



December, 2014
Volume 43, Issue 12

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Information on upcoming events on many pages inside!

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 address : vlnaacf@gmail.com

WILMA VINTON

ELECTED CLUB PRESIDENT FOR 2015



Wilma Vinton after the November election at Sam's Sourdough

There was a huge turnout at the November meeting at Sam's Sourdough to unanimously elect Wilma Vinton as club President for 2015. An overflow crowd more than filled the meeting room (Secretary Scott counted 52 present).

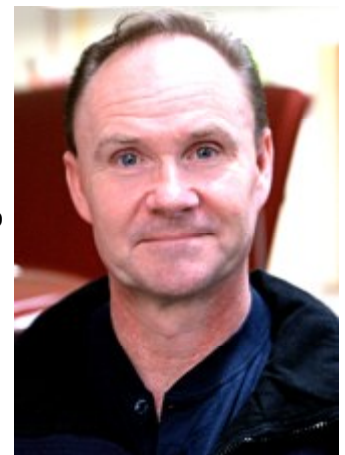
The rest of the officers and directors elected were: Bret Helms for a second term as Vice-President, Ron Allen for another term as Treasurer, Scott Grundy as Secretary, and Blue Hinchsliff and Paul Tekin as Directors. Outgoing President, John McCarthy has an automatic seat on the board as a Director.

Brief biographic sketches of each of our 2015 officers are on the pages inside this newsletter.

The 2015 Officers will be inducted at the Annual

Meeting / Holiday Party at the Westmark Hotel on December 14th. At that time John McCarthy will have to find where he hid the club gavel and ceremoniously present it to Wilma as the new club President.

With a club calendar that is already filling with planned activities for 2015, Wilma's organization skills and leadership should make for a great club year for all our members. We can all provide best wishes as she and her crew are inducted in December to lead our club forward.



Bret Helms was re-elected VP



Wilma Vinton
President

Wilma is Finance Manager for the Interior Region EMS Council where she assists in managing and maintaining emergency medical services for communities from the Brooks Range to Cantwell, west to McGrath and east to the Canadian Border, helping some 57 communities maintain an EMS service.

Wilma and her husband, Willy, joined the club in 2000 because of the long time interest in old cars that they both share. Her favorite "antique car" is her '55 Ford Victoria, but she also enjoys driving the '39 Chevy Coupe, showing that she is more inclusive than the Ford guy to whom she is married. The story about the '55 Victoria is that it was Willy's first "eBay win" and he came to Wilma very excited and said "I just won something on eBay". Wilma's response was "you don't WIN on eBay.... You BUY on eBay... what did you BUY? Wilma followed with the question about it being a model car, and then Willy confessed that "No, it was a real car, but I bought it for you, Dear".

Wilma sees her role as continuing and building on the projects that the Board and membership have already put into place. She says "I believe the Board of Directors with the support of the members have come a long way in the past several years to make the club a smooth running organization". She hopes to add value by bringing her business background, accounting background, and love of old cars!



Bret Helms
Vice—President

Bret retired last year after 33 years with the Plumbers & Pipefitters Union.

He and Cindy joined the club in 2009. Bret wanted to be part of a club that enjoys restoring and driving their automobiles, and looked forward to the opportunity to ask other club members for advice and guidance when working on his automotive projects.

Bret's first car was a 1969 British Racing Green MGC Roadster that he bought from his brother in 1981 to restore along with a MGCGT parts car. Bret says "It was such a neat car with chrome knock-off wire wheels and a tear drop bulge on the hood to provide clearance for the carburetors." Two years later, still unrestored, he sold it back to his brother so he could buy a Lincoln; Bret says "I don't know what I was thinking at the time...I'm still kicking myself!"

As he has for the past year, Bret looks forward to continuing to solicit and pass on to the Board input from members on their likes and dislikes relating to club business or activities. Bret says he looks forward to working with the Board to provide quality events that are of interest to the membership. He wants to help the Board create a family friendly environment that will encourage participation from all members of the club.



Scott Grundy
Secretary

Scott keeps busy with his hobbies and Linda's "honey do" list since retiring as a biologist from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Scott and his wife, Linda, joined the club at the 2005 Carlson Center Show when Wilma approached him about becoming a member. At that time his '55 Plymouth Belvedere Convertible was in transit from Ohio.

Scott and Linda have a history with a '55 Plymouth Belvedere, as he courted her in a nearly identical red / black Belvedere convertible before they were married, but then traded it for a truck to make their trek to their new home in Alaska. The car is very special, and as Scott puts it, "We have thrown a lot of money and effort into "Sweet Thing" since, and we only drive her on very special occasions." While recently Scott has put a lot of time and effort into "Miss Ghezzi" (see page 10), "Sweet Thing" remains Scott and Linda's favorite.

Scott's first cars were a '28 Model A rumble seat coupe and a '40 Ford 4dr sedan that he bought when he was 15. His Dad insisted he sell one to "clean up the neighborhood", and he sold the A for \$10 to a junk yard (so sad).

Scott supports the diverse nature of our club. He sees a need for the Board to divvy up oversight responsibilities and has already taken leadership steps to move the Board forward on the Policy & Procedure manual that has seen lots of discussion in the past several years but little action.

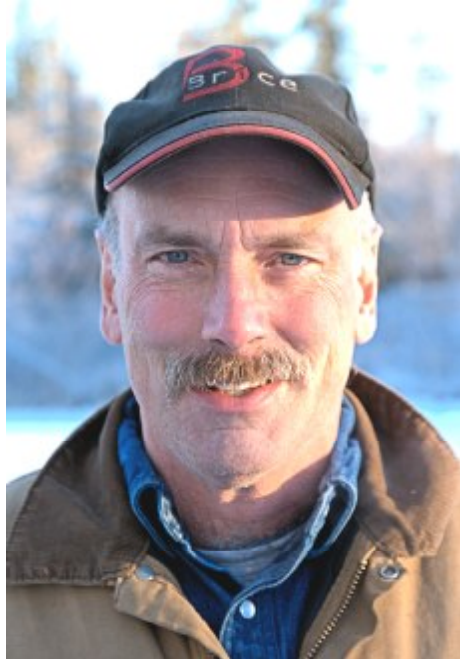


Ron Allen
Treasurer

Snowbird Ron (notice the tan compared to everyone else on the page) is a retired fund accountant and internal auditor.

Ron and his wife, Nancy, joined the club in about 2002 when Ron started working on restoring the TR-4 that he was re-united with. It was Ron's first car. He paid \$600 in 1971 for the '63 Triumph while he was a student at UAF. To quote Ron, "Somehow it survived many pizza run and beer runs between UA and downtown Fairbanks even at -40 temperatures. I met and courted my bride in it." Ron sold the car in '77 and lost track of it until he saw an ad in the News Miner for a '63 Triumph and when he went to see it discovered it was the very car he had owned and driven through the 70's. Ron towed the car home "with loose hanging fenders flapping in the breeze and the engine packed in boxes" and then spent about 5 years restoring the car. Ron first showed the car as a "work in progress" at the 2004 Carlson Show and then won the first "Most Improved Award" at the Holiday Party in 2005. Ron has owned and enjoys many more antique automobiles both at his home in North Pole and his and Nancy's winter retreat in Tucson.

Ron has been a big advocate of a Policy and Procedures Manual to be put together by the Board, and has taken first steps by documenting many of the Treasurer and Raffle Car procedures.



Tom "Blue" Hinchsliff
Director

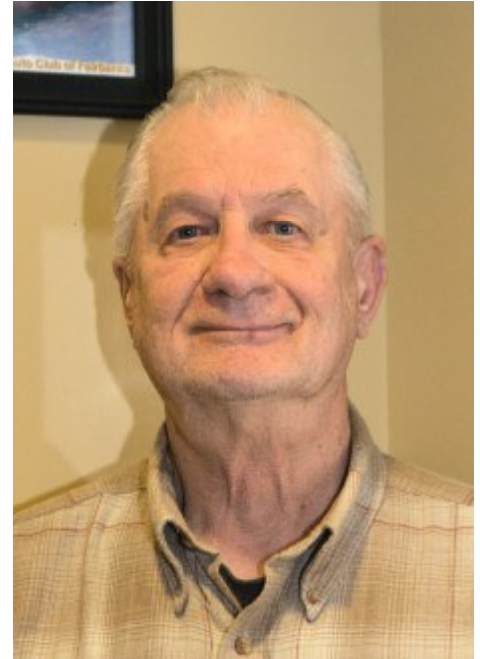
As Blue puts it, he is "kind of retired". He retired from a regular paycheck as a heavy equipment welder on The Slope, and continues to do some odd job welding at his shop at his home, where he keeps his Corvette.

Blue joined the club in 2007 at the urging of his good friend and former club member Marvin Wright, and has been an active participant in club activities and meetings ever since.

His first car was a 1965 Impala 327 4-Speed, that he earned the money to buy while working at a hamburger place while in high school.

His favorite car is his 1971 Corvette. He has had it the longest of any automobile he has owned, and over the years has done the most work on it.

Blue says he likes to work with people and feels he can make a big contribution to the board by listening to club members and their concerns and wishes about future club direction.



Paul Tekin
Director

Paul recently retired from the UAF after doing telephone maintenance there for 15 years. Prior to that he retired after 20 years with the U.S. Air Force. Paul and his wife, Joyce have been married 51 years, and have 2 daughters and a granddaughter living in Seattle.

Paul and Joyce joined the club in 2008 and have both been very active with the group ever since, both often volunteering and pitching in on club activities.

Paul's first car was a '47 Ford 2-Dr Sedan he received at 14 1/2 years old as a gift from a cousin. He has been a Ford / Mercury guy ever since! Paul was born in NYC and grew up at Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island where he and his buddies worked on old Fords as teenagers. He is a graduate of the auto repair school of hard knocks, having "learned as I made those early mistakes". Paul's favorite car was a '40 Ford Coupe—souped up flathead, that he bought from a farmer for \$25. Paul's '46 Merc Coupe Street Rod can often be seen at club activities, and he has just started renovation on a '63 Mercury Comet 2-Dr. Hardtop.

Paul wants to see the club move forward in a positive manner, with everyone having fun doing so. Paul and Joyce look forward to continuing helping out on various club projects as Paul serves as Director.



December, 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>Joint Meet Plan Mtg @ Geraldos</i>	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 BOARD <i>MTG—Sam's Sourdough</i>	9	11	12	13
14 <i>Holiday Party!</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club Region AACA

- Tuesday, Dec 2nd: The **Joint Meet** Planning Committee will meet at 6:30 at Geraldos.
- Tuesday, Dec 9th: **Board Mtg.** 6:30 pm Sam's Sourdough Café
- Sunday, Dec 14th: **ANNUAL CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY**, 4:00 pm Social Hour; 5pm Dinner at the Westmark Hotel Gold Room.

Antique Auto Musers Region (Anchorage) AACA

- Wed, Dec10th: Christmas Party at Day Break Center (all upcoming regular meetings will be at Day Break Center, 9210 Juniper Drive.)

National AACA Events

- Feb 12-14 **AACA National Meeting**



Keep up with what's happening on Facebook! If you are not a member of the **Members Only: Antique Auto Club of Fairbanks** page, then e-mail Wilma Vinton to join this special group.

Member Advertisements

FOR SALE: Rollerblade skates (used) for VALVE COVER RACER WHEELS Call James Farnham (907)978-2537

Member Advertisements

Waste Oil? If anyone needs to get rid of used oil, I, Marlen Pruett can take it! I have a new approved waste oil burner. Marlen Pruett upisgreat@gmail.com

WANTED: Looking for a '67 Plymouth Valiant (standard) in Good or better shape. Dick Ellsworth (907)322-3450.

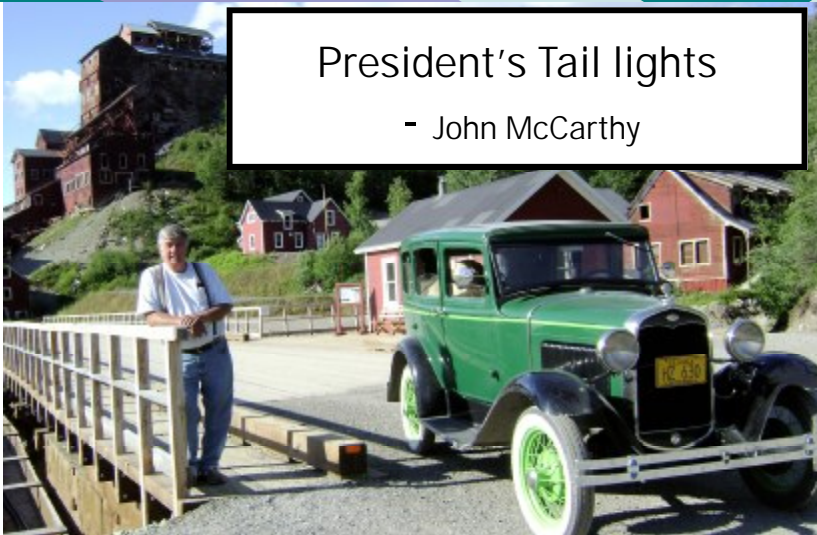
For Sale: GARAGE FIND, All Original. 1955 Ford, 4-dr sedan, Customline, V-8, 78,000 miles, Fordomatic Transmission, Air Conditioning (Ford Magic-air). Very minor body damage on lower left rear quarter panel. All exterior and interior trim present and in good condition. Original upholstery. Has not run since 2013 due to leak in oil line and death of owner. Clean title; has been cleared by estate to sell. In Anchorage. Asking \$8,500. Contact Dan Gullickson, 907-865-3275



Suggestion: Print or cut this page out and tape it to your refrigerator so you don't miss any of our fun times!

President's Tail lights

- John McCarthy



the season. I would like to thank Burnie Hall for his hospitality and his efforts that made this garage tour a big success. We have no garage tour scheduled for December due to the busy holiday season but will continue our tours in January.

I hope you will be able to attend our December meeting and Christmas party at the Westmark Gold Room. We always have a great gathering of friends and family. We'll have a buffet meal, music, slide show of this year's club events, and a Chinese gift exchange. We will also have a brief business meeting where I will present in-coming president Wilma Vinton

the president's gavel. We will introduce the 2015 club officers and board members and we will award our annual charity donation to this year's recipient.

I look forward to a new year full of old car events and adventures. My goals are set for 2015 to enjoy the club, our cars, family and friends. Hope to see you at our meetings and events and on the road this spring. It was my pleasure to serve as the 2014 VLNAACF president.

~ John McCarthy ~

I would like to congratulate the 2015 Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club newly elected officers and board members. I'm excited to be working with you this next year in my role as a board member and I'm looking forward to sharing new energy and ideas.

Thank you, everyone, for your support and encouragement this past year. Your involvement and hard work has made our club successful and a fun organization. Our club prospered in 2014 and I see that same potential for 2015.

On Nov 22, we had our first garage tour of

Anniversaries



- 15 - Wilma and Willy Vinton
- 16 - Penny and John Binder
- 17 - Susan and Jeffry Cook
- 19 - Sharon and Terry Whitledge
- 22 - Angie and Don Oines
- 23 - Lapita and Tony Miller
- 26 - Wendy and Ken Uzzell
- 29 - Tanya and Jack O'Brian

Birthdays



- 5 - Ron Dane
- 6 - John McDonald
Ralph Moore
- 8 - Nancy Rivers
- 9 - Brenda Wilbur
- 12 - Tony Miller
- 13 - Paula Beal
- 17 - Lisa Casey
- 26 - Dan Portwine
- 30 - Cindy Helms
Laurel McLaughlin

DUES ARE DUE!

Rochelle has mailed out invoices, and membership dues are now payable for 2015. Remember that payment is due by the Holiday Party for the following year. Help Rochelle out by paying promptly.

Member Advertisements

Please join Fairbanks Racing Lions for "Hot Wheelz Drag Races and Hot Wheelz Car Show". A fundraiser for the Lions Motorsports Park in North Pole on Saturday - January 17, 2015 from 2pm - 10pm - Miguel's Restaurant 1235 Airport Way - Shopper Forum Mall Annex. Fun for all ages!! Bring your favorite Hot Wheel to race or display your collectables! Hot Wheels will also be available for sale. Win trophies and prizes! Meet some of Alaska's drag racers and test your skills with the professional reaction tree. Door prizes, silent auction and 50/50 drawings throughout the day. Full details on the website www.fairbanksracinglions.org or call or email member Tracy Brand for information.

Sunshine Club

A get-well card was sent to Hank Grant in hopes for speedy recovery from knee surgery. It was good to see Hank showing off his new knee at the garage tour.

Though not currently a member of the club, we are all saddened by the death of Ray Cameron, a fellow car enthusiast, and friend of many in the car club.

Tracy McLeod is the Sunshine Contact. Please send her an e-mail if you know of a club member who could use a little "sunshine". e-mail: tksplits@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S LEFT (on) BLINKER



Many thanks to my "team" this year in putting together the newsletter. The team includes everyone who sent me material for publication, but two especially important team members are John McCarthy and Scott Grundy. They help me each month by proofreading the draft newsletter. Their service is extremely valuable, as I, like most other folks, can't proofread my own material or even those articles that I have worked to edit—I only see what I think I said (which always makes perfect sense to me) - instead of the words laid down in type. John and Scott can see the print for what it is—and find all the difficult to understand sentences, incorrect grammar, and misspelled names (spell-check does OK on words, but boy can it mutilate some of our club member names)! John and Scott also give ideas, support, and comments on content and format. This newsletter is far better because of the time and effort that these two folks put into review at the end of each month. Many, many thanks to them!



I wonder what Fred will find "under the tree" this year?

2015 RAFFLE CAR



Jerry Mustard, Paul Tekin, Ross Beal and Don Oines work on the MGB at the first Work Session to get the Raffle Car Ready. More help is still needed for future sessions.

Starting with the Holiday Party, Tammy Pruett and Cindy Helms will be coordinating raffle ticket sales events. Make sure and get enough for stocking stuffers and for selling to all your friends and co-workers. Tickets are limited to 3500 and will certainly go fast this year on the MGB.

Above and to the right, the crew works hard at the first Work Session at Don Oines' garage on Nov. 15th to get the Raffle Car ready!



Ross Beal shows creeper savvy



John McDonald, his dog Chester, and young Model A enthusiasts Alex and Daniel enjoy John's 1930 Tudor, Alaskan As, Fairbanks. Photo by John McCarthy

John McCarthy got another picture as the "Model A of the Day" on the www.mafca.com website on Wednesday, October 29—timely for Halloween with John McDonald's jack-o-lantern shirt!

National News: From the publication "The Rummage Box", reprinted with permission



Membership

By Bob Parrish

VP-Membership

The AACA membership base remains steady at approximately 60,000 members and in 2013, we experienced a moderate 1% growth. Considering normal attrition, and a decline in membership for many organizations, automotive or otherwise, we feel fortunate holding our own.

There are many ways to attract new members, but demonstrating how much fun we have, with our classic vehicles, surely is near the top. We should be ever ready to spread the word about the benefits of AACA membership and have a member application ready to hand out. Have you ever left your Antique Automobile magazine or your region newsletter at the barber shop, or dentist office? It has worked for me.

Here is another way to increase membership that has been underused. AACA has had a complimentary membership program that has been around since 2008. Headquarters in Hershey sends each Region and Chapter President four complimentary applications in September to be distributed to prospective members for use in the upcoming year. Many Regions and Chapters also issue a free membership to these fellow enthusiasts to introduce them to their respective local club.

There are collector car hobbyists waiting to be asked to join the finest organization of its kind in the world. Let's get the word out.

With your help we can continue to make this program a success.



Minutes

VLNAACF Membership Meeting November 13, 2014, at Sam's Sourdough Café

The Membership Meeting was called to order by President John McCarthy at 7:05 p.m. Board members Terry Whitledge and Scott Grundy were present; Ron Allen, Bret Helms, Ed McLaughlin and Scott Culbertson were absent. A total of **52** members were in attendance! We overflowed our meeting room into the adjacent restaurant area! A quorum was attained.

Secretary, Scott Grundy provided a brief overview of the minutes from the October 9, 2014 Membership and the November 11, 2014 Board Meetings.

Little financial activity has occurred recently, with dues deposits and expenditures for raffle tickets being the items.

Membership status was reported by Rochelle Larson as 228 (44 single and 92 joint memberships). 61 memberships for 2015 have been paid to date & 74 due.

Paul Tekin moved and Bill Wright seconded to accept the minutes, treasury and membership reports. Passed.

After all Election Ballots were collected, the voting process was closed by President McCarthy. Near the end of in the meeting Joyce Tekin, Election Committee Co-Chair, reported the ballots had been counted and the results were: Wilma Vinton, President; Bret Helms, Vice president; Ron Allen, Treasurer & Scott Grundy, Secretary. John McCarthy as Past President will automatically fill the first director position. The winners of the remaining two director positions were Tom "Blue" Hinchsliff and Paul Tekin.

Scott Grundy reported that our order for replacement club pins is expected soon. A pin will then be sent to all participants of the Dutch Volvo Panama to Fairbanks Rally group who visited last summer.

Paul & Joyce Tekin provided the details regarding our Holiday Party on December 14 at the Westmark Hotel. The deadline to receive reservations from is November 26. Wilma Vinton outlined her needs for photos of club activities that will be projected dur-



Paul reports on the work he and Joyce have done to arrange the Holiday Party this year



Membership Chair, Rochelle, fills in John and the rest of the club on our membership.

ing the party.

Scott Grundy encouraged members to tour Burnie Hall's fabulous garage on Saturday November 22 at 11:30 a.m.

President McCarthy indicated:

- 1) The Most Improved Vehicle Committee will view the candidate vehicles on the November 22-23 weekend.
- 2) Raffle Car: 3500 raffle tickets have been printed. Don Oines advised he is looking for two or three sub-chair persons to lead the volunteers who are going to work on the raffle car. He will meet with all members of the committee at his shop Saturday Nov. 15 to get organized.
- 3) Two requests to receive our annual charitable donation have been received to date. Additional requests are encouraged. We must receive a letter or email request from the organization by November 26th.
- 4) The Thank-You letters to the vendors and contributors at our Carlson Center Car Show will be finalized and distributed soon. Chairman, John Binder added details.
- 5) Renewal of our state gaming permit for our car raffle is being handled by Treasurer Ron Allen. Scott Culbertson agreed to continue to act as our primary contact, Willy Vinton as the secondary and the current president will serve as the tertiary contact.
- 6) Twelve members attended the recent CPR class conducted by Wilma Vinton. Wilma will teach another class this spring.
- 7) Bub Larson was given a patch for participating in the Model A Ford Club of America photo event here in Fairbanks. Rick Larrick also participated with his '32 Studebaker because it was also Drive Your Studebaker Day. Rick asked if he was going to get a MAFCA patch. Pres. McCarthy responded he didn't get a Studebaker patch, but then provided Rick a Model A patch to the delight of all!

Announcements:

Rick Larrick indicated the Joint Meet with the Anchorage club (AAMA) will be held in Delta Jct. next June 12-14 and that there was an upcoming committee planning meeting.

(Continued on page 8)



Rochelle Larson has the above items for sale to members at Larson's Locksmith. Drop buy and pickup a club item for yourself or a gift for the "better half" (remember the Holidays), or call Rochelle for her to put the item aside for you for the next meeting. Available are the following items:

1. **Club Magnetic Signs** for your car \$16 per pair (and \$8 each for more)
2. **Club Lapel Pin** for your sport coat or jacket \$2.50 each
3. **Red Ball Cap** \$8 each
4. **Club Lined Jacket** (embossed with your name)
\$41 each for M, L, or XL; \$44 each for 2XL or \$27 for 3XL
5. **Solid Red T- Shirt**
\$12 each for M, L, or XL; \$14 each for 2XL or \$16 each for 3XL
6. **Red Ring T-Shirt**
\$20 each for M, L, or XL; \$22 each for 2XL or #24 each for 3XL
7. **Blue Ring T-Shirt**
\$20 each for M, L, or XL; \$22 each for 2XL or #24 each for 3XL



John McCarthy
Director

John retired from Federal Civil Service at Fort Wainwright where he was the foreman for the heavy mobile equipment maintenance and repair shop. You can read about his Ford antique car experiences and old car favorites in last years' November issue biography.

John says, "Transitioning from the club's president to board member gives me the opportunity to work as an active part of the club's guidance system while freeing up some time to enjoy the camaraderie of the club's members and friends. I hope to continue participating in club events and will strive to remain a vital part of our club's growth and prosperity.

We have an excellent membership, an abundance of car related activities, events and adventures that are worthy of support. I will continue my endorsement of our newsletter of excellence and our AACA award winning editor by submitting articles, helping members with their newsletter articles and the continuation of my role as a proof reader. Encouraging the involvement of family and friends in our car activities will remain high on my list of goals.

We have a new board and, once again, our membership has elected enthusiastic people that appreciate antique automobiles and have a sincere interest in the success of our club and the old car hobby. I pledge my support to Wilma Vinton and wish her all my best as our newly elected club president. I will help her build a team whose efforts will make our club an icon of the old car hobby."

ANNUAL MEETING / HOLIDAY PARTY



For all you procrastinators — CALL PAUL TEKIN

IMMEDIATELY if you have not made your reservations for the club's HOLIDAY PARTY. Paul must know by Tuesday evening how many dinners he must make final commitment for when he calls the Westmark on Wednesday 11/26. For all: Don't forget your exchange gift for the "Chinese Gift Exchange"

Wilma requests you upload your 2014 events pictures to the dropbox so we can show them at the party: www.dropbox.com

Log in to the Dropbox website in the upper right corner. login: vlnaacphotos@gmail.com
password: VLNAAC

(Continued from page 7)

Marlen Pruett suggested a membership meeting at the Fairbanks Golf Club's Double Eagle Restaurant next summer.

James Farnham offered roller blade wheels for our valve cover racing event at \$10 per skate.

President McCarthy read the list of upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries. The need for an update was identified.

Charlie Jurgens won the 50/50 for \$100!

At 7:50p.m. Robbie Casey moved and Jill Larrick seconded we adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Grundy,
VLNAACF Secretary



Did you hear about the guy who's left side was cut off? He's all right now...



Burnie Hall (above right in Mustang sweatshirt) welcomed 35 members of the club to his fabulous garage on Saturday, 11/22. Burnie's dad once owned the Ford dealership on Noble St. Burnie purchased his shop building from Bernie Saupe and remodeled it to make room for his constantly expanding collection of late 50's / 60's Fords.



45 years ago this month these two got married. This was the beginning of spending weekends checking out junk yards for car parts, planning vacations around car shows and old car events, acquiring a "few" cars and raising our kids with a love of antique cars.

- Wilma



Wedding Day Picture of Willy & Wilma Vinton



This is 3 year old Brian with the first Model T Willy restored after we were married. It is made up of 57 different T's. We found all the parts on those weekend forays into the area junk piles.



This is Willy, Becky (our daughter) and I... showing off another of his "projects". To be honest, he instilled in us all our love for antique cars.

Renaming Sleeper

Scott Grundy



Scott escorting Miss Ghezzi to our car show in May, 2014

Since our daughter, Jennifer, was very young we have named our vehicles. (Yes, Jen named our first Subaru "Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang.") We continue the tradition to this day. When I purchased the severely wrecked 1955 Plymouth as a parts car at auction from the City of Fairbanks, there was no doubt its name was "Sleeper." As a low mileage vintage vehicle (27,773.5 original miles) it was by definition a "sleeper." Plus when you add the fact that its second owner was Dick Sleep, its name had to be "Sleeper." And so it was until.... When I first saw this rust free gem of a car in the spring of 2006 before the accident, Dick Sleep told me he had purchased it from a neighbor lady. (See the full story "Life, Death and Resurrection of our parts car Sleeper" in the April & May 2013 VLNAACF newsletters.) I purchased the wrecked car on September 23, 2006, from the City of Fairbanks. The rumors within our club were the original owner was Mrs. Cox who purchased the car new in Seattle, WA, drove it to Fairbanks with her husband, and she was deceased. Amusingly, all this information appears to be incorrect. I'm still pursuing the possibility the car may have been purchased or delivered in Seattle. In retrospect there was lots of information that could

have been clarified by Dick Sleep had he been willing to communicate with me following his rolling the car and my purchase. Dick was adamant that he did not want to discuss the accident or the car.

I'm uncertain why I was in Dick Sleep's neighborhood in the spring of 2010, but while there I observed an elderly lady being pushed in a wheelchair by two young ladies. By then I suspected the information I had regarding the car was incorrect, so on a lark I asked the elderly lady if she was Mrs. Cox. She only stared at me with a twinkle in her eye. The young ladies explained she rarely spoke to strangers, her name was Ethel Ghezzi and they didn't believe she had ever married. I responded that I was trying to find the original owner of an old car I owned. My interest was piqued when the girls said Ethel had a photo of an "antique car" hanging on her kitchen wall. After I assisted getting the wheelchair through the soft melting snow into the rear porch of her home, I was invited to look at the photo on the wall. I was amazed. There on the wall in a tattered frame (adjacent to an impressive wood burning kitchen range) was a color photo of a beautiful 1955 Plymouth Belvedere four door sedan adorned with wide white sidewall tires. I had found the original owner!

I immediately contacted Ethel's adult caretakers, and once they heard the story of the car they were eager to assist in any way they could. Her caretakers advised that Ethel had moments when she would speak quite a bit, so I armed them with a few basic questions. Unfortunately the occasion for questioning never occurred, but I have two precious photos of Ethel

(Continued on page 11)



Miss Ethel Ghezzi on her 95th Birthday

Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

(Continued from page 10)

dressed up for her 95th birthday and holding the photo of the Plymouth! I treasure them!

I learned from her obituary that Mary Ethel Ghezzi died peacefully on July 26, 2011, in her home located on the corner of Pioneer and Brandt Streets. She was born in Fairbanks on Feb. 23, 1915, raised in Nenana, but attended and graduated from Fairbanks High School in 1931. She obtained her nursing degree from the Saint Elizabeth Hospital School of Nursing in Yakima, WA on Jan. 14, 1938. Mary Ethel (aka "Ghez") began her nursing career soon after graduation at the old St. Joseph's Hospital when it was a three story wooden building. She was known for her incredible work ethic. She was the first to work every day and the last to leave until December 2000 when she suffered a massive stroke. Her obituary states she approached life after the stroke with the same determination by walking several miles every day.

In honor of her 59 years of dedicated service, and the fact that during this extensive period Ethel was involved with the care for the majority of Fairbanks area residents, the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital dedicated Room 383ST as the "Miss Ghezzi Room." In this conference room there's a plaque that states "In Honor of Mary Ethel Ghezzi, RN." There's also a framed copy of her diploma and a photograph of Ethel in her hat and uniform as a very attractive young lady. She was a surgical nurse so valued the doctors would have her schedule their surgeries to be certain she could assist. A doctor friend said, "She was totally dedicated to her work – I mean totally. It was her life."

I interviewed several of her hospital cohorts who knew her well. She was highly regarded and loved by all. While in the hospital following her stroke, she was never left alone; fellow staff members watched her 24 hours a day. Years later many of the same people were involved in her



Picture of Nurse Miss Ghezzi in Room 383ST at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital

care. She is remembered by all for her professionalism, lovable personality and wit.

It is obvious that Mary Ethel Ghezzi was a wonderful person; we would all be fortunate to have known her and to have such close and dedicated friends. I only wish I could also have known her; I feel as if everybody knew her but me. For example, she nursed our car club member Bub Larson back to health after a load of pipe crushed his foot and my dentist/friend had her as a "delightful patient." I do know she never married but was engaged as a young lady, and none of those I interviewed thought she purchased the car in Seattle. All thought the car was purchased new in Fairbanks from the Greimann's who owned the dealership at the time; Dr. Robert Taylor is almost certain of the fact. Ethel offered the car to Dr. James Lundquist because of his interest in old cars; he is currently 90 and said the car was in "as new condition." His son, Peter Lundquist, is a member of our club and remembers accompanying his dad to Ethel's garage and ob-

served "all the tires were flat." The car's mileage is estimated to have been about 15,000 miles at that time. One day early in the restoration process, I was showing the stripped down car to a neighbor whose husband is a doctor. I informed her that this car had spent its entire life here in Fairbanks and was purchased by a Fairbanks nurse who was quite famous locally. Without hesitation my neighbor questioned, "Is this Miss Ghezzi's car?" At that instance I knew the car's name was "Miss Ghezzi."

In retrospect, should I have listened to the practical advice that it would be far too expensive to restore this car? The prudent answer is, "absolutely." The emotional response is the one I gave to a chap at the 2014 Jay Osftun Show and Shine in Anchorage last August who asked after looking at the photos of the wrecked car, "What gave you the idea you could restore this car?" I smiled and responded, "I had the parts and it was all emotion, I just wanted this Fairbanks rust free car to survive." We're delighted with the car; she drives like a dream with her power steering and new "slippers." Although she's pretty enough to be a trailer queen and the reality is we will never recoup the money we put into the restoration, our attitude is why not drive her? And we do! She carried us over 3,000 miles last summer - we're all smiles & love our Miss Ghezzi! She's a beautiful and useful survivor!



Police photo of the Plymouth in 2006

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NEXT MEETINGS

The membership meeting is always the second Thursday of the month—except December when it is the **Annual Meeting and Holiday Party at the Westmark Hotel** on December 14th. Reservations are required.

The Board Meeting is Tuesday, December 9th — at **Sam's Sourdough**. Meeting starts at 6:30pm, with dinner before. Board Meetings are open to members.



One Board Director drove his '50 Ford to the Nov Bd. Mtg.



Vernon L Nash Antique Auto Club
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