Peterson

## BORED NOTES FROM BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

- Treasury in good shape.
- Raffle Car was purchased—still need a Committee Chair to head up the 2013 Raffle Car work and ticket sales.
- Heated storage was located for the raffle car for \$100/mo.
- Ways to generate ideas and input was discussed (see Nancy Peterson's article), along with a discussion on Mentoring.
- Joint Meet was discussed (our club hosts this year); still need a Chairperson.
- Christmas Party was discussed.



1965 Ford Mustang Raffle Car

- Nominations:: The following are the nominations for voting at the November Meeting  
PRES: Scott Culbertson  
VP: John McCarthy  
Secy: Nancy Peterson  
Treas: Ron Allen  
Director (Elect 2) -  
Terry Whitledge  
Willy Vinton  
Bret Helms  
Tom "Blue" Hinchsliff

## The other Knights of Fairbanks

A few years after Bob Merritt got the 66B, he sold the maroon 1930 to Ed and Aileen Christiansen. They were very active in the club and drove the car everywhere -

to Rod Benson.

Bob Merritt sold the beautiful blue 1931 to Ben and Stella

Carpenter shortly after he brought up the 66B. Ben and Stella have driven the car extensively to club events over the many years since. Stella's parents had one when she was a little girl, and that one was somewhat prone to valves sticking, requiring either pushing or getting under the car to free the hung

sleeve. Ben says he bought the car because he can remember Stella pushing that one long ago in Mississippi. Ben and Stella still have the car, and Ralph Moore has been helping to keep the car in good running condition for Ben.

Sold new in Fairbanks, the 1927 Falcon



Christiansens with the 1930 Model 87 WK at Denali Park for the Joint Meet with the Anchorage Club

to shows, poker runs, and joint meets with the Anchorage Club (see Ed's obituary on page 7). Christiansen sold the car to Bob McKnight who kept it in storage for many years in a shipping container. Bob would get it out once a year, check it over, and go for a drive. Last year Bob sold the car



Ben and Stella's 1931 Willis Knight Cozy in the Garage

Knight was a daily driver locally until 1958. It then sat for a decade until rescued by Rudy Domke. After Rudy died, Ruth Ann sold the car to Ron and Nancy Allen, and it is seen frequently on Run-Arounds and at shows and events.



Ron was thrilled with his purchase of the Falcon Knight in 2010



- **Tuesday, Nov 6th—**  
**BOARD MEETING:**  
Meeting at 6:30pm at Sam's Sourdough, with dinner before.
- **Thursday, Nov 8th—**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** at THE BAKERY.  
Dinner is before (most arrive at 6pm and the meeting starts at 7pm)  
**ELECTIONS**

# November, 2012

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 <i>BOARD Meeting—Sam's Sourdough</i>	7	8 <i>MEMBERSHIP MEETING—The Bakery</i>	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## President's Headlights - Scott Culbertson

Hello Everyone. It's November and that means it is election time. With this month's newsletter you will find a Ballot. I hope you will take the time to complete the ballot and use one of the methods listed on the ballot to get it counted during our general meeting on November 8th. While the bulk of the board is running unchallenged we do have some board of directors to elect. I do hope that over the course of this next year some of you will step forward and chose to run for one of our offices in 2013.

Until next year's elections, I have some wonderful chairing jobs that need to be filled. You

can cut your teeth and toughen up your skin chairing one of our activities. All fun aside, it is a very good way for you to get to know folks and for folks to get to know you. In January we will be having our activities planning meeting lead by Rochelle. Please plan to join us and find out what we plan to do in 2013.

We are now in that time of year where we have to talk money. Dues are coming due and between now and the

Christmas party we like to push hard to get as many members paid up as we can. If you have questions about dues please contact Rochelle Larson.

See Ya at the meeting!



## Birthdays



- 1- Charlie Bourque
  - Rick Crisenbery
  - Steven Stidham
- 2- Joyce Tekin
- 4- Dale Oines
- 5- Melody Simmons
  - Pat Crisenbery
- 6- Ray McLeod
- 7- Dan Tempel
  - Nathan Helms
- 8- Nancy Rivers
  - Rhonda Morgan
  - Sterling Muth
- 10- Ben Carpenter
  - Randy Britschgi
- 14- Mary Blankenship
- 15- Beccy Monsma
- 16- Hunter Binder
- 19- Burnie Hall
  - Eugene Reed
- 20- Paul Gitschel
- 21- Ruth Ann Domke
- 22- Kathryn Ninmer
- 25- Jeffry Cook
  - Randy Renfro
- 27- Rochelle Larson
  - Larry Dotson

## Anniversaries



- 6- John & Mary Blankenship
- 26- Kelly & Nancy Rivers

## Sunshine Club



Tracy reports that a sympathy card was sent to Aleen Christiansen on the death of her husband, Ed. Christiansen's were long-time club members (see pg 7)

Tracy McLeod is the Sunshine Contact. Please give her a call or send her an e-mail if you know of a club member who could use a little "sunshine". Tracy can be reached at home: 456-7877 or by e-mail: [mcleod@gci.net](mailto:mcleod@gci.net)

## Member Advertisements



FOR SALE: 1977 Jeep J-10 Golden Eagle pickup. 401 cid V8, automatic

transmission w/ Quadratrac; engine has 90,000-plus mi., but runs good; features include original gold mag rims, decals, roll bar, push bar; interior and exterior all original and in good shape. Well-preserved vintage truck for collectors. \$4,500. Call Nancy at 907-590-9010

WANTED 1961-66 Ford "Y" block 3-speed Overdrive Transmission Contact Ross 451-8749/email : [rossbeal@gci.net](mailto:rossbeal@gci.net)

**DUES  
\$ ARE \$  
DUE!**

Rochelle will be mailing out invoices, but membership dues are now payable for 2013. Remember that payment is due by the Christmas Party for the following year, and help Rochelle out by paying promptly.

Dues are \$50 for a single membership and are \$65 with a spouse (or associate). Of these dues, \$30 pays for the AACA Magazine, Antique Automobile and your AACA dues.

Those who have joined since June of 2012 may have a credit toward next years dues, so you should call Rochelle for the correct amount.

FOR SALE; 1 very small tear drop trailer, good to tow behind a small car or an OLD car. I have towed it over 8K miles and it tows great; \$1500.00, If your into something bigger, a 1970 F600 with hoist, V8 5spd with 2sp axle. 27K original miles and runs great, lets talk on this one.

Willy 388-8252

### 1959 Premiere Lincoln for Sale

Price \$6500



Low Mileage, Excellent Shape  
Contact Burnie Hall 322-2488 or  
Randy Hambright 378-0490

(Ed Note: Claudia says "Burnie really does know about this ad")

### REMINDER

With the Christmas Party coming up soon, have you picked out your gift exchange present? It is traditional to bring both a "girl" and a "boy" suitable present to the Annual Christmas party for our "Chinese Gift Exchange".

We have great fun with rules that allow stealing someone else's gift if you envy it more than taking your chance and picking a wrapped present when your turn to pick is drawn... Gifts should be in the neighborhood of \$20 value each—often auto related are the objects of envy (and resulting good natured theft).



**ELECTIONS!** Be sure to print out and fill out your BALLOT (it was attached to the email with this newsletter or inserted if you get snail mail). Then either mail it to the club PO Box, drop it at Larsons Locksmith, or bring it to the November meeting.

Take care to get what you like or you will be forced to like what you get.

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Fairbanks, Alaska, Thursday, July 27, 1972-3



SHINING KNIGHT—Bob Merritt of 37 Anna St., Lemeta, holds the first place trophy won by his 1930 Willys Knight sedan during the Golden Days antique show at Alaskaland. (Staff photo)

(Continued from page 1)

Wednesday night Run-Arounds and other short tour events. But Bernie also carefully looked after the car. Bernie kept the car until the fall of 1997 when he sold the Bulk Plant and no longer had warm storage for this very special car. Rudy Domke bought it.

Rudy had shared Bob Merritt's interest in sleeve valve engines. In fact he and Bob had rebuilt the 1927 Falcon Knight that had been sold

Rudy had said that he had wanted that 66B ever since Bob brought it up in the C130 after the restoration.

Again the 66B sat in a heated garage under its velvet cover, was kept impeccably maintained, was driven only on short tour events, and won nearly every time it was shown.

After Rudy passed away a few years ago, Ruth Ann



Rudy, Ruth Ann, and foster grandkids with the 66B after winning at the Carlson Show.

new here in Fairbanks and had been in daily use up until 1958.

sold the car to Scott and Donna Culbertson. Scott has continued to baby the car and care for it, and the car continues to win awards (Another winners picture is with Scott's "Headlights" column on page 4).



The 66B was seen frequently at Run-Arounds when Bernie Saupe owned it and the Kaiser Dragon

## HERSHEY—2012



A very small corner of the very large "Chocolate" Field at Hershey

Six VLNAACF Club Members attended the AACA Eastern Regional Meet at Hershey, PA this October (Willy & Wilma Vinton, Ron & Nancy Allen, and Rick & Jill Lar-rick). Weather was delightful, and attendance was very high. For those who haven't been able to attend yet, this is the largest antique auto swap meet anywhere. It has been said that if you walk past every vendor booth, it will



One of the cars in the Antique Race Car Condition Run at the Stadium

(Continued on page 7)

Sponges grow in the ocean. I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be if that didn't happen.

(Continued from page 6)



Allen's and Larrick's share breakfast

take all of the three days of the swap meet, and you will cover 26 miles and consume most of the available hours in those three days. While Ron, Willy and Rick all brought back great parts finds (Ron for his new '57 T-Bird that he bought in Indiana earlier in the trip, Rick for his Studebaker and for his Franklin, and Willy found several items for the Museum). What is best, however, is all the people you meet and the contacts that are made for future parts sources, rebuilders, etc.—and just old friendships renewed. AACA Board Member Joanna Cooper was there (wearing her Prudhoe Bay t-shirt!), and many folks who have been to visit Fairbanks and the Fountainhead Museum in the past several years.



A beautiful EMF Touring in a flea market space.

## 2013 Adventure Before Dementia Tour Dates

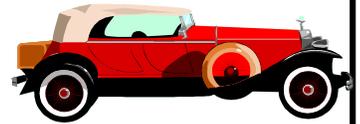


**Where:** To Dawson City for their Canada Day celebration & Eagle for our Independence Day celebration.

**When:** Sat. through Sat. bracketing the Fourth of July week as follows:



Sat., June 29 p.m.: FBX – Tok  
Sun., June 30: Tok to Dawson City  
Mon. & Tue., July 1 & 2: Dawson City  
Wed., July 3: Dawson City to Eagle  
Thurs. (Holiday), July 4: Eagle  
Fri., July 5 pm: Eagle to Tok  
Sat., July 6: Tok to FBX



E-mail [grundy@mosquitonet.com](mailto:grundy@mosquitonet.com)  
for info

Mark your calendar now and contact Scott Grundy for details regarding this fun and leisurely tour of two very historic communities! Scott recommends you secure housing in Eagle NOW as such is currently limited. However, there is plenty of room for those who wish to camp. Call Scott Grundy at 457-3526 or email for info.

jr, Friday, September 28, 2012

### OBITUARIES

#### Edward K. Christiansen

Edward K. Christiansen, 84, of Fairbanks, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012, at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Funeral Services will be held at 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1, 2012, at Fairbanks Lutheran Church 1012 Cowles St. Fairbanks, AK 99701.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation, 1650 Cowles St., Fairbanks, AK 99701 or Fairbanks Lutheran Church Building Fund, 1012 Cowles St. Fairbanks, AK 99701.

A full obituary will be announced at a later date.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chapel of Chimes Funeral Home.



Ed Note: I had planned to do an article about the Willis Knights in Fairbanks before I learned of Ed Christiansen's passing. Ed and Aleen were very active in the Vernon Nash Auto Club and enthusiastic about their Willis-Knight. Of all the WK cars in Fairbanks, this one probably would get the "club participation award"...

Christiansens decorate the 1930 WK for the 4th of July Parade in Central in 1984

## CONTACTS:

VLNAAC Website: <http://local.aaca.org/fairbanks/>

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Sunshine Club	Tracy McLeod	456-7877	<a href="mailto:mcleod@gci.net">mcleod@gci.net</a>

### NEXT MEETINGS

**This month the membership meeting is at The Bakery on Thursday, November 8th. Meeting starts at 7pm; most members are there for dinner by 6pm.**

The Board Meeting is at 6:30 PM at Sam's Sourdough café on the Tuesday before the membership meeting. This month it is on Tuesday November 6th / Dinner is B4. Everyone is also welcome to attend.

Merritts on a winter run with their Willis-Knight in Fairbanks in the late 1960's



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