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Volume 51, Issue 5

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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,



Bruce McIntosh, at:
nashnewseditor@gmail.com



Nash's News

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



We held our last show of the season August 27 at Seekins Ford. Although the day started out kind of damp, we still had a good turnout.

Bottom photo - Jerry Mustard taking the wheel of one of Fairbanks earliest racers.

From The Editor

- Bruce McIntosh

Here it is, October, and today we got a little taste of freezing rain. It's our new normal I suspect, just a reminder to put the summer things away. Inside on page 10 you'll find Patty and Bob Merri's solution to having too much stuff and not enough space to shelter it all. I noticed the Christmas decorations are out on the floors of the box stores last week, and that's another hint it's time to start getting ready for our annual meeting (pg. 15).

The Most Improved Vehicle committee is looking for candidates (pg. 14), and if you have a local non-profit you'd like to nominate for the club's annual charitable donation, see pg. 8.

On a sad note, we lost two long-time members this fall. Robbie Casey and Laurel McLaughlin both passed in August. You can read more about their lives on pages 12 and 13.

Finally, it's also time to renew our memberships for 2023. Information on dues and how to pay is on page 8.

Don't procrastinate too long!



You can reach your editor at nashnewseditor@gmail.com with questions, suggestions, news, and for sale/wanted ads

For the most current club calendar, visit the VLNAACF website at: <https://fairbanksaaca.org/>

And The Winners Are...

In the last edition of Nash's News, I posed a question at the end of the Owen Magnetic article about an odd feature in the driver's compartment. (See picture below.) I asked readers to identify the feature and explain its use. Three intrepid, and observant readers, responded to this challenge.

Peter Lundquist spotted the odd feature I noticed, and he wrote – "A brake on the passenger side." But he added that he did not know what it was there for.

Ross Beal, in a short but comprehensive sentence wrote – "Passenger safety brake." He spotted the feature and suggested a purpose - "safety". But in some circumstances, it may not be safe to have one person able to accelerate and brake and another able to brake.

And then Patty Meritt spotted an entirely different aspect of the car that I had not seen. She noticed a padded side pocket on the driver's door that she believes is a perfect spot to store a hat. In an open car like the Magnetic, that kind of storage would be useful.

The contest judges, Willy Vinton and Bruce McIntosh, met to discuss and rate the entries. After lengthy discussion they decided all three entries were largely correct and therefore all three won. So, when Willy next takes the Owen out for its annual run, Patty Meritt, Ross Beal and Peter Lundquist will be passengers, but they should not even consider testing the passenger brake.

As a postscript I asked Willy what he thought the purpose of the passenger brake might be. He guessed that our Owen was used for potential buyers to test drive and that the salesperson who would ride along would have access to a brake in case of a problem. This makes sense because few people were accustomed to driving a car in 1917 and, according to Willy, driving the Owen was a little more complicated than driving other cars.

Larry Zervos



Fall Poker Run

What a wonderful day we had for our Fall Poker run. Thirty seven members joined us to enjoy an absolutely beautiful day. The fall colors were magical!

A 21 car caravan made it's way to our destination for lunch. Stopping along the way to select a card and get caught up on the latest happenings with club members. A big "THANK YOU" goes out to Kari and staff at the Roughwoods Inn and Café. They did a fabulous job taking care of us and the food was great.

Paul and I thank everyone who donated their five dollars for the poker challenge. The pot was large and the winners were:

1st Place - Carolyn M.

2nd Place - Wally O.

3rd Place - Joyce T.

Women's lowest hand went to Gail and men's lowest hand went to Ron.

Women's first ace was drawn by Paula B. and the men's first ace was drawn by Jeff C.

Free meal went to Donna W.

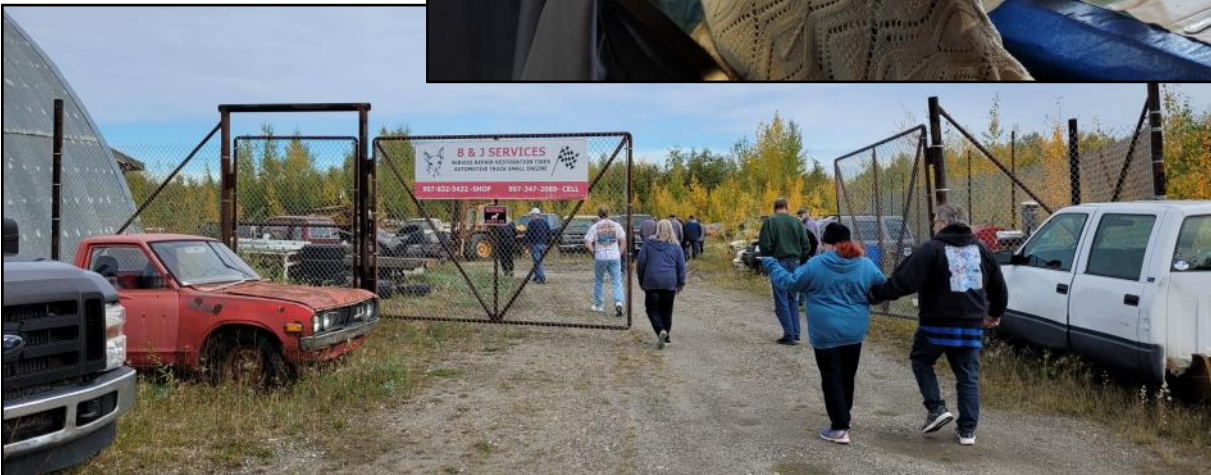
A big thank you to Theresa C. and Doris C. for their help with the cards, to Nee for taking pictures, and to Marilyn N. for bringing and sharing cookies. After lunch we went for a tour of Jason Mayrand's junkyard/shop. There was lots to see.

Time is precious and making memories is a good thing to do. Paul and I hope you take time to enjoy this time of year and it's always better with a friend.

Joyce Tekin



Fall Poker Run



September Birthdays

- 2 - Nee Nakprasit
- 5 - Tracy McLeod
- 6 - Grady Rolin
- 11 - Wally Olsen
- 13 - Marilyn Nigro
- 14 - Al Haynes
- 14 - Wyan Grant
- 17 - Carolyn Mustard
- 18 - Brent Levalley
- 20 - Richard Meiners
- 20 - Jerilee Musgrove
- 21 - Karine Dane
- 27 - Charlie Jurgens

October Birthdays

- 1 - Thomas Smith
- 4 - Denise Lundquist
- 6 - Tracy Brand
- 12 - LaVonne Gullickson
- 14 - Lori Hinchliff
- 17 - Robbie Casey
- 19 - Deborah Rockney

September Anniversaries

- 7 - James & Tracy Brand
- 7 - Paul & Joyce Tekin
- 18 - Marlen & Tammy Pruett
- 25 - Doug & Sonja Davis
- 29 - Clutch & Lorna Lounsbury

October Anniversaries

- 1 - George & Patricia Cromer
- 9 - Dan & Sue Schaaf
- 11 - Jerry & Donna Krier
- 21 - Tim & Jo Schackman
- 31 - Eugene Reed & Terry Putnam



President's Headlights

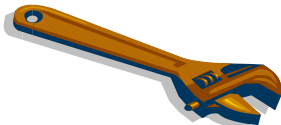
- Doug Cline, President

I've been trying to drive my trucks as long as I can until the winter sets in and they go into the garage. I thoroughly enjoy the time getting them warmed up in the morning and running to work and around town in a vehicle that is 73 years old. It caused me to start thinking about putting it away for the winter. When I was in high school and college I used to drive my father's '49 Ford F1 in all weather and all seasons. We never thought about it. I didn't end up in the ditch and I didn't have traction trouble in the winter even though it is two wheel drive.

The tires of the day had better tread than today. Yes, we hear about traction from Blizzak tires but they didn't exist in the early 80s. We used good mud and snow tires for all-season use. If we needed a little extra traction you put the neighbor in the back of the truck until you got away from the slippery spot. Today, a couple good sand bags do the same job. Out of high school I worked at a BF Goodrich tire store. We still sold retread tires. The shop used to be a Firestone recapping center and they left behind the molds for the Town and Country design tread (probably the best tread design) and we sent them to our recapping center. We would receive BF Goodrich tires with Firestone Town and Country tread. Made great back tires, but you didn't dare put them on the front.

Today everyone wants an automatic transmission when a standard is better in the snow and ice. A quick push of the clutch to remove the direct drive from the wheels and you can stop and turn easier without sliding. Growing up in Eastern Washington the winters might get to -20° but not as low as here. We were used to driving on slippery roads but didn't seem to have the problem as drivers today. I remember driving from Wenatchee to Richland (about 100 miles) in a snow storm with compact snow and ice on the road. I didn't slide. Maybe people just forgot how to drive which is really hilarious here in Alaska. The center of the roads or the side ditches did not fill up with cars like the Richardson in January. Is this a skill people are slowly losing?

As I ponder the changing of the season, I think I'm going to continue to drive my father's '49 as long as I can. A couple sand bags in the back and taking it easy on the road I'll be just fine and enjoy more time with an old friend. Just wish the old friend had a better heater for chilly mornings.



Charitable Donation

Once again the club is soliciting nominations for our annual charitable donation. Each year VLNAACF makes a contribution (\$1,000 this year) to a community 501(c)(3) non-profit organization at the Annual Meeting in December. The donation comes from our 50/50 drawings held throughout the year. Members have the opportunity to sponsor an organization by submitting a nomination letter explaining why they believe the organization should be considered, along with a letter from the organization itself outlining it's mission and how the funds would be put to use.

Nominations need to be submitted to the Board of Directors before the November 8th board meeting. Membership will then vote on the nominations at the November 10th membership meeting. Only groups that haven't received a donation in the past 3 years are eligible for this year's award.

Recent past winners include:

- ◆ Boys Read, Girls Read (2019)
- ◆ Alaska Health Fair (2019)
- ◆ Friends of Creamer's Field (2019)
- ◆ North Star Imagination Library (2020)
- ◆ Friends of Fox Springs (2021)
- ◆ Friends of SS Nenana (2021)

DUES ARE DUE!

Membership dues are now DUE for the 2023 calendar year.

They are payable by returning payment to the club post office box (preferred), dropping it off at Larson's Locksmith, or bringing payment to the October or the November club meeting.

⇒ Individual dues are \$60.00 (\$45.00 for National AACA and \$15.00 for local club dues).

⇒ Joint Membership dues are \$75.00 (\$45.00 for National AACA and \$30.00 for local club dues) for you and your associate or spouse.

NEW this year: you can PAY BY CREDIT CARD if you stop by Larson's Locksmith to see Rochelle or call her.

Dues are to be paid by December 31, 2022 for the following year.

SUNSHINE REPORT:

I received a request for 2 cards:

A sympathy card for Doris Casey for the passing of her husband Robbie.

A sympathy card for Ed McLaughlin for the passing of his wife Laurel.

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

Phone or Text: 907-378-0718.

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



CALENDAR

Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club

- **Note:** Cars-N-Coffee time is 8:00 to 10:00 am each Saturday at Great Harvest Bread at the Bentley Mall.
- **Nov. 8: Board Meeting @** Fountainhead Museum Garage 6:30 pm Members are welcome.
- **Nov. 10: Membership Meeting @** Taiga Center (by Fountainhead Museum) @ 6:30 pm.
- **Dec. 6: Board Meeting @** Fountainhead Museum Garage 6:30 pm Members are welcome.
- **Dec. 11: Annual Meeting/Holiday Party @** Fountainhead Museum.
Social Hour (No-host bar) @ 4:00 pm
Meeting @ 5:00 pm
Dinner @ 6:00 pm
Program and gift exchange follows dinner. See flyer on page 15 for cost and more details.

Find us on 

Bruce McIntosh manages the public Facebook page of the [Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club of Fairbanks](#) page, and moderates the [Members Only: Antique Auto Club of Fairbanks](#) page.

WEBSITE NEWS

Wilma Vinton is the webmaster for our club website. You can see the current newsletter, download any past newsletters, check out the officers listing, or view the full roster of our members with their cars listed along with emails and phone numbers.

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

A Common Problem Too many cars and not enough garage space *By Patty Meritt*

.When Bob and I decide to revive our interest in old cars we enthusiastically purchased three in one year, which created the “common problem” for members of the car club. Last fall we owned 7 vehicles and had garage space for 4, plus a carport for the motorhome. Some of the garage space was already dedicated to my 1950 immobile/project MGTD and to our “toys” like the snow machines, watercraft and ATV, so we effectively had 3 spaces for 5 cars. While long range plans include expanded garage space, something had to happen in the fall of 2021 to assure the cars would be protected through the winter. We decided on the fabric shelters we had seen advertised and purchased a large one from Home Depot and a smaller one ordered from Amazon. Here are the steps we took:



- Cleared the land of vegetation
- Brought in a few loads of gravel for a pad; hired a backhoe to spread it
- Assembled the sheds, which took longer than anticipated
- Laid down a layer of plastic sheeting
- Added 2X12 all-weather boards for flooring



- Anchored the sheds to the boards, which required purchasing additional hardware
- Laid cross-boards for the cars to sit on, which anchored the whole shed
- We stored the Rolls Royce in the larger one (it is too long for our home garage) and the VW Beetle in the smaller one
- The Rolls had two layers of car covering, a soft fabric and a breathable air cover
- We kept comprehensive insurance coverage on both cars through the winter in case of damage from weather, squirrels or shrews
- Bob ran electrical and trickle chargers to both cars, which we kept on through the winter

Then the SNOW came and the December rain came and more snow came!



We, mostly Bob, kept the snow clear as much as possible. It was pretty easy for the large domed shed, but the angle of the roof on the smaller one tended to accumulate the snow.

The results: The cars did fine. Both started right up in May and there was no damage, although there was a little condensation in the larger unit, because it was closed up. We were glad the little bit of moisture landed on the cover, not the car.



The cost: Around \$4500 I think, plus we had to buy a new snow blower, which was expensive, since the space where we built the shed is where the plow guy used to pile up the snow.

Would we do it again? Well, we would rather have more permanent garage space and we wish we had purchased two of the larger style, but it was a *good temporary solution* and also resolved my concerns about how it would look from the house to use that part of our property for car storage.



For winter 2022-23 we plan to use them again for different vehicles. We now have an additional car (a pristine 31 Chevy phaeton) and feel confident it will be safe in the larger domed unit. Due to our unusual schedule this year, the Rolls will likely be stored in WA this winter. We hope to solve the design issues around our garage so we can build more permanent space in summer 2023.

Editor's note: I've been down the same road with both of those same shelters. Some things I learned along the way:

- Temporary shelters have a habit of becoming permanent (who knew?)
- UV rays do indeed degrade fabric. If I had my do-overs, I would have added an additional (sacrificial) tarp over the top from the start, instead of waiting until after the fabric started ripping and leaking.
- Make sure you leave plenty of space around the shelters, both for access with a roof rake and for the snow on the ground.
- Adding in some EMT as collar-ties can really strengthen the roof.



Robbie Casey

Robbie Lee Casey passed away on Aug. 14, 2022, doing what he loved - showing one of his classic cars in the Chatanika Lodge Car Show. He was 75 years young and had the most infectious laugh. He will be dearly missed by Doris Casey, his childhood sweetheart since third grade and wife of 53 years; his two sons, Thomas and Jeffrey; and his family, friends and anyone blessed to have known him.

He was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, to Robert Casey Jr. and Otille and grew up in Glenham, South Dakota. In 1965, he joined the Marines and served two tours in Vietnam, earning a Purple Heart and several distinguished awards. In 1969, he married his wife, Doris, and in 1970, they welcomed their son, Thomas, into the world. Two years later, they welcomed Jeffrey to complete their family. In 1983, he moved his family to Alaska and made it home. He worked for the Alaska Railroad, which he retired from after 20 years of service.



He was an avid car enthusiast with an encyclopedic knowledge of the 1945 to 1970 model years and a passion for restoring the classics to their former glory as well as being a Hot Wheels collector. He belonged to the Vernon Nash Car Club of Fairbanks, Alaska, and the Foothill Cruisers in Yuma, Arizona.

Robbie is survived by his wife, Doris; son, Thomas Casey and his wife Tammara and their children Kyle, Kate-lynn and Kira of Anchorage, Alaska; son, Jeffrey Casey and his wife Lisa and their children Ryan and Alea of North Pole, Alaska; sisters, Sherrie Van Orman and husband Leland of Park City, Montana, and Bonnie Casey of Tacoma, Washington; brother, Boyd Casey of Tacoma, Washington; and many nieces and nephews as well as his car and coffee buddies. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Carol Perman, and brothers Dennis, Robert and Kenny Casey.

Originally published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner on Aug. 24, 2022



Photo: Pranee Nakprasit

Laurel McLaughlin

Laurel McLaughlin, a 50-year resident of Fairbanks, Alaska, passed away on August 3 at age 88. Born in Seattle, Washington, on December 30, 1933, to William M. "Mac" and Opal E. (Harting) Donovan, she was raised primarily in Seattle and Honolulu.

Highly intelligent with a dry sense of humor, Laurel enjoyed clever verbal exchanges and, as a strict grammarian, just might correct your grammar. She was a lifelong learner and an intrepid co-pilot on the endless adventures her best friend and husband, Ed, schemed for the two of them. Fortunately, she was an enthusiastic traveler who visited all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, England, Scotland, Wales, France, Australia, New Zealand, China and Russia. She greatly appreciated food, particularly if she didn't have to prepare it, so her travel memories - well, really memories of most momentous events - typically included a description of tasty meals.



Not characteristically an outwardly warm and fuzzy person, Laurel demonstrated her deep caring through her deeds, notably through volunteerism. Among the organizations she served, typically on the board, are Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band, Fairbanks Symphony Association and Women in Crisis Counseling and Assistance (now Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living). In 2009, Laurel was co-recipient with Ed of the Ruth Lister Feminist of the Year Award presented by the Alaska Women's Lobby. She was also a longtime supporter of the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra and Fairbanks Drama Association.

Believing in the need for and value of an inclusive place for all to worship, she was a highly active Unitarian Universalist for over 60 years, filling roles from window washer to pledge drive organizer.

Laurel was a person whom one could count on to lead, organize, keep a confidence, help solve a problem, listen, fundraise, edit a letter and socialize with over a glass of wine or a pint of HooDoo stout. She was a treasure to her family, friends and community and will be missed very much.

Laurel was predeceased by her parents; brother, Kirk Donovan; and stepson, Marshall McLaughlin. Surviving Laurel are her husband of 65 years, George "Ed" McLaughlin; her children, Paige McLaughlin of Fairbanks, and Allen (Stefanie) Wass of Hudson, Ohio. Also surviving her are grandchildren Kyle Ruth, Morgen Ruth, Haven Vonder Haar-Ramos, Douglas Vonder Haar, Vera McLaughlin, Emily Wass and Julia Wass, as well as several great-grandchildren.

Originally published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner on Aug. 17, 2022

Most Improved Vehicle Award

It's that time of year to submit nominations for the Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club's Most Improved Vehicle Award.

The award was started in 2005 by then Club President, Willy Vinton. When asked about his inspiration for starting the award, Willy said the goal with the award was to give folks an incentive to do some restoration work, to do more hands on, and to just generate more interest in the hobby. As a minimum for consideration, the car must be a classic or antique as permitted by the AACA for membership, it must become finished (or nearly finished) sometime in the current year (2022), and must have a significant amount of hands-on work done by the owner. Modifications from the original design for uniqueness or high performance should neither add nor deduct scoring points.

Nominations are open for cars and their owners eligible in 2022. Traditionally, the judging committee is chaired by the prior year's winner. Alec Arima won in 2021 and is this year's chair. He will organize a judging team made up of several of the award's fourteen prior winners, and he will present the award at the annual Holiday Party and Annual Meeting on December 11th at the Fountainhead Museum.

Alec and the award committee will be looking for the following information from club members who would like their restoration work to be considered:

- 1) Year, make, and model of the vehicle.
- 2) Before and after photos (the after photos are the most important for the judging).
- 3) A brief summary of the work done, approximately when the work was done, and what hands-on work was performed by the club-member owner. Unusual challenges, difficulties, and successes should be mentioned.
- 4) Human interest information about the car— why or how the owner obtained it, the history of the car or history of the owner with the car, etc.

Call Alec (907-699-6550) or email him at scrantonppibsley@gmail.com if you want to be considered.

Past winners include: Ron Allen (2005), Kirk Larson (2006), Dave Rockney (2007), Ed McLaughlin (2008 & 2020), Bret Helms (2009), Don Oines (2010), Marvin Wright (2011), Charlie Jurgens (2012), Nathan Helms (2013), Mark Crook (2014), Willy Vinton (2015), Ralph Moore (2016), Dale Oines (2017), Greg Helms (2018), and Alec Arima (2021).



Alec Arima receiving the 2021 Most Improved Vehicle Award at the annual meeting.

2022 VLNAACF ANNUAL MEETING/HOLIDAY PARTY

Save the date! Mark your calendar for the annual business meeting to be held on **Sunday Dec. 11, 2022** at the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum.

This year we are going back to \$10 per person reservation fee and the Club will be covering the meal cost for members and immediate family. Guests will need to pay the cost of the meal, which is \$52.00 per person.

Please return this reservation form with reservation fee and guest payments at the Nov 10 membership meeting, or to Larsons Locksmiths, 1249 Noble St., or mail by Nov 25th to:

VLNAAACF
PO Box 71253
Fairbanks, AK 99707-1253

Social Hour (No-host Bar) 4:00 pm.

Meeting 5:00 pm.

Dinner 6:00 pm.

Cut out or copy and send in with
your check to make your
reservation for the Holiday
Party/Annual Meeting.

Gift exchange/ Door Prizes follows dinner. If participating in the gift exchange, each participant will need to bring a wrapped gender-neutral gift, suggested value \$25.

Menu: Prime Rib/Chicken Marsala, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables, Salads, Dessert tray.
Coffee, Lemonade and Iced Tea provided by the Club.

Please indicate the number of persons attending and fees paid:

_____ Members @ \$10.00 = \$ _____

_____ Guests @\$52.00 = \$ _____

(Make checks payable to: VLNAACF) TOTAL \$ _____

MEMBER NAME (S): _____

QUESTIONS/SPECIAL DIET NEEDS? CONTACT JEFF CREAMER (907) 378-9061

CONTACTS:

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



President	Doug Cline	371-7494	cline49ford@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Willy Vinton	388-8252	wwinton@gci.net
Treasurer	Wilma Vinton	388-7766	wlvinton@gmail.com
Secretary	Donna Wojciechowski	490-6740	culligan@gci.net
Director (past President)	Mike Lecorchick	322-7525	mike.lecor@gmail.com
Director (term expires 2023)	Larry Zervos	456-1770	larzed@hotmail.com
Director (term expires 2023)	Thomas Smith	388-5741	907autocons@gmail.com
Director (term expires 2022)	Bret Helms	456-2349	helmsbret@gmail.com
Director (term expires 2022)	Wally Olsen	452-5736	wallyo@acsalaska.net
Membership / Merchandise	Rochelle Larson	590-8593	rochelle1987@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Wilma Vinton	374-2924	wlvinton@gmail.com
Newsletter	Bruce McIntosh	322-4685	nashnewseditor@gmail.com
Facebook Moderator	Bruce McIntosh	322-4685	bcmcintosh@gmail.com
Sunshine Club	Tracy McLeod	378-0718	tksplits@yahoo.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next **Board Meeting** is **Tuesday, Nov. 8** at the **FOUNTAINHEAD MUSEUM GARAGE**. Meeting starts at **6:30 pm**; no food. Board Meetings are open to members.

The next **Membership Meeting** is **Thursday, Nov. 10** in the **Taiga Center** by the museum. Meeting starts at **6:30 pm**, no food.



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