

SEPTEMBER 2021

Volume 50, Issue 7

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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](mailto:vlnaacf@gmail.com)



# Nash's News

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



Delivery to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, August 6, 2021

Photo by KRIS CAPPS, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

August 7, 2021 issue (used with permission)

**3rd TEDDY BEAR CAR SHOW WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!!**

See Pg. 2



Car Show at Pioneer Park, July 24, 2021



## Teddy Bear Vehicle Show Highly Successful!

By Scott Grundy

On Saturday, July 24 our club hosted a car show at Pioneer Park. The show was open to anyone in the community who wished to display their vehicle. The purpose was to raise funds to purchase teddy bears and accept the donation of any clean stuffed critter for use by the pediatric ward in the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. Once again, Doris Casey with the help of hubby Robbie and club members Theresa Chase, Joyce Tekin, Cindy Helms, Marily Naquin, Julio Merced, John McCarthy, Ron Allen, Rick Larrick, Jeff Cook, Jeff Creamer and several others lent a hand to make this an incredibly successful event!. Over 800 stuffed animals were acquired and 40 wonderful vehicles participated in the car show!

The Open Arms Children Development Center (Zion Lutheran Church) provided their van to store the teddy bears out of the predicted foul weather. However, the weather did cooperate - sort of. The heavy overnight rainfall ended

moments before the event's early organizers arrived. But later that afternoon a wind gust tipped one of the canopies weighted down with three stacking chairs on each upwind corner completely over.

Earlier that morning, Willy and Wilma Vinton led the Anchorage-based Antique Auto Mushers of Alaska and the Model A group to our fairgrounds to participate in the reverse tour of the Golden Days Parade. Our southern brethren were here as part of their tour of the Fairbanks area and Steese Highway to Circle City. Afterward, they joined our show to display their nifty vehicles. They were very impressed with the mission of this event and asked for an outline of how we organize the event. Doris advises they are not the first to do so; the car club in Sterling, AK is also considering a similar event.

The People's Choice Award was easily won by Mark Albert who displayed his beautifully restored 1965 Corvette. The large 50/50 "Pot o' Gold" raffle drawing was won by club member Janeen Culbertson.

Teddy Bears were delivered to the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital on August 6th. Over 800 stuffed animals were donated. Chris Kapps of the Fairbanks Daily New-Miner did a great job covering the delivery, with a full page spread in the paper the next morning.

Let's all thank Doris for suggesting this event to our club years ago and then working hard to make it happen in the ensuing years.



With a teaser photo on the front page, and then a full page article on page 6, the Fairbanks Daily News Miner provided great coverage of the event. The club should thank Scott Grundy for taking the initiative to contact Kris Capps with information and photos on the show, and to Kris and the Daily News Miner for the expansive coverage provided. Above courtesy of and with permission of the FDNM.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021

## OUR TOWN



Doris Casey presents the People's Choice Award to Mark Albert for his 1965 Corvette.



The registration table was busy all morning as club members and the public registered cars and the club collected stuffed animals.





## August 28th

Hello everyone we will have a nice drive to the Monderosa bar and grill in Nenana on August 28. This will be a poker run and we will leave the Bentley Mall parking lot about 10:30 after cars and coffee. It is always a fun run with a great lunch when we are done. If you want to come along you don't need to have an old car to come for a great drive with a fun group. If you have any questions give me a call Rochelle Larson at 907-590-8593.



## FALL COLOR RUN

SEPT  
11th



Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Chatanika poker fall run.

Paul and Joyce Tekin will host the run.

Everyone meet at the Cars'NCoffee parking lot  
at 11:30 on Sat. the 11<sup>th</sup> of Sept.

Mark your calendar now, join us for a day of fellowship.

## Growing up in the 1960's

By Fred Trusty

Vice-President - Membership



When I was about 8 or 9 years old I got my first lawn mower. I think I paid \$5 for it. It was basically a used piece of junk but it worked, sometimes. Do you remember the Briggs and Stratton engines with wind up starters? You folded the handle out and then wound it up several revolutions and when you folded it back it would release the spring that turned the engine to start it. It met its demise when I hit a steel pipe sticking out of the ground and bent the crankshaft but with the money I had made cutting yards I bought a brand new Sears Craftsman mower. I wanted the self-propelled model but it cost more so I had to settle for the push type. I paid for the mower, then we went to the pickup counter outside, gave the clerk the sales ticket, and he went back in the warehouse and brought out the big cardboard box on a dolly and then put it in the trunk of my dad's '56 Buick. What a surprise when we got home and unpacked the mower. The clerk had made a mistake and gave us the self-propelled model. I was thrilled, but only for a moment. My dad said we didn't pay for that mower and to keep it would be stealing. He made me call Sears and tell them what happened. Much to my surprise, they told me to keep the mower. I made a lot of money cutting grass with that mower but unfortunately, it was stolen out of our garage a few years later.

I was now 12 and wanted a paper route delivering newspapers for the Courier Journal but you had to be at least 14. No problem. A kid I knew in the neighborhood was 15 so he got two routes and let me run one of them. I did all the work and he took a cut of the profit. I would get up at 3:30 AM every morning, ride my bike to the corner drop off about two blocks away, pickup my papers and then deliver them. Home by 7:00 in time for breakfast and then off to school. Right after school about 3:30 I would go to the drop off corner, pick up the evening edition, make my deliveries and home by 5:30 for supper. There was only one edition on Sunday but it was much thicker so no bicycle delivery. I had to walk. Back then you had to collect the money from all of your customers so that meant knocking on doors at night. When I turned 14 the kid that got the route for me was 17 so he gave me both of his routes since he got a job at a gas station. With two paper routes, I was really making bank. Good thing, since I had my sights set on something big in two years, a car.

Can you imagine a 12-year-old kid riding his bike alone in the streets at 3:30 AM today? Or how about going door to door collecting money at 9:00 PM? The 1960's were a golden time to be growing up. I wish our world was still like it today.



# SEPTEMBER, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>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></i></p>			1 RunAround	2	3	4 CarsNCoffee
5	6	7 Board Meeting: Fountain-head Museum	8 RunAround	9 Membership Meeting - Fox Park Pavilion	10	11 CarsNCoffee Chatanika Fall Color Run
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 CarsNCoffee
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 CarsNCoffee
26	27	28	29	30		

## Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club

- **Note:** CarsNCoffee time is 8:00 to 10:00 am each Saturday at Great Harvest Bread at the Bentley Mall.
- **Note:** Every Wednesday evening, gather at the Pioneer Park front lot at 6:45 pm for a RunAround cruise. (W. Vinton / M Lecorchick, PPRs)
- **Aug 7: Board Meeting** @ Fountain-head Museum Garage
- **Aug 9: Membership Meeting** @ Fox Park Pavilion
- **Aug 28: Mondo Run** (see pg. 3)
- **Sept 11: Chatanika Fall Color Run** (see pg. 3)

## Antique Auto Mushers

- **Sept 8: Membership Meeting**, Driveabout, starting at Turnagain Country Club, 6:30 pm



## National AACA Events

- **Oct 6-9: Eastern Fall Nationals (HERSHEY)**, Hershey, PA
- **Oct 18-22: Central Divisional Tour** (25 years & older), Tulsa Region, Broken Arrow, OK



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Pranee Nakprasit
- 5 - Tracy McLeod
- 11 - Wally Olsen
- 13 - Marilyn Nigro
- 14 - Wyan Grant
- 14 - Al Haynes
- 17 - Carolyn Mustard
- 18 - Brent LeValley
- 21 - Karine Dane
- 26 - Maria Mingus
- 27 - Charlie Jurgens

# President's Headlights

Greetings All!

This will be my last contribution under the Presidents Headlights, and I want to thank all of you for your help and support over the last few years. It has been my pleasure to lead this club and I couldn't have asked for a more supportive group that you are fortunate to have in your Board of Directors! As a team we have continued to operate this club through several challenges the last 2 years and have managed to still have group activities that showcase our passion for vintage and classic vehicles. I will remember these times with a mixture of fondness and amazement that we pulled it off!



I will be traveling for the next several months, catching up with family and friends in the lower 48, though my heart will always be here in Fairbanks! I do have plans to jump back up to Alaska a few times this winter, and will check in with the BOD periodically. I am confident that the Officers and Directors will continue to provide the top notch support to the club, and I ask that all of you consider becoming a part of the leadership team that keeps the wheels turning so we all can enjoy and share our passions!

Safe and Happy Travels,  
Jeff Creamer



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 - Vonna & Fred Husby
- 7 - Joyce & Paul Tekin
- 7 - Tracy & Jim Brand
- 18 - Tammy & Marlen Pruett
- 29 - Lorna & Clutch Lounsbury

## SUNSHINE REPORT:

There were no requests for cards this month.

*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: splits@yahoo.com .  
For a postal mail address contact Tracy or a Board member.*



When good things don't happen right away, remember it takes 6 months to build a Rolls and 13 hours to build a Toyota.

# Rolling Across the U.S.A.

(or How I Spent My Summer Vacation)

By Patty Meritt

In the cold, dark winter of 2020, after submitting a letter announcing my intent to retire from teaching at UAF, I decided I deserved a special car for the occasion. Never having owned a luxury car and never having even *touched* a Rolls Royce, I first became fascinated, then intrigued and finally *obsessed*.

Grinning, Bob enabled the dream and helped research and select the best option. Together we narrowed the choices from a limo to a sedan, from an antique Silver Cloud or vintage Phantom to one that would more likely get us across the country and could be serviced in Fairbanks when necessary. We hoped it would be reliable and comfortable enough to make our participation in the Vern Nash car club fun. In February, after many aborted attempts, we finally made a deal through e-bay for a 1999 Silver Seraph, with the agreement that we could pick it up in May.

That was a little scary for me! At one point, the seller thousands of miles away, had the car, the cashier's check and the title! Turned out he was honest and got the title and bill of sale to us quickly. Whew! Meanwhile, due to changes at work, I decided to postpone my retirement for at least another year. Talk about scary. . . "What was I thinking buying a car like this?" So we waited through the spring.

Then, May 6<sup>th</sup> we flew to Seattle and on May 8 we boarded Amtrak for two nights to arrive in Sparta, Wisconsin on May 10. The train trip was great fun and so economical, I recommend it 100%! We had a little sleeping compartment, but that

did not stop Bob from dozing in his chair during the day. The scenery was enchanting and delightfully variable.

Finally we arrived at our destination and the seller was there to pick us up. Our new (old) car lived up to expectations. We found it beautiful – love at first sight! The interior was gorgeous too, although there were a few little things we had not realized earlier, such as the horn did not work and the lights



First view of the '99 Silver Seraph, with the previous owner standing by

came on randomly. That was okay; I was still enthralled.

As we headed out through Wisconsin and Iowa I enjoyed the contrast of the powerful machine against the country setting. We both especially liked looking

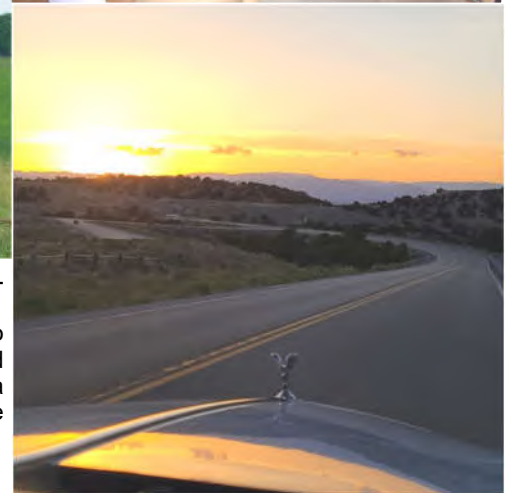


through the windshield at the "Flying Ecstasy" hood ornament.

When we stopped in Kansas to see our daughter, we thoroughly enjoyed the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. It is a GEM! Of course, Bob took time to sparkle "Sarah" up for the next leg of the journey.



Bob "sparkles" Sarah



After the beauty of Utah, we arrived in the small town of Ely, Nevada. I tended ancestral grave sites (Bob called me a "gravedigger") a few days before Memorial Day and we took the old train up into the mining country

(Continued on page 7)





I bought a lesser known Rolls model—the Rolls Canardly. Rolls down one hill, Canardly make it up the next.

(Continued from page 6)



where my family worked and prospered a century ago.

Bob also thought it would be good to have the oil upgraded, so we got our first view of the undercarriage. It looked pretty clean to us and the mechanics had never seen a RR before so they



were enthusiastic and shared our joy and excitement as new owners!

After Ely, we stopped in Eureka, Nevada, (pop 462) another family connection, where we ate in The Owl, a smoky local Café (the only place in town) and



waiting to see if the snow would stop or if my cousin would show up. When neither happened, we decided we had better head out anyway. We made it safely to Reno that night - a total of 320 miles that day via HWY 50.

In Reno we tried to get new tires, but they did not have a tool that was needed. So we spent the day with me doing more "grave digging" and had dinner with family. The next morning we ("at last" according to Bob!) emptied the trunk of the bunches of artificial flowers I'd purchased in Kansas, with a final acknowledgement for my parents RIP, before we crossed the magnificent Sierra Nevada Mountains on Interstate 80.

That night we arrived in Vallejo, CA, to visit our son for a few days and found the left front tire completely flat in the morning! Les Schwab to the rescue!

Chris there was undaunted and modified one of his tools to do the job, so in only 1 day and for \$1000 we got new tires and an alignment. That was a good improvement! Unfortunately, no white walls were available, even if we were willing to take extra days and order some, so we had to accept what was possible and didn't let it dampen our spirits as we enjoyed the beautiful John Muir Woods

Going up HWY 1 was one of the parts of the trip Bob was most looking forward to and it was as gorgeous as we both



Bob is dwarfed by the giant "Grandfather" redwood tree



I was looking forward to seeing if we could drive through one of the giant redwood trees from my childhood memories, but they were closed as we passed by. We did get to see how Grandpa Meritt, at 85, compared to the Grandfather Redwood, 1800 years old, though!

Then on to Oregon and the beautiful coastal beaches.

Coming in to Washington we crossed the Taco-



ma Narrows Bridge and considered this part of our journey a success. For most of June we would be on our sailboat while the car was getting some much needed work done to the suspension and other mechanical parts.



(Continued on page 8)



## Why do the English drink warm beer? Lucas made the refrigerators, too.

(Continued from page 7)

We got the car back July 1 and had fun driving it in the Anacortes WA (pop 17k) 4th of July parade.



Above & right: Anacortes 4th of July parade



Then it was time for the final leg. We put the sailboat "on the hard" for the winter and headed to the Alaska ferry, where we were one of the last to board. I think they saved a special nook for it, although next time we will use the protective cover to safeguard it from the dog owners!

Crossing into Canada proved challenging, even though we tried our best to follow all the rules we could find. The border agent wanted to know "Why did you have to



leave Alaska to buy a car?", and "What in the world were you *thinking* to drive across the country and then try to enter Canada during a worldwide pandemic?" I am pretty sure she is not a car aficionado! Six hundred dollars and twenty-four hours later we had our negative COVID tests and strict instructions to pass through in no more than seven hours and not to stop except to pump gas ourselves and use the roadside outhouses.

We were very glad to reach Alaska, six and a half hours later, even though our Rolls, "Sarah" was covered with bugs.

Our last night on the road was at a beautiful little cabin in Tok, after traveling for 11 hours from Haines. The next morning we went in our filthy car to Fast Eddy's, our traditional stop before heading home to Harding Lake. Once home we were able to give her a good wash and polish. It seemed to us that she had a good adventure too, rolling across the country.

- Patty Meritt



Bob with the Rolls safely home at Harding Lake



I thought I'd met Miss Right. Then I found out her first name was Always.

## Wednesday Night Run-Around

July 28th

The Wednesday night Run-Around took us to Aurora Subdivision and their annual Ice Cream Social. The City of Fairbanks Fire Department joined us from Station 3.



- Wilma Vinton

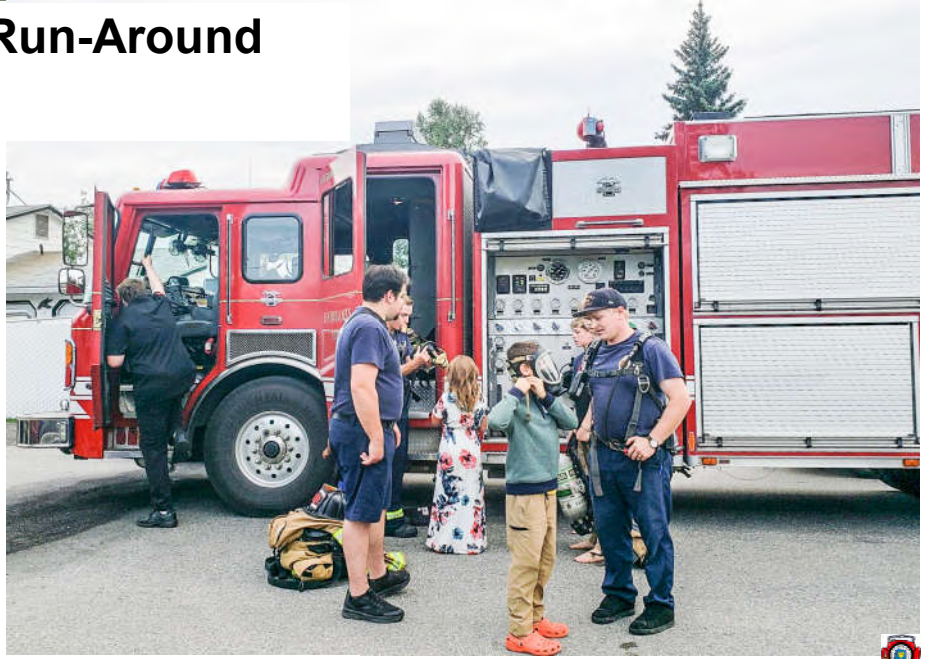


### EDITOR'S LEFT (on) BLINKER

- Rick Larrick

It was fun working on the club photo project. As we covered last month, John McCarthy did a great job getting it organized and the drone photography by Walt Mingus was fantastic! I formatted the photos and added the lettering and then found great pricing from Alaska Camera. Alaska Camera has moved from its storefront on Airport Way to a home location out at the corner of Helldiver St. and Chena Pump Road. Tom does excellent work and gave the club great pricing on the large prints. There are photos in stock with the club merchandise at Larson's Locksmith for \$25, or if you would rather you can buy them directly from Tom at Alaska Photo.

This club enjoys great support from the Fairbanks Community and the merchants here. Shop local, especially at those shops which help support our club!



## Delta Run



Ed McLaughlin, Madrona & Carl Westphal, John McCarthy, Scott Grundy, Patty & Bob Meritt, and Paul Tekin on the porch of Rika's Roadhouse in Big Delta

We had a successful Poker run to Delta's Rika's Roadhouse. It started out a bit wet, and pretty much stayed that way, with a few stops without water coming down. There were a total of 30 attendees in 16 cars. When we got to Rika's it was pouring down, but Willy saved the day by talking the Rika's Roadhouse owners into letting us use the downstairs of the Roadhouse. There were seats for 15 and the rest brought in chairs. Anjela Macias of Whitestone Farms and her two young helpers catered the lunch: fresh homemade bread, cheese and meats made at the farm, tomatoes and lettuce from their garden and a garden fresh salad with a wide assortment of vegetables. For dessert- homemade brownies, apples and nectarines!! The food was a hit.. absolutely delicious! The winners of the poker run are as follows:

1st place: Tammy Pruitt

2nd place: Paul Tekin

3rd place: Ron Frey

And we could have a poker run without appreciating those hands that might have been!

1st Ace- John McCarthy

1st two- Scott Grundy

Lowest Hand- Preston Smith

Newest Collector Car- Bob and Patty Meritt

Newest modern Car- Carl and Martha Westphal

Oldest Collector Car- Paul & Joyce Tekin

Youngest participant- Madrona Westphal

Oldest participant - Ed McLaughlin

Based on the comments, we might have to do this again next year! Thanks everyone for your tolerance of the weather and coming out anyway!!

- Wilma Vinton





I'm not a slow driver... I'm not a fast driver... I'm just a half-fast driver!

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Aug 12th, EAST RAMP  
PAVILION



*Meeting: Fanny Adam and Gerard d'Aboville can be seen sitting facing the camera at the first table.*

President Jeff Creamer brought the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

There were 24 members present.

There were 5 guests present. The guests were a French group which included Fanny Adam who is driving her car from the north shore of Alaska to the southern tip of South America in a 2 year period. Alexandre Gabriel and son Charles are from France and just happened to be at Prudhoe Bay and saw her car and that is how the group connected with each other. Gerald d'Aboville and their photographer was Glidas Vitais. It was quite an interesting story that they shared with us.

Secretary Donna Wojciechowski read the minutes from the BOD meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Wilma Vinton gave the treasurer's report.

### EVENTS/ COMMITTEES:

2022 Raffle Car - There was discussion about buying back the BMW for \$4999.

Wednesday Night Runarounds - Willy gave us an update on the Wednesday night runaround.

August 28th is the Mondo Poker Run. Rochelle Larson is the PPR.

September 11th is the Chatanika Fall Colors Poker Run. We will leave after cars & coffee at 11:30. Joyce & Paul Tekin are the PPR's.

Annual Meeting - We still need a PPR for this.

Open Forum - Joyce Tekin shared a story about a young fella that was so excited to see all the cars

at the Teddy Bear Show.

The total for the 50/50 was \$96 and the lucky winner was Mike Lecorchick.

Rick Larrick will need all ads and articles for the newsletter by August 20th.

The next BOD meeting will be on September 7th and the membership meeting will be on September 9th at the Fox Pavilion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by  
Donna Wojciechowski,  
Secretary



*The French visitors enjoyed our old cars as much as we enjoyed the Citroen. L to R: Fanny Adam, Gerard d'Aboville, Glidas Vitais, Charles Gabriel and his father Alexandre.*



# The Citroen Terra America Adventure



*The 1956 Citroen Traction Avant*

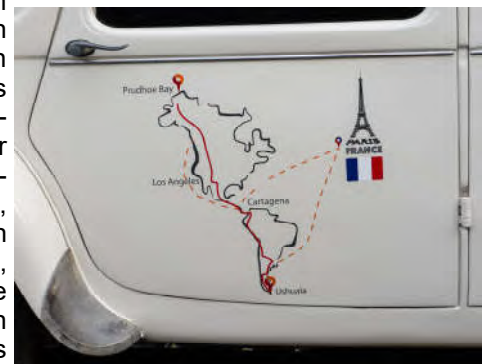
The Citroen Terra America Adventure set off on May 26th from the Citroen Conservatoire in Aulnay-sous-Bois near Paris. The car was transported by ship through the Panama Canal to Seattle and then to Anchorage. From there, they drove to Prudhoe Bay to start the 40,000 km (25,000 mile) Pan-American Hwy trip through 14 countries.

Fanny Adam initiated the project and is in charge of the expedition. At the start of the expedition, Gildas Vitais is her co-driver and videographer. In Los Angeles, Maeva Bardy will take of those duties and the team will be two female drivers for the rest of the trip through South America. They will travel North America until September, and then re-start in January of next year to cross Latin America and South America. If you like, you can follow their journey on a website with images, videos and stories which are promised to be sent to the website regularly at: <https://terraamerica.fr/suivre-expedition-terraamerica/>.

The owner of the vehicle, Gerard

d'Aboville is a person more famous for his boating and other adventures. He is the first man to row across two oceans solo - first the Atlantic in 1980 and then the Pacific in 1991. Crossing the Pacific he spent 134 days beginning in Japan and ending in Washington State. You can read about his adventure in the Wikipedia article: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%A9rard\\_d%27Aboville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%A9rard_d%27Aboville). He also competed in three Paris-Dakars, one of them on a motorcycle, and also served in the French Parliament. He has been driving a Traction Avant since he was 18. He spent some time at the meeting telling us about the car. The car was specially prepared for the adventure. While it is a 1956 Traction Avant, he installed a slightly more modern Citroen DS engine and transmission, striving for reliability and not having the necessity to carry many spare parts on the journey. He installed seat belts and headrests, and some other con-

veniences such as drop-down desks in the rear, and a heater. It has satellite tracking which can be followed at the Terra America website mentioned earlier. More information on the Citroen can be found at: <https://int-media.citroen.com/en/citroen-terra-america-adventure>. The Traction Avant model was the last that Andre Citroen designed, but was very modern for it's time with four wheel hydraulic brakes, etc.



*Door map of the planned route*

## CONTACTS:

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



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### NEXT MEETINGS

The **Membership Meeting** is at the **FOX COMMUNITY PARK**. Membership Meeting is **Thursday, September 9th at 7:00 pm**. Picnic before starting at 6pm - Club will furnish the meat; bring a salad or dessert to share.

The Board Meeting is **Tuesday, September 7th at the FOUNTAINHEAD MUSEUM GARAGE**. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM; no food. Board Meetings are open to members.



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