



April 2018  
Volume 47, Issue 4

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This newsletter is a publication of the Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club of Fairbanks, which is the most northern 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



# Nash's News

**Antique auto news from  
Alaska's largest car club and  
most northern region of AACA**



## More to the already incredible story!

By Scott Grundy

You may recall my previous article in our newsletter several years ago about the incredible feat of three hardy and maybe foolish souls who drove a new 1941 Plymouth sedan 14,000 miles from Detroit, Michigan to the Cape Horn area in southern Chile. It was called the "Richardson Pan-American Expedition" and was one of the greatest automotive stories of all times – the greatest in my opinion. Their objective was to follow the proposed route of the Pan-American Highway. Much of the route was roadless and a portion remains so to this day. Some days their progress was only a matter of feet and was often accomplished under the additional power of local natives, oxen, mules, etc. As they progressed through rural South America, they were a major attraction as the car was the first many had seen.

The entire journey, commencing in late 1940 and concluding late in 1941, was fortunately documented by the expedition leader, Sullivan ("Sully") C. Richardson, in his wonderful 1942 book "Adventure South." I encourage you to go to the Plymouth Owners Club website ([www.plymouthbulletin.com](http://www.plymouthbulletin.com)) where you can peruse extensive excerpts from the book, read terrific analyses, and view many photos.

Plymouths are well known for their durability, but reading about the abuse this heavily lad-



Dik Mickle (owner of the coveted door (left) and Scott Grundy

en vehicle endured is unbelievable. It weighed nearly three tons when loaded with their 1400 pounds of indispensable gear that often had to be unloaded to cross bogs, streams, etc. Fenders were damaged beyond repair or lost, the clutch often smoked beyond belief, the entire vehicle was dropped in the process of being loaded on a ship at the end of the trip and was damaged almost beyond repair, but it still "kept on ticking!" Tough

(Continued on page 6)

Patience is something you admire in the person behind you, but never in the person ahead.



## Tentative schedule of Events 2018



### \* VLNAACF sponsored events

- Now thru July 21 at 2pm \* Raffle Sales
- Monthly \* BoD Meeting, Tuesday before the Membership Meetings, Sam's Sourdough Cafe
- May 10 \* Membership Meeting Fountainhead Museum
- Saturdays 2018 \* Cars'N Coffee (Bentley Mall Parking Lot)
- May 16? - Sept 5 \* Wednesday Night Runarounds – Pioneer Park
- May 19 \* Howling Dog Saloon Motorcycle Show (Ralph Glasgow) Free Brauts!
- June 1 - 3 \* Carlson Center Car Show (Willy & Wilma Vinton)  
(Friday 4pm Setup Saturday 10-5pm Sunday 11-5 5:00 car removal)
- June 9 \* Mondo Run (Rochelle Larson)
- June 14 \* Member Meeting, Chena Lakes Rec Area, Box Dinner Exchange (Paul & Joyce Tekin)
- June 15-22 \* ABD Tour, Wasilla, Homer, Kodiak (Scott & Linda Grundy)
- June 16 \* Slow Poke Run, UAF Museum, Mike Lecorchick
- June 17 Sourdough Fuel Father's Day Car Show
- June 24 \* John McDonald Tailgating
- June 30 \* Willy Rally (Willy Vinton)
- July 1 \* Chena Hot Springs Run, 11 am., Pioneer Park (Wilma Vinton)
- July 4 North Pole 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade / Ester Parade
- July 6-8 (?) 49th State Street Rods Car show, Palmer (Not sure of dates, may be 5-7)
- July 7 \* Neighborhood Tour (PPR needed)
- July 8 \* Creamers History Tour, 11 am., Pioneer Park (Jeff Creamer)
- July 12 \* Membership Meeting Howling Dog
- July 14 \* Delta Run, (After Cars'N Coffee) (Nee and John McCarthy)
- July 21 \* Golden Days Parade  
(8:30am Line up must preregister with Wilma Vinton, Carl Westphal, Jeff Creamer)
- July 21 \* VLNAAC Picnic Pioneer Park Square Dance Pavilion
- \* Raffle car drawing 2pm Pioneer Park
- July 29 \* Joe Procell Picnic, Salcha
- Aug 3,4,5 \* Joint meet with Anchorage (Anchorage)
- Aug 5 \* Knotty Shop Poker Run, 11 am., Pioneer Park (Jeff Creamer)
- Aug 9 \* Membership meeting Tanana Lakes, South Cushman
- Aug 11 \* Ivory Jacks Run (Paul & Joyce Tekin)
- Aug 18 \* Foodbank Volunteer day/Neighborhood Troll (PPR needed)
- Aug 19 \* Mondo Poker Run (PPR needed)
- Aug 25 \* North Pole Bar-B-Que Run (Russ & Cindy Reason)
- Sept 9 \* Chatanika Lodge Poker Run (Paul & Joyce Tekin)
- Sept 13 \* Tanana Chief Sternwheeler Membership Meeting

- Jeff Creamer



If brakes break, they won't brake...

# Cars'N Coffee



## RAFFLE CAR



We still need volunteers to sell tickets for 2 hour periods of time at both "A Woman's Affair" on April 6-7-8, and at the "Outdoor Show" on April 20-21-22. See Mike Lecorchick or a Board Member to volunteer for a time.

Scott Culbertson sent the above photo he took at Cars'NCoffee this past Saturday (March 24th). There is a regular crowd of club members and visitors there every Saturday, both winter and summer. Scott said there were 20 members at Great Harvest Bread Company (Bently Mall) for this past Saturday morning get-together. As the weather warms, compare notes or get advice from fellow members at Cars'NCoffee - "winter hours" of 9am - 11am are still in effect.





# April, 2018

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>CarsNCoffee</i> 9:00—11:00am Bentley Mall <small>Selling Raffle Tickets at "A Woman's Affair"</small>
8 <small>Selling Raffle Tickets at "A Woman's Affair"</small>	9	10 <u>Board Meeting Sam's Sourdough</u>	11	12 <i>Membership Meeting</i> AK Buffet	13	14 <i>CarsNCoffee</i> 9:00—11:00am Bentley Mall
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 <i>CarsNCoffee</i> 9:00—11:00am Bentley Mall <small>Selling Raffle Tickets at the "Outdoor Show"</small>
22 <small>Selling Raffle Tickets at the "Outdoor Show"</small>	23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>CarsNCoffee</i> 9:00—11:00am Bentley Mall
29	30	<b>Newsletter submission deadline is always the 20th of the month. Send in your Member ads., events, notices, and articles to <a href="mailto:vlnaacf@gmail.com">vlnaacf@gmail.com</a></b>				

## Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club

- Friday, Saturday & Sunday, April 6-8th: **Selling Raffle Tickets at "A Women's Affair"** at the Carlson Center. Be sure to sign up for a time!
- Tuesday, April 10th: **Board Meeting**, Sourdough Sam's 6:30pm (most have dinner before)
- Thursday, April 12th: **Membership Meeting**, AK Buffet 7pm (most have dinner before)
- Friday, Saturday & Sunday, April 20-22nd: **Selling Raffle Tickets at the "Outdoor Show"** at the Carlson Center. Be sure to sign up for a time!

### Antique Auto Musers

- Wednesday, April 11th: **Membership Meeting**, 7pm Day Break Center.



### National AACA Events

- April 19-21 **Western Spring Meet**, Tucson, AZ
- May 11-12 **AACA Central Spring Meet**, Auburn, IN

### Member Ads



**For sale:** 1928 Hupmobile opera coupe this is a good running car that has been a part of VLNAACF & Fairbanks since the early 1970s. price on this car is \$16,000.00.



1925 Chrysler model 70 touring car that is a great car and is ready for the summer tours. Been part of VLNAACF & Fairbanks since the early 1970s also. Price \$25,500.00.



# President's Headlights

- Mike Lecorchick

Here comes April and I don't think I'm ready for it and not sure when I'll be. With 81 inches of snow this past winter and a 24-inch snow pack in my yard it's hard to tell when it will be gone.

I'm sure the snow piles around the yard from plowing will not be gone until sometime around the end of May. But with longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures the change may come faster than I think. Let's hope it does.

The summer events calendar is pretty well set but we still need a few people to help organize and lead events. There are two events scheduled for April that don't require getting your car out. One is selling raffle tickets at "A Woman's Affair" booth on April 6, 7 & 8. The other is selling raffle tickets at the "Outdoor Show" on April 20, 21 & 22. If you can help at one of these events but haven't signed up yet please contact Rochelle Larson as there are still a few open times.

March 14 and 18 we had the 1917 Ford Model T Snow Flyer out at the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum. Giving rides to kids with the snow flyer has become an annual event. I don't have an accurate count but think it was around 150 passengers for the two days. As a side note I have noticed that since we don't check IDs there seems to be a lot of taller "kids" with gray hair!



## SUNSHINE REPORT:

On 2/28, a sympathy card was sent to Pat and George Cromer for the passing of Pat's brother.

- Tracy McLeod

*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 .  
For a postal mail address contact Tracy or a Board member.*

## APRIL

### ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Donna Wojciechowski & Richard Bellows

30—Pat & Rick Crisenbery

## APRIL

### BIRTHDAYS

1 - Joni Ellsworth

3 - Roy Wilbur

4 - Theresa Chase

8 - Hank Grant

12 - Julio Merced

14 - Ron Frey

15 - Wilma Vinton

19 - Joanne Portwine

22 - James Farnham

23 - Dennis Dussman

24 - Don Oines

26 - Ross Beal

26 - Dan Domke

26—Doris Casey

## More Member Ads

**FOR SALE:** 1977 Alfa Romeo, 5-speed, convertible, runs well.

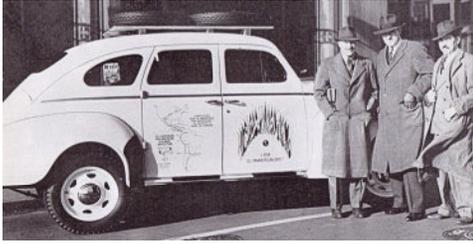
Needs new home!  
\$5,000 OBO.

Call John McCarthy 907-347-5056 for information.



## If a clock gets hungry, it goes back four seconds.

(Continued from page 1)



News photo from the start of the journey. Sullivan C. Richardson, the Expedition Leader, is in the center. Arnold Whitaker, the main driver and mechanic is on the left, and Kenneth C. VanHee, the cook, is on the right.

indeed for a standard production model Plymouth that I suspect was taxi/postal service production issue which possessed a heavy-duty generator and starter, and the larger eighteen-inch wheels preferred by our postal service in snow country. (Sixteen-inch diameter wheels were standard.) Although the endeavor was sponsored by the Plymouth Motors Division of Chrysler and received assistance from the South American Chrysler Corporation distributors and others, it was on a very tight budget. So, as I read the book, I was delighted to learn this wonderful piece of automotive history was returned to the U.S. with its owner - not scrapped somewhere in South America.

The greatness of this Expedition should be celebrated as one of man's foremost automotive accomplishments, yet few have even heard of it. Unfortunately, the onset of WWII buried the public's attention to the Expedition. Plymouth reportedly used the Expedition as part of their advertising and Richardson drove the battle-scarred car to college campuses in all the contiguous states except North Dakota. Sully lectured about the event and showed a nearly two-hour color film. By the end of 1945 the memory of the Expedition had unfortunately faded into oblivion.

This incredible car should have been a national museum piece, but was simply stored in the Richardson's back yard - sadly unprotected. When the Richardsons moved from Chicago to Hollywood, California the coveted vehicle went with them and



The car as stored in CA (before it was vandalized)

was again stored outdoors. In 1977 the Plymouth was vandalized. Sully was so devastated he sent the car to a local junkyard. Understandable, but it was a tragedy the family or friends did not intervene to preserve this incredibly historic vehicle. All was thought lost until one day in 1982 when the family was informed a door from the car was seen on an apartment wall in Phoenix, AZ. Sullie's sons searched for the car and the door, but were unsuccessful. Then in about 2010 the right rear door that had been removed from the vehicle with an acetylene torch appeared for sale on eBay. Fortunately, a collector and preserver of all things rare, meaningful and unique was intrigued by the opportunity and won the bid. His name is Richard (Dik) Mickle and he lives in the historic copper mining town of Miami, Arizona.

As a member of the Plymouth Owners Club, I receive a copy of their superb bimonthly publication "The Bulletin." A few years ago, a short article appeared regarding the discovery and disposition of the door. At the time, Dik and his lovely wife, Marilyn, ran a very unique bar that sported many of their treasures. "Unique," because the bar owner's emphasis was more for intellectual exchange than imbibing. On the wall of the bar was the Plymouth door protected in a glass case. I was absolutely thrilled reading about the discovery of what might be the Holy Grail of Plymouth memorabilia and made a mental note to be certain to visit Miami, AZ. As we drove through the town on an impromptu trip this February, a very faint memory cell fired (normal these days) about the town's importance. I didn't have any contact information, but decided to search anyway. The town's main street is just one block off the busy highway thoroughfare which hosts superb historic buildings with some excellent refurbished shops along the very sleepy street. So sleepy, a proprietor joked that one could safely nap in the middle of their main street. After inquiring about the door at three friendly businesses, I finally was armed with the name and location of the bar and its owner. The bar was no longer in business and I only had the name and telephone number of a friend of the bar owner - but my source was out of town. Excited and undeterred, I pursued the quest the next morning and was delighted when I obtained the bar owner's name and phone number. I immediately phoned the owner. After explaining my interest as a member of the Plymouth Owners Club, I apprehensively asked if there was a possibility we could meet. WOW! - about twenty minutes later, the Mickles

were opening the door to their old business the Howling Javelina (Saloon). I was really excited and so grateful! The building itself is a collector item with a high tin-covered ornate ceiling - plus, the building was jammed full of beautiful and unique antique items. After turning on the lights, Dik led me to a large safe where some of his more cherished items were located. After opening the safe's doors -there, in front, was the Plymouth's right-rear door!! The Expedition's Plymouth four-door sedan had the expedition logo painted on the front doors and a map painted on the rear (suicide) doors depicting the proposed routes they would hopefully travel. The painted illustration on the door was, of course, faint but the initials and names of dignitaries and individuals they encountered remained clearly scratched on the door. (The entire vehicle was adorned with such autographs.) My excitement continued throughout the taking of pictures and their detailed explanation of



Dik Mickle with the Plymouth door.

some of their other pieces. I remain so very thankful for their generous hospitality.

But wait - there's more to the story! Sullivan Richardson's family moved from the states to Chihuahua, Mexico where Sully was born on November 11, 1901. Sully's son David informed the Mickles that his dad (Sully) as a pre-teen youth in Mexico was told by an elderly woman palm reader he was destined for fame in his lifetime. This prediction had a profound impact on Sully's life - he believed in himself and did indeed go on to greatness as a documentary filmmaker and certainly as the leader of this phenomenal expedition! Certainly not bad for a kid raised in Mexico who went barefoot until he decided to come to the U.S to look for work. Ironically, he obtained employment at the mines in Miami, Arizona! But there's more - the main street in Miami happens to be Sullivan Street where the Howling Javelina and the famous door resides! No relationship to Sullivan Richardson, but as Mr. Mickle says, "It (the door) has come full circle!"



If you step on a person's foot, they open their mouth—just like a trash can.

## NATIONAL NEWS



### WANT TO DO SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD?

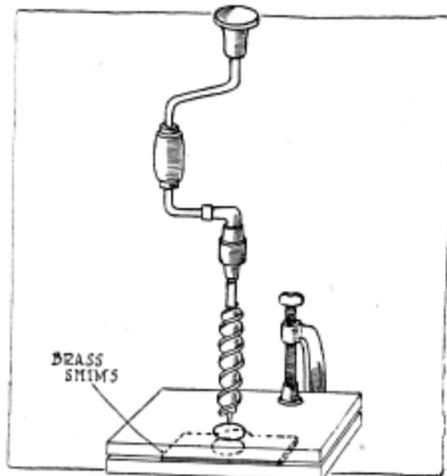
Lars Anderson

You've had an antique vehicle for years and you belong to the finest car club there is. It provides lots of good times and years of memories. You are part of a community, a national community of old car enthusiasts. You share the experience of belonging with many thousands from across the country. You also have another common trait. You've collected an array of literature, documents, magazines - all types of printed matter. More than you really need. What are you doing with the duplicates? Perhaps you sold a vehicle and now have a file cabinet of material which has no meaning to you. How are you going to dispose of it all? You really don't have the heart to throw it away. Well here's a good feeling move you can make. Your AACA Library can use your collection to further their responsibilities as America's Automotive Library. They would really appreciate receiving it to add to their files. And so would the researcher who hasn't been able to find, until now, the document you donated and now here it is in our library. It's all tax deductible because the Library and Research Center is a 501 (c) (3). They'll send you a nice thank you letter and receipt of material. It's your responsibility to place a value on it. Call the Library at 717-534-2082 and ask for Chris Ritter or email [critter@aaca.org](mailto:critter@aaca.org). Do it now and start glowing.



## Automobile Repairshop Short Cuts

*These short cuts and repairshop kinks are taken from the 1918 book of the above title as published by the U.P.C. Book Company*



Boring clean holes in thin shims

### Boring Shim Holes (No. 565)

Sharp holes may be cut in brass shims by putting the material between two wooden blocks and boring a hole through with a bit and brace. Several shims can be finished at once. - George W. Lownsey, Palmyra, Mo.

## 2018 ABDT

By Scott Grundy

The 2018 Adventure Before Dementia Tour (ABDT) will be a real dandy! We're going to **Kodiak** – Alaska's Emerald Isle! For extra fun, we're joining our Anchorage compatriots, the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska (AAMA), to spend three fun-filled days touring Kodiak. Our caravan will depart from Fairbanks on Friday morning, June 15 and return the following Friday, June 22.

There is much to see and do in beautiful Kodiak. Most exciting is the AAMA members have access to the state's satellite launching facility and our nation's largest U. S. Coast Guard base; we will receive informative tours of these and other very interesting facilities! We will also tour the Ft. Abercrombie Historic Park (WWII defense site & museum), drive to the base of wind turbines atop highly scenic Mt. Pillar, visit a saltwater fishery research center, browse local museums, drive scenic roads to beautiful coastal bays, and more.

The ABDT is organized to facilitate you driving your vintage vehicle, but as usual – join the fun and drive anything you wish! Two days of highly scenic transit are planned to and from Homer. We will overnight in Wasilla. But you do not have to caravan with us. Just meet us in Homer. We will depart Homer on the morning of June 17 for a daylight (whoopee!) sail to Kodiak. Then we'll depart Kodiak on the evening of June 20 for an overnight return to Homer. If you wish to visit longer in Kodiak and/or Homer to go fishing or whatever, feel free to do so!

The 2018 ferry schedule was just announced so there's plenty of berth and cargo space available. But space can quickly fill to capacity mainly with commercial vehicles now, and later with



The Grundys on Kodiak - Missile Launch Tower in background.

private (tourist) vehicles. So, it's essential to reserve space on the ferry NOW for you and your vehicle. You can always cancel later but understand a graduated cancellation fee is applied except in the event of an emergency. Just don't miss this wonderful opportunity to join the fun and also to get to know some terrific Anchorage folks. Contact me (Scott Grundy) by email for reservation details at [sgrundy55ply@gmail.com](mailto:sgrundy55ply@gmail.com).



# CARLSON SHOW UPDATE

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Carlson Center Show is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with setup on the 1<sup>st</sup>. While you are spiffing up your cars for the event, be sure to dig out your valve cover cars, tune them up and get them ready to put the heat to last year's champions. The valve cover races will be held both days, eliminations on the first day and the final championship races the second day. The rules for building your car are in this issue of the newsletter.

We have not decided what all the classes will be but we will keep the Tractor and Motorcycle class we started last year as well as the "Past Winners" class that will have the past two years winners on display in an area of their own. The registration forms, with the classes, will be available at the April 12<sup>th</sup> Membership meeting and in the Newsletter next month (May issue). When you fill out your form, please be sure that you annotate what class you want your car to be judged in. We hope to have posters available at the April Meeting, so please take several to place strategically around town. There are lots of jobs to be filled to make this the best show ever- the list of needed volunteers will once again be available at the April Meeting. This show can't be successful without your help. If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact me at [wvinton@gci.net](mailto:wvinton@gci.net) or call 388-8252.

- Wilma Vinton



## Valve Cover Racer Rules:

1. Racer must be built with an original valve cover from an internal combustion engine, and must retain the original gasket surface. Please sand or file any sharp edges that could cause injury, without destroying the original mounting surface to the point it cannot be re-used.
2. Racer must have no moving parts other than the axles or wheels.
3. Racer must have no means of propulsion, other than gravity, and must have no shifting or liquid weights.
4. Racer must have a minimum of three (3) wheels.
5. Nothing can protrude on either end of the valve cover.
6. Tires (wheels) must not exceed 4 inches in diameter and must have a non-metallic area touching the track. No DVDs CDs, etc., may be used. Skateboard, in-line skate, roller skate, or homebuilt wheels with a minimum of 1/4" face are OK. Wheels may be mounted either inside or outside of the valve cover.
7. The maximum length of the racer must not exceed 30 inches. The width may not exceed 10 inches from the outside of wheel to outside of wheel. Total weight may not exceed 10 pounds. Maximum height can be 10 inches.
8. Valve covers must retain the original gasket surface, and must not leak oil; dripping oil on the track will disqualify the entrant.
9. Racer may be painted or unpainted. The use of graphics or decals is OK. No holes may be cut into the valve cover or external modification are allowed that would prevent it being reinstalled and run on Mom's car. External add-ons may be done using existing mounting holes only.
10. The maximum distance from the track to the front edge of the valve cover is 3 1/2 inches to accommodate the release pin for the starting gate.
11. The length from the front of the valve cover to the rear axle may not exceed 22 inches. - Willy Vinton, 2014 Valve Cover Race Chairman

## How to build a winning Valve Cover Race Car

*(Reprinted from our March, 2014 issue)*

If you are an organized and lucky scavenger, you can build a valve cover racer in a single Saturday. Be creative with the engineering if you want to win – paint jobs only make them look fast, it's what's under the cover that counts, just like the big cars! Here is what I did:

The most important part of a valve cover racer is the wheels. While you do need a valve cover, just about any valve cover will do – but not just any wheels. Wheels need to be wood, rubber, or plastic – not metal as it will mar the race track and thus are forbidden in the rules. The most direct way to get a set of good wheels is to steal them from you grandkid's skateboard or in-line skates. (If you don't have a suitable grandkid, then you may need to mug a kid with either a skateboard or on rollerblades). Skateboards are good because they also have adjustable trucks (going straight is important), but skateboards have wide wheels and the trucks sit high. The fastest are narrow hard plastic wheels. Rollerblade type in-line skate wheels are better than skateboard wheels because they are narrower (and besides two of



you can go together to mug just one skater for eight wheels – you have to be a lone mugger for just the four wheels from a skateboard). If you wimp out on the mugging, and your grandkid is wise to your trying to steal their wheels, then you can do what I did and go to Value Village and buy a used pair of in-line skates. Both in-line skate wheels and skateboard wheels have 1/4" ID bearings, so you can put them on your racer with just 1/4 bolts; put a washer on either side of the bearing.

You can borrow a valve cover from about any car, and I said borrow because one of the rules is that you can't modify it to the extent that the bottom gasket lip is changed – thus you can put it

*(Continued on page 10)*

Saying "thank you" in sign language is a nice gesture.

## FOOD BANK

I want to thank the members who contributed the 25 lbs. food & \$60.00 to the Food Bank.

I think as a club with a large membership, we should be able to donate more to their cause. Remember that they no longer have the Sam's Club donation, not that we can donate that large amount, but lets not limit ourselves.

I have signed up the Vernon L Nash (club) for working the Saturdays: Aug 18, 2018, Sept 15, 2018, October 20, 2018, Nov 17, 2018, Dec 15, 2018, from 9am to 11:30am. We can still do cars & coffee at 8 am and then go to the Food Bank to work. We will be packing boxes and handing them out. They also are hoping that the weather will hold out, so the cars can line up in their parking lot. (for Aug/Sept/Oct.)

I am hoping that the membership will contribute any time we gather as a group; Wednesday night runarounds, Sat/ Sun activities, etc. I would like to see the food drive at the Carlson Center show; maybe they can discount \$1.00 off for the 1 can donation (only 1 to 1).

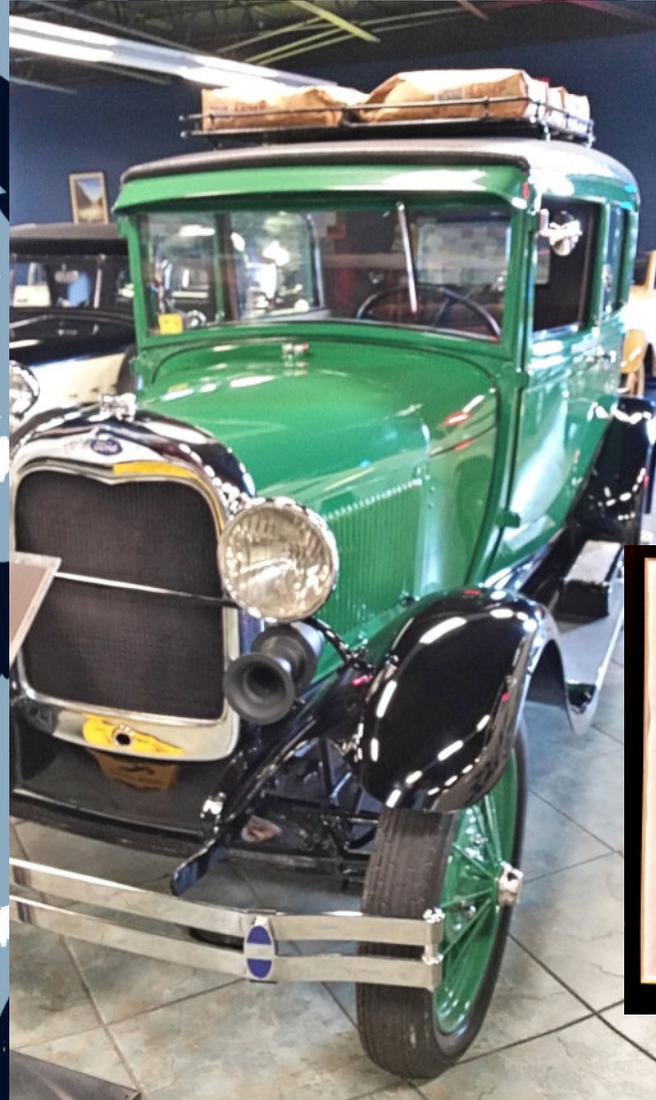
You give us any reason to eat and we are there in force, lets donate with the same spirit.

I will always be prepared to take the donations to them. They are a wonderful group of people who are always happy to see me. Go figure!!

In the spirit of generosity,  
Theresa Chase



## Snowbird Droppings..



Bret sent us these photos of a Model A in the Tampa Bay Auto Museum. He thought the car was interesting (it's powered with hardwood lump charcoal), and wanted to share it with the Model A bunch.

### 1929 FORD MODEL A

#### GAS O GEN ALTERNATIVE FUEL SYSTEM

This is an interesting car we have been seeking for over 20 years. During the Second World War, fuel was scarce in Europe, Japan and South America. People were forced to come up with alternative fuel systems to run their automobiles. This particular car was assembled in Spain at a Ford Motor Company Automotive Plant. The Gas O Gen system was added on in approximately 1939 or 1940 after the Spanish Civil War.

The car is powered by hardwood lump charcoal that is burned in a sealed combustion chamber at the rear of the car. The fumes from the combustion chamber are then flowed through a series of filtration chambers. The filtration chamber is the green canister next to the black combustion chamber. The final filtration process results in pure hydrogen being pumped directly into the carburetor. In a matter of 10-15 minutes, the car can be converted from gasoline powered to hydrogen powered. While running on the hydrogen, the engine power is only reduced by about 15%.





(Continued from page 8)

back on your wife's car when the race is over. If you have to steal one, go for an in-line six. Size of most any valve cover probably will fit the rules – the rules are easy: Max 10" high; Max 10" wide; Max weight is 10#. The only dimension that isn't 10 is the length – and the max length is 30".

When you design and build your undercarriage, make sure at least one set of wheels is perfectly straight and the other -or both- are in some way adjustable so that you can properly align (and between race heats, correct) your racer so that it goes straight down the middle of the track.

Gravity is your motive force. Heavier is better. When your carriage is complete and you sit your valve cover on, your racer's weight will probably be well under 10#. You can use about anything for dunnage, but the most straight forward way to get a lot of weight into a small space is to find some used tire weights. They are ideal in that they are dense (10# is a heavy racer), you can keep your racer's center of gravity low, and you can match them up to get very very close to that 10# maximum at race weigh-in. It would be a real pain to have to steal enough weights off cars parked in the snow in the Fred's lot, so the easy way is to go to one of the tire dealers and beg. I got mine at Alyeska Tire, where they were anxious to sell a whole 5 gallon pail for \$10 (I just got humble and begged for the two hands cupped amount that I needed). I then went to the Post Office with all my parts and pieces in my valve cover and used a postage scale to measure out my weights to bring the total up to 9 pounds and 15 ounces. Now, go out and build a racer to beat mine. (I dare ya!) - Rick Larrick

**PS: Follow up note: Don't make the wheels TOO adjustable! I found out the hard way that the more "adjustable" they are, the more "out of adjustment" they become if you hit something... Straight - but perfect - alignment is far better than adjustable!**



Tom Mix's 1937 Cord 812 Phaeton. Photo taken by the Arizona Concours d'Elegance in 2013

## Tom Mix Memorial

By Scott Grundy

While driving north on Arizona Highway 79 through the beautiful Sonoran Desert about fifty miles north of Tucson, Arizona, we encountered a memorial devoted to the cowboy action star – Tom Mix. I slammed on the brakes! The memorial marks the site of his death at age 60 on October 12, 1940. The wayside includes a stone monument with a sad rider-less horse on top cut from iron plate.

Starting in the 1920's, Mix was Hollywood's first cowboy action star who made nearly 400 films (mostly silent movies). This first "king of the cowboys" was accompanied by his loyal and intelligent "Tony the Wonder Horse" and together they fought for the greater good! As Hollywood's highest paid actor, Tom Mix always dressed the part with his large white Stetson, and was known to love fast cars and to drink and gamble. Searching "Tom Mix" on the internet will reveal an abundance of information about this famous and flamboyant man - often conflicting but very interesting indeed!

Mix was driving his personalized bright yellow supercharged 1937 Cord phaeton so fast that he either didn't notice or failed to heed the signs warning that a bridge was out ahead. The car crashed through a barrier with its brakes locked and flipped on its side in the dry wash. Accounts vary, but apparently an unsecured leather-bound aluminum suitcase in the back seat struck him in the back of his head smashing his skull and breaking his neck.

From an excellent article by Kurt Ernst in Hemmings Motor News (11/25/2013) I learned Mix's Cord was acquired in 2010 by Mr. Bob White of Scottsdale, Arizona; the vehicle was fully restored one year later to the condition the car was in on the day Mix lost his life. The phaeton is one of three 1937 Cords fitted with a factory-installed rear tire mount – all built for Hollywood celebrities. Mix also mounted a spotlight to illuminate the roadway ahead for high-speed night driving. Bumper guards, front bumper flag poles and a grill protector were also added. The side of the hood sported his initials and on each side of the front of the hood carried a set of medallions presented to the actor by the king of Denmark. Flashy indeed, but to be certain of recognition the front license plate bore his name. But the coolest addition in my opinion was the pair of ornate hand-tooled leather stone guards on the rear fenders that sported the initial "M."

The interior of the Cord was also customized with his surname as well as the brand of his ranch on the horn button. The accelerator pedal featured a metal cup fashioned to hold the heel of his boot; the cup was riveted to an embossed leather pad with the actor's initials. And famously, located directly below the steering column was a hand-tooled holster for his Smith and Wesson revolver!

Someday I hope to see this famous car. Plus, the dented suitcase reportedly resides in the Tom Mix Museum in Dewey, Oklahoma – hopefully, another must-stop location for the Grundys in the future!



## CARL WESTPHAL'S GARAGE

Carl got his '53 Ford Tractor running this winter (right) and was able to put his 1975 Bronco (above) in the garage last weekend (March 24th). Wife Martha says that is the first time he has ever had a Bronco in a garage.



### VLNAACF Meeting Minutes March 8, 2018 Location - AK Buffet

President Mike Lecorchick brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. there were 34 members present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARILYN NIGRO AND SECONDED BY BRENDA WILBUR TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jeff Creamer read the BOD meeting minutes from the March 6 meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Mike Lecorchick gave the treasurer's report. A MOTION WAS MADE BY THERESA CHASE AND SECONDED BY JEFF CREAMER TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The membership report was given by Rochelle Larson. Rochelle reported that we have 202 members. 36 single and 83 joint.

#### EVENTS:

Event planning meeting - Jeff Creamer handed out a list of events planned for 2018. Let Jeff know if you have any ideas for new events for this summer.

Raffle Car - No report was given.  
ABDT - No report was given.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Logo Items - Rochelle told us that an

email was sent to the new vendor in Seattle for quantity pricing. Santa's Stitches can provide the stitching for the logo items.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Woman's Affair - Woman's Affair is April 6th, 7th, and 8th. There was a sign up sheet passed around for members to volunteer to help man the booth. We will be sharing a booth with Vonna Husby as in past years.

Outdoor Show - The Outdoor Show is April 20, 21, and 22. We will need volunteers to help man the booth.

We need Ideas for guest speakers at our membership meetings.

Rick needs car related articles for the newsletter.

50/50 - The total for the 50/50 was \$142 and the lucky winner was Joyce Tekin.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JEFF CREAMER AND SECONDED BY BEAR TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:41 P.M. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted by: Donna Wojciechowski,  
Secretary



## EDITOR'S LEFT (on) BLINKER

### Buy Local

We vacationed on the pacific coast of Mexico last month. As everywhere, we noticed the cars. I always notice the older ones, and we saw a number of them, but what caught my attention was the mix of makes and models on the streets of Puerto Vallarta. I saw lots of small Ram trucks, big Chevy Suburbans, VW of all years and models, Chevy pickup trucks, BMWs - both trucks and cars, slightly fewer small Fords, Hondas and Kias. Almost every one of them made in Mexico. They may be built there because the price of labor is lower - but they are bought there because of local pride in what they build local.

- Rick Larrick

## CONTACTS:

President	Mike Lecorchick	322-7525	<a href="mailto:Mike.lecor@gmail.com">Mike.lecor@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Scott Culbertson	978-0061	<a href="mailto:srculbertson@alaska.edu">srculbertson@alaska.edu</a>
Treasurer	Wilma Vinton	388-7766	<a href="mailto:vlvinton@gmail.com">vlvinton@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Donna Wojciechowski	490-6740	<a href="mailto:culligan@gci.net">culligan@gci.net</a>
Director (past President)	John McCarthy	347-5056	<a href="mailto:gt500@acsalaska.net">gt500@acsalaska.net</a>
Director (term expires 2019)	Ralph Moore	347-1675	<a href="mailto:flatheadv81947@gmail.com">flatheadv81947@gmail.com</a>
Director (term expires 2019)	Carl Westphal	322-1760	<a href="mailto:westphal78@hotmail.com">westphal78@hotmail.com</a>
Director (term expires 2018)	Melinda Harris	378-6744	<a href="mailto:mharris907@gmail.com">mharris907@gmail.com</a>
Director (term expires 2018)	Jeff Creamer	378-9061	<a href="mailto:jcreamer@gci.net">jcreamer@gci.net</a>
Membership Chair	Rochelle Larson	590-8593	<a href="mailto:rochelle1987@hotmail.com">rochelle1987@hotmail.com</a>
Merchandise	Rochelle Larson	590-8593	<a href="mailto:rochelle1987@hotmail.com">rochelle1987@hotmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Rick Larrick	457-4344	<a href="mailto:larrickrick@gmail.com">larrickrick@gmail.com</a>
Website	Michael Farrell	328-8434	<a href="mailto:mrfarell2@alaska.edu">mrfarell2@alaska.edu</a>
Sunshine Club	Tracy McLeod	456-7877	<a href="mailto:tksplits@yahoo.com">tksplits@yahoo.com</a>

VLNAAC Website: <http://fairbanksaaca.org>



### NEXT MEETINGS

The Membership Meeting is **Thursday, April 12th - at the AK Buffet**. Meeting starts at 7:00 pm, with dinner before (most members arrive about 6:00 pm).

The Board Meeting is **Tuesday, April 10th** — at Sam's Sourdough. Meeting starts at 6:30pm, with dinner before. Board Meetings are open to members.



Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club  
P.O. Box 71253  
Fairbanks, AK 99707