

January 2024

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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**



Just because it's January doesn't mean the end of meet ups. Every Saturday morning, from approximately 8 am to 10 am (or later), you're welcome to join us for the winter edition of Cars-N-Coffee. We meet at the Great Harvest Bread Co., located on Wilbur St. just off of Airport Way and next to the McDonalds. Grab your favorite fresh baked good, a complimentary cup of coffee, and come shoot the, um, "stuff" with us.

From The Editor

- Bruce McIntosh

Looks like winter has finally arrived. We're touching -40 below here in Goldstream Valley tonight. All the more reason to daydream and make plans for this summer. In this issue (courtesy of master planner Scott Grundy) you'll find both the history of the club's Adventure Before Dementia Tour (ABDT) and the 2024 itinerary Scott has arranged for us this coming July (pp 12-14). If you are thinking of going, now is the time to make your reservations. Contact Scott for info on accommodations. I've been on two tours and am looking forward to the upcoming road trip.



Mike Lecorchick again takes the reins as club president this year, and you will find his first column on page 4. We have two new board members to welcome, Doug Davis and Patty Meritt, and they introduce themselves on pp. 10 & 11. Mr. Grundy sets the record straight a few things from the column he wrote in the August-September '23 issue of Nash's news. See page 16. Time to start selling raffle car tickets, and info is on page 9. Patty Meritt has generously arranged Virtual Runarounds to tide us over until we can start back in our summer Wednesday night schedule, with the details on the next page.

We have a membership meeting coming up on February 8, and this is an important one. In the past we've held a separate planning meeting to firm up the schedule for the coming summer, but this year we are combining the two. Pizza will be served if you need some more enticement to attend, so try to make it and add your ideas to the mix. The next newsletter should be out about this time in February, in which you'll find a tentative calendar of events for 2024. There is no membership meeting in March, so Nash's News will be taking that month off as well. Hopefully your editor will use the time productively to start ticking things off on his own vehicle punchlist!

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

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

Introducing Virtual Runarounds

Location: Community & Technical College, 604 Barnette St, room 213

- ♦ It's accessible; elevator is towards the front of the building on Barnette St
- ♦ Enter through 6th or 7th Ave
- ♦ Parking is available on the street or in the lot

Time: 6-8ish

RSVP would be helpful email: pameritt@alaska.edu
or call Patty Meritt (907-978-6626). Also, direct questions to Patty.

The Plan: Potluck meal, followed by a presentation related to cars, closing with a door prize drawing

FYI - No alcohol is allowed to be brought on campus from outside sources



Wed February 14 – Bring your Sweetheart! And a potluck dish you LOVE
Presentation: Video of Club activities in 2021

Wed March 20

Presentation Highlights of 2022 Rolls Royce Club
Fall Tour of Vancouver Island



Wed April 17

Presentation of the Louwman Museum in the
Hague, Netherlands



Want a Sneak Preview?

<https://www.louwmanmuseum.nl/>

President's Headlights

- Mike Lecorchick President

I joined the VLNAACF many years ago after buying a 1937 Ford truck basket case project from Willy Vinton, which I'm still working on. Not long after, I bought a 1935 Chevy to drive during the restoration of the truck so that I could join in on the club activities. Then Willy talked me into running for the board.

I've returned this year as President of the car club because there was no interest from any other club members with the exception of Jeff Creamer. Jeff has given a lot of his time as President and vice president and I assumed (but knew otherwise) would take a break but, with no one stepping forward to be vice president, he stepped up again. I'd like to see more members taking a leadership role as an officer or director of the club.

The February membership meeting will also be our planning meeting. Summer is approaching and we need input from our members to plan and schedule our activities. One member didn't want to wait for summer and is planning virtual runarounds for the club to enjoy. Thanks, Patty Meritt.

Scott Grundy is putting together another "Adventure Before Dementia" tour. Members of the Horseless Carriage Club are taking a cruise/bus tour of Alaska in August and will be in Fairbanks the 6th to 9th. They have free time from the tour on the 8th and plan to visit the Fountainhead Auto Museum that day. Also, the Antique Auto Musers are planning a trip to Fairbanks at that time. That is also the day of our membership meeting and I would like the club to put on some kind of meet and greet or other activity for all.



January Birthdays

Bruce McIntosh	1-Jan
Ralph Glasgow	4-Jan
Dave Rockney	6-Jan
Patricia Cromer	8-Jan
Patty Meritt	8-Jan
Terry Fogleson	13-Jan
Dan Gullickson	19-Jan

February Birthdays

Laura Therriault	6-Feb
Vonna Husby	8-Feb
Melinda Harris	11-Feb
Michael Farrell	12-Feb
Mebble Hansen	12-Feb
Richard Gresham	14-Feb
Eric Pyles	20-Feb
Patti Pyles	21-Feb
James Clough	23-Feb

January Anniversaries

Michael & Diana Lecorchick	8-Jan
Blue & Lori Hinchsliff	12-Jan

February Anniversaries

Scott & Janeen Culbertson	2-Feb
Dick & Joni Ellsworth	2-Feb
Dan & Ellie Tempel	12-Feb
Eric & Patti Pyles	29-Feb





DUES ARE DUE!

Membership dues are now past **DUE** for the 2024 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 November membership 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.

You can PAY BY CREDIT CARD if you stop by Larson's Locksmith to see Rochelle or call her (907-590-8593).

Dues are to be paid by **December 31, 2023** for the following 2024 year.

Please pay promptly-

Thanks,

Rochelle Larson

SUNSHINE REPORT:

No cards were sent out 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: tksplits@yahoo.com

Phone or Text: 907-378-0718

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



CLUB CALENDAR

- **Note:** Cars-N-Coffee time is 8 am to 10 am each Saturday at Great Harvest Bread, on the corner of Airport Way and Wilbur St..
- **Feb 6:** **Board Meeting** @ Fountainhead Museum Garage, 6:30 pm, Members are welcome.
- **Feb 8:** **Membership / Planning Meeting** @ the Taiga Center, behind the Fountainhead Museum. Pizza will be served. Meeting starts at 6:30 pm and all are welcome. Be sure to attend to help plan out this year's schedule of events! Please RSVP so we can get a head count for pizza -
vlnaacf@gmail.com
- **This winter** we are moving to an abbreviated schedule of meetings. There will be no March membership meeting.
- **The schedule** returns to normal with the April 11 membership meeting.

Find us on 

Bruce McIntosh manages the public Facebook page of the [Vernon L. Nash Antique Auto Club of Fairbanks](#), 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>

MEMBER ADS

My friend Marjorie is executor for her father Peter Merry's estate. This 1970 Ford LTD convertible was his summer car and is located at his home-garage at Chena Marina. It's a bold red, and the convertible top is in fantastic shape. Pete passed away roughly a year ago, and his house is now ready for market so the car will soon be moved. She would love to negotiate a fair purchase to a VLNAACF member or friend. Additional photos on request. Please call/text Marjorie Merry, 907-699-7583.

Thanks,

Melinda Harris (907-378-6744)



Have something you're looking to sell, swap, trade, or give away? Looking for parts, help, or maybe your dream car? Ads are free to club members. Just send an email with a description to nashnewseditor@gmail.com . Pictures are welcome.

JOIN US ON ZOOM

Spending the winter Outside? Or maybe you're not quite up to driving into town on a cold winter night? You can still join in the membership meetings via Zoom. To connect up with us via your computer, laptop, tablet, or phone:

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87109770062>

Meeting ID: 871 0977 0062

On your phone -

+1-669-900-9128 US (San Jose)



**Vernon L. Nash
Antique Auto Club
of Fairbanks**

Annual Classic Car Raffle

WIN THIS CAR!



1971 MGB Roadster Convertible

\$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20

**See any car club member for tickets or buy them at Larson's
Locksmith, 1249 Noble St., Fairbanks**

Drawing July 20, 2024 at 2:00pm

**Drawing to be held at the Pioneer Square Dance Pavilion
Need not be present to win.**

Only 3,500 tickets

Permit #2437

Doug Davis - BOD

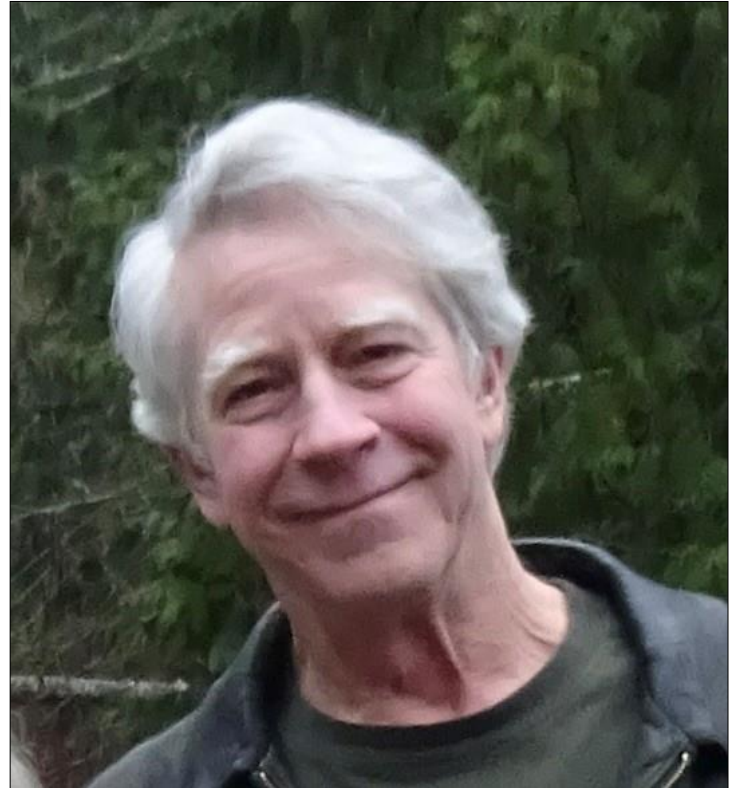
I am the third generation in my family making Fairbanks my home. I love the interior of Alaska and will always have a home here, even if it is just a small cabin.

I have enjoyed woodworking since my early years but could not feed my family at it so I worked residential construction for many years, and worked in the commercial electrical industry for the last 15 years before retirement. I enjoy working in my woodworking shop, with fabric and metal as well as wood.

I became interested in local antique autos and the Vernon Nash Antique Auto Club after seeing many photos of VLNAACF cars at Sam's Sourdough Café, and then enjoying the amazing quality and diversity of car and period displays at the Antique Auto Museum.

When I first joined the club, I was rebuilding a camping conversion van that my folks bought new in 1986. My wife and I enjoyed many camping trips in it but it was getting tired and undependable. I decided rather than junk it or sell it (the dreaded emotional attachment to a vehicle) that I would modernize it with a new LS engine and drive train. The second year I replaced the old particle board floor, Interior paneling and cabinets. I was almost finished with the van project when an ad appeared in our newsletter for a member's 1932 Studebaker Dictator. While not aware I was in the market, I could not help purchasing this incredible time machine.

I enjoy being part of this auto club and appreciate all the many members that give of their time and energy to keeping the organization going.



Patty Meritt - BOD

I have been a member of the club, with my husband Bob, since 2021. We have 6 old cars ranging from a 1927 Falcon Knight to a 1999 Rolls Royce, including my 1950 MG, which needs a complete overhaul. My everyday driver is a 2011 Toyota 4-Runner, which can haul all of the 6 local grandkids.

My career focus is in Early Childhood Education. I retired as Professor Emeritus from UAF in 2023, where I directed the ECE program, but continue to teach as an adjunct instructor. Among other career honors and accomplishments, I was recognized as the Usibelli Distinguished Teacher for UAF in 2018 and am a co-author on two books for ECE students and parents.

During my career, I've served on many boards and chaired the state Interim Commission on Children and Youth. I have been active in Rotary for over 3 decades, serving as an officer in the local College Rotary club as well as at the state level. Participation in Rotary has expanded my world through service in India and Guatemala. In addition to travel, I enjoy entertaining, painting, playing bridge (and most other games), sewing, crafts, and water activities.



ADVENTURE BEFORE DEMENTIA TOURS - aka ABDT

By Scott Grundy, Cat Herder Jr.

The story begins in 2008. Lynn & I are also members of the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska (AAMA) in Anchorage. The AAMA is composed of many folks who are really eager to drive their vehicles on extensive road trips.. They had just completed a tour to Yellowknife, NWT, Canada and announced their next trip was up the Dempster Highway to Inuvik, NWT, Canada via Whitehorse and return over the Top of the World & Taylor Highways to Tok, AK. I was really intrigued, so “we” purchased a 1955 Plymouth 4-door and I spent a couple of months changing fluids and fussing with her (Edith) in hopes she would make the nearly 2,300-mile round trip - hopefully without difficulty. Other than a flat tire, she did really well. Because the experience was so terrific, I became determined to get our club involved in such fun. Accordingly, I asked many questions of the AAMA leader Bruce Campbell (aka, Cat Herder). He’s a real character and became my mentor – hence my “Junior” handle.

In 2009 I proposed our first tour, but we needed a fun name for our group. Our club’s unofficial “Poet Laureate,” Ed McLaughlin, called me one evening and informed me he was talking with a chap from Australia who advised there was an Aussie group called “The Adventure Before Dementia Tours.” We all loved it, so our group was named! But I caution you – It’s only properly pronounced with an Aussie accent!

VLNAACF Adventure Before Dementia Tour Events:

2009	Whitehorse – Skagway – Haines	1360 miles
2010	Valdez - Cordova – Whittier – Hatcher Pass	804 miles
2012	Cantwell – Seward – Majestic Valley	1053 miles
2013	Dawson City – Eagle	882 miles
2014	Homer – Seldovia	1200 miles
2016	Beaver Creek – Haines – Skagway – Whitehorse	1287 miles
2017	Wiseman – Galbraith Lake – Manley Hot Springs	592 miles
2018	Kodiak	1300 miles
2019	Whitehorse - Dawson City - Tok	1573 miles
2023	Dawson City - Eagle	882 miles
2024	Talkeetna - Eagle River - Sutton	770 miles

ADVENTURE BEFORE DEMENTIA TOURS - aka ABDT (cont'd)

What happened during the missing years you ask? In 2011 we interfaced with the AAMA on a really special joint tour to Kennecott – McCarthy to participate in the National Park Service's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Copper River & NW Railway that once joined Cordova to Kennecott. The AAMA arranged road access to the communities over a private bridge. Bill Chace created a beautiful large patch for all participants, that is the best patch I have ever seen!

I canceled the proposed 2015 tour to Hope and Soldotna as it initially attracted little interest. But in retrospect I shouldn't have as Will & Theresa Chase joined the Grundys to spend a really fun weekend with the AAMA celebrating the annual Wagon Trail Festival in Hope. We had a great time! Had I not canceled, I suspect a few more cats would have joined this festive weekend.

Covid canceled our tours in 2020 and 2021. My busy schedule in 2022 was followed in 2023 by my hesitance and laziness to organize these fun tours. Then, in spite of me and to my delight, the 2023 ABDT evolved as a result of the insistence of Ed McLaughlin who had to drive his newly acquired Citroen 2CV at age 97 on a long trip - my hat is off to Rick Larrick who organized the 2023 tour. I attended last year's event and had so much fun, I'm eager to get us rollin' again! I love driving an old car on road trips!! I guess I love all the thumbs-up attention from the public and the camaraderie developed with fellow club members.

We also made a few trips into Denali National Park with our southern AAMA club friends.. Not ABDT's, but fabulous excursions. The last occurred by special invitation by the National Park Service on Sept.19, 2019 - the day after the public lottery winners drove the roadway. We had the road all to ourselves and many of us drove to its end in Kantishna.

Please consider joining us on the 2024 tour in late July on all paved roadways. It promises to be a relaxed and fun-filled excursion! See the 2024 ABDT route listed above and contact me at sgrundy55ply@gmail.com or call 907-322-9283 for details. Join the unherdable cats and earn your coveted and fabulous 2024 ABDT half patch!

2024 Adventure Before Dementia Tour Overview

By popular demand, this year's tour is a four or five day event full of fun festivities on all paved roadways!

Wednesday, July 24: Drive to Talkeetna and stay overnight.

Thursday, July 25: Take the Mahay's Devils Canyon jet boat tour or flightsee Denali,

OR

A separate group who have seen and done it all in Talkeetna, can drive to Talkeetna and join us Thursday night, July 25.

Friday, July 26: Drive to Eagle River, stopping at the Transportation Museum enroute. Tour garages of Antique Auto Musers of AK (AAMA) that afternoon and evening. Stay overnight.

Saturday, July 27: Drive to Sutton (MP 61.6 Glenn Hwy.) Attend the Alpine Historical Park Museum's fundraising "Valley Junk Car Show" with the 49th State Street Rodders and the AAMA. After the car show, drive to Glennallen, stopping for photos at the Matanuska Glacier Viewpoint. Attend our "Last Supper" & stay overnight in Glennallen.

Sunday, July 28: Return to Fairbanks on a beautiful clear day via the Richardson Highway.

For a list of suggested accommodations, please contact sgrundy55ply@gmail.com or call 907-322-9283. This tour is proving to be popular; only a few rooms remain available in all locations. I strongly suggest you reserve your rooms NOW before they're all booked. You can easily cancel your reservations later. Please join this fun and camaraderie-building event!



Inspecting the 1916 Jeffery in the Eagle museum on the 2023 ADBT.

L to R - Rick Larrick, Jerry Mustard, and Scott Grundy



George Dalton taking in the Saturday morning table-top car show at Cars-N-Coffee

photo: Melinda Harris



Scott and Lynn Grundy driving in the 2019 Canada Day parade, in Dawson City. All part of the fun of ADBT!



Incredible Edwin Article - Update: Omissions & Clarifications

By Scott Grundy

The referenced article in our August-September, 2023 newsletter about member Ed McLaughlin was well received, but ol' Ed was quick to point out that Amelia's surname was appropriately "Scarehart" (Named after A. Earhart.) and his coveted Citroen 2CV was named "Claudette!" But, the Scotsman did take exception to my editorial liberty when I stated he was known to wear a "skirt." He said, "I wear a kilt, not a skirt; it wraps around and attaches." I explained that I was pleased it "attaches" and also that I intentionally used the word "skirt" as I thought it had a greater effect adding a bit to the humor of the article. I was tempted to ask what he wore under his kilt, but didn't.

According to Ed's daughter, Paige, our most senior club member who turns 98 next July is "raring to go" on the 2024 ABDT! Truly incredible indeed! Ed, a former member of the Red Hackle Pipe Band, taught Paige how to play the bagpipes. Since Paige intends to navigate, maybe we'll hear them squeeze the leather bag and squeak at us on the ABDT - just kidding again.



CONTACTS:

(Area code 907)

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Director (term expires 2025)	Patty Meritt	978-6626	pameritt@alaska.edu
Director (term expires 2025)	Doug Davis	371-8406	ddavis@alaska.net
Director (term expires 2024)	Bret Helms	456-2349	helmsbret@gmail.com
Director (term expires 2024)	John McCarthy	347-5056	qt500ak@gmail.com
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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, Feb. 6** 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, Feb. 8**, at the **Taiga Center**, behind the **Fountainhead Museum**. This is also our **planning meeting** and pizza will be provided. Meeting starts at **6:30 pm** and is open to everyone. Please RSVP for a head count - vlnaacf@gmail.com

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



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PO Box 71253
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