

# Puddle Jumper

Vernon L. Nash Antique Automobile Club of America

January 2002

## Happy New Year!

### Next Meeting

January 10, 2002  
Thursday Evening

6:30 pm gather together  
7:00 pm order, eat dinner  
8:00 pm or thereabouts, meeting

Chef's Family Restaurant  
Beaver Brook Mall  
1430 Badger Road  
North Pole, Alaska 99704

488-1463

**W**e'll be starting off the new year right with a visit to one of our favorite places – the Chef's Family Restaurant in North Pole. Great food to pick from off of the varied menu. Everything from breakfast to sandwiches to full dinners and dessert. And of course at reasonable prices.

Come and enjoy the first meeting of the New Year and hear all about the things we have planned for the upcoming year. Add your ideas, too. Isn't there something you'd like to see us doing or more of something we've been doing? Now is the time to bring it up.

We'll also be catching up on the things that we did in 2001. Hope to see you there.

### Christmas Party

What do a "whirl-a-gig" (car shaped weather vane), a book of 100 Years of American Automobiles and a set of Christmas dishes have in common? They were the 3 hot items at the annual Christmas party this year. Everyone had a great time and for the some 80 plus people that were there the Chinese gift exchange moved right along and was fun to watch.

The meal was great, so good in fact we've book the Elk's for next year and will have our party there again. They did an excellent job. Not only was the food good, but it was hot or cold depending on what it had to be and there was plenty to eat, too.

Everyone looked festive and it was good to see old friends and those we haven't seen in awhile at our meetings. Squeaky even put balloons out so everyone including him would be able to find the place!

No business meeting was held, just a lot of fun and visiting and stealing the gift that you really wanted – or may-be to keep someone else from getting something!

Sharon (Rudy and Ruth Domke's granddaughter) got her dishes finally; Paul Camarata has the book; and I don't know who ended up with the "whirl-a-gig," and where do I get one? I heard someone in town makes them – is it someone in our car club? Let me know if you know please.

## Celebration Days

Listed below are the birthdays and anniversaries of some of members for January 2002. If you see this person or couple, or give them a call, and wish them a happy day!

### Birthdays:

Herman Houck	Jan. 01
Bonnie Scott	Jan. 19
Dan Gullickson	Jan. 19
Hazel McHone	Jan. 26



### Anniversaries:

none listed!

\*If I've missed your special day or you know of someone's special day, please let me know at 488-4293 or [camarat@ak.net](mailto:camarat@ak.net).

Have you noticed that they put junk mail in with your bills now? Like bills aren't distasteful enough, they have to stuff advertisements in there with them. Wouldn't it be great to get back at them. Like putting garbage in with my check then mail it in. Coffee grinds, banana peels, etc!!!!!!

## Ramblings

Doesn't it make you wonder, when prices on many items such as televisions and almost all electronic devices, have dropped drastically due to engineering breakthroughs and efficiencies; why haven't automobiles and petroleum products as well as most other items decreased in cost also? Are those engineers less effective in their efforts? Petroleum products are still drawn, processed and delivered in much the same manner – although many efficiencies have been developed in all areas in petroleum and automobile production, and the personnel required for production has been reduced drastically through automation.

Bill Gates has commented that had the automobile industry been as effective as the electronic industry in cost control, cars would be selling for less than \$100, operating at a fraction of the present cost while requiring little or no maintenance.

The first computer required a multi-storied building and many tons of air conditioning and cost millions of dollars. Now they can be purchased for \$1,000 or less and cost nearly nothing to operate while the efficiency has increased in multiples.

Automobiles in their infancy cost around \$300 to \$1500 and have increased in cost by 300% or more. And only due to government intervention, and foreign competition have they increased their efficiency.

\*from the Ozark Trails Stude News  
via Squeaky

What are your ramblings on the above? Let me know and I'll put in some of your responses in the next newsletter!

## Web Page??

Are we as a club interested in having a web page? Antique Auto Musher's in Anchorage has one and I have some information. But first, go to [www.aaca.org](http://www.aaca.org), click on Antique Automobile Club of America and choose clubs or chapters and regions. Then you can select the club website you want to view. Try it. Are we ready for this?

## Retirement Musings

By: Dan Gullickson

Dan writes on his recent retirement and move to Germany as wife Lavonne took a job there:

It's been an interesting way to retire. . . it certainly wasn't what I planned on. I wanted to travel, but this?!!!!

Instead of sleeping in, reading, watching TV, learning how to operate the computer, taking short walks, canoeing, and fishing, restoring my Model A, working on the Steam Loco, composing and arranging music, building a model train set, puttering around the house and yard, seeing some more of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, and traveling to other places in the world, I am

Traveling to other places in the world (mostly Europe), puttering around the house and yard, building a very small train set in a curio table that I am almost finished with, composing and arranging music, taking LONG walks and bicycle rides, learning a new language (German), reading, watching the news on AFN-TV, and reading the daily news on <[newsminer.com](http://newsminer.com)>, <[cnn.com](http://cnn.com)>, and <[msnbc.com](http://msnbc.com)> to find out what is happening back home and in the world, especially since 9/11.

Adjusting to retirement (over here) has been easy, because none of the community activities I was involved in are

here to consume my time and as a result, I've found new, healthy things to do, such as a daily 2 - 3 hour hike in the vineyard and down to the Rhein with the dog. Our house is, by foot, 5 minutes away from the vineyard and 20 minutes from the river. I've lost 25 pounds so far, even with all the Reisling Wine and dark Beer I've consumed! I hope to lose at least 5 more pounds before the holidays.

This weekend we are going to a "social" at the ancestral home of one of Lavonne's co-workers ... a Castle about 40 K outside of town! Since she has the car, she has really learned how to get around the community and countryside, and does most of the driving. Speaking of driving...we have had a few "FUN" vehicle problems.

Probably should have sold the Grand Am and bought something over here (we're droolin!), but we didn't want to start on the payment routine again. The alternator went kaput and she had to be towed in. The only rental available at the time was a 2-seater Mercedes Retractable-Top sports car! HA HA What a way to go!! You should have seen LaVonne, I and KC (in my lap) toolin down the autobahn!! Now if we could just figure out how to justify one of those.

One day coming home from the river, KC and I saw the local Vintage Auto Group on tour, coming through town, but didn't have a camera; all European vehicles I've only seen in picture books, with the exception of a lone, bright red, Model T Speedster, bringing up the end of the line. We also encountered a group of antique Renaults, the little boxy ones with slide-back canvas tops, on tour when we took one of our trips.

\*\*note: Dan goes on to talk about a couple of vacations and his home and other plans. I'll have the unedited version at the Jan. meeting. You can email him at [520009612989-001@t-online.de](mailto:520009612989-001@t-online.de) or [dan\\_lavonne@hotmail.com](mailto:dan_lavonne@hotmail.com).

## Goodwill Report

Ron Franklin has had some serious problems over the holidays. He had a heart attack and was stabilized in Fairbanks and then medi-vacced to Anchorage for angioplasty and a stent in one artery in the heart. After he returned home he was still having problems with his oxygen levels and was back in the Fairbanks hospital for more tests the last we heard (Jan 1, 2002). They are suppose to get him into the Mayo Clinic as soon as there is an appointment available. We wish Ron and his family the very best and a quick and complete recovery.

Several of our members have been struck with the "flu", cough, sinus drip, and other gross symptoms. It seems to hang on for a couple of weeks or more too. Hope your not one of them or it's taken it's course already.

## Market Place (buy, sell or trade)

John Borg (907-547-2280) is looking for a spark plug cleaner. You know the standard issue thingy that you mechanic's use. Give him a call please.

## A Tip from the Ozark Stude News

bounce brand fabric softener tissues (the things you put in the dryer) when placed in stored vehicles will repel mice. I have heard that they will also repel mice from cabins, motor homes, etc. when closed up for the season. Now what can we find to repel the bears from our cabins, motor homes, etc?

## Officers

### President:

Squeaky Benham 474-4966  
[mbenham1@yahoo.com](mailto:mbenham1@yahoo.com)

### Vice President:

Beccy Monsman 458-0024  
[mercman1@mosquitonet.com](mailto:mercman1@mosquitonet.com)

### Secretary:

Marion Benham 474-4966  
[mbenham1@yahoo.com](mailto:mbenham1@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer:

Ruth Hill 452-4510

### and Newsletter (not an office position)

Sherry Camarata 488-4293  
[camarata@ak.net](mailto:camarata@ak.net)

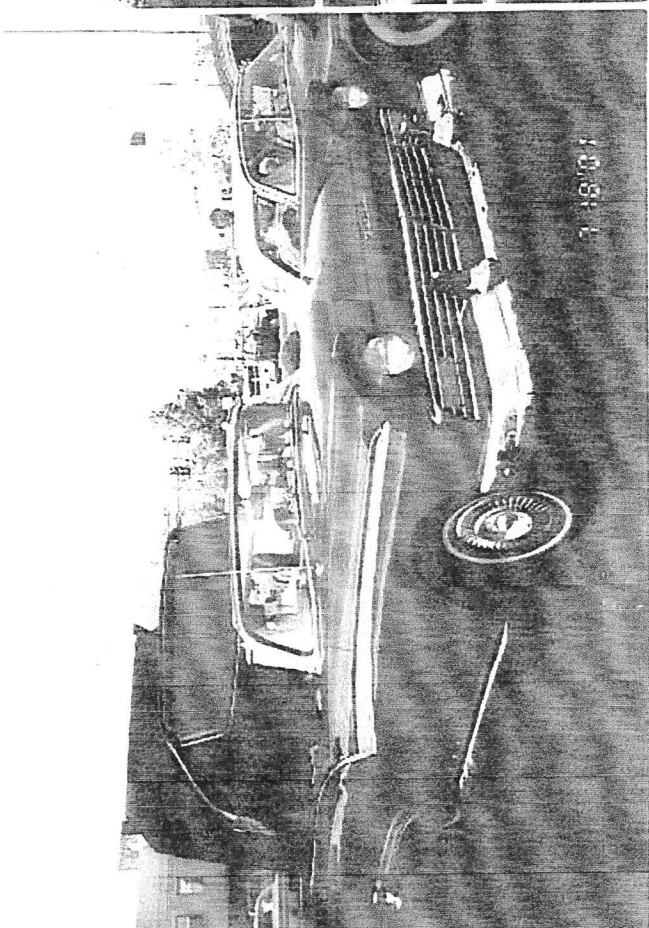
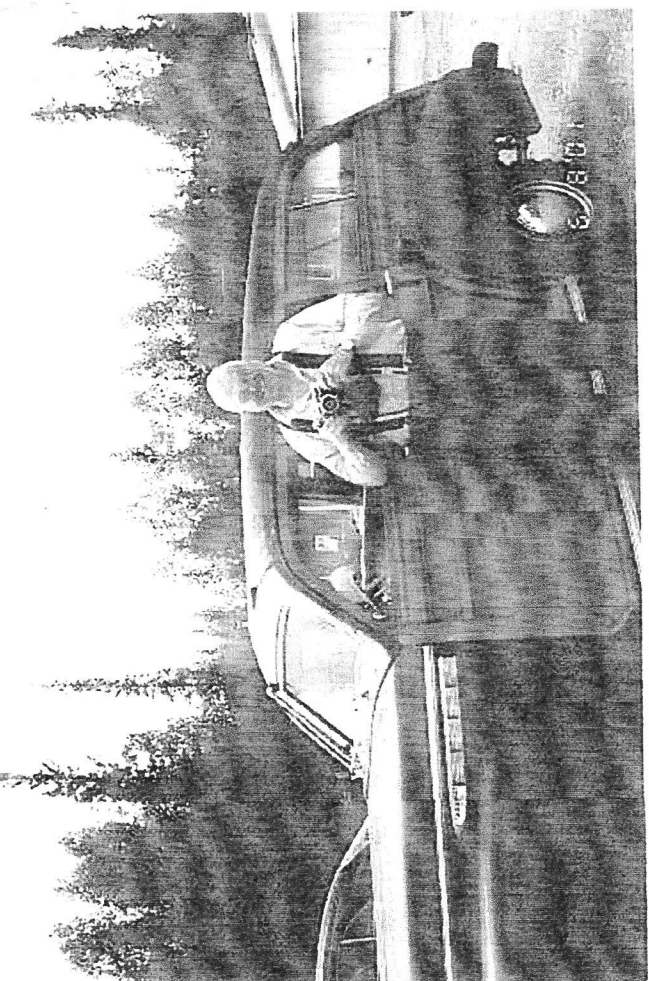
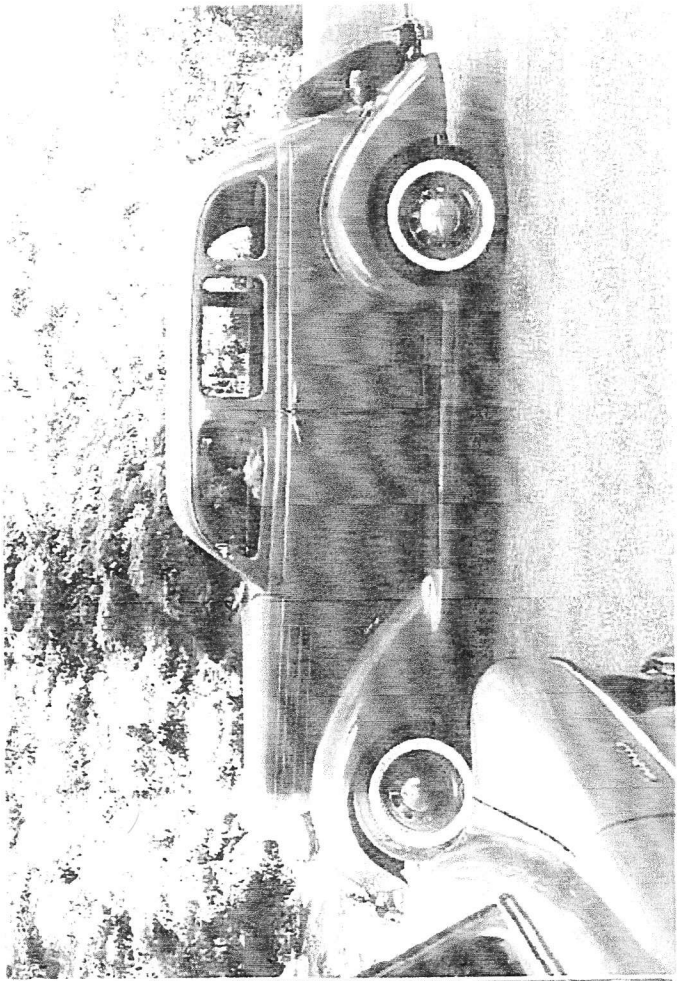
## Calendar

Thursday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 9:00 pm  
 Meeting, Chef's Family Restaurant  
 Beaver Brook Mall in North Pole  
 488-1463

Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> (?) Anchorage  
 Fur Roundy and Car Show  
 contact any club member  
 Dennis Allen 907-345-6355  
[allen@alaska.net](mailto:allen@alaska.net)

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 9:00 pm  
 Meeting, place to be announced







**Happy**

**New**

**Year!**

**2002 WOW!!**

Paul & Sherry Camarata  
3427 Jeremy Lane  
North Pole, Alaska 99705