

NASH'S NEWS 2026

ANTIQUES AUTO NEWS FROM ALASKA'S LARGEST CAR CLUB AND MOST NORTHERN REGION OF AACA



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LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL



On December 7, 2025, eighty members and guests once again gathered at the Fountain Head Museum to enjoy a holiday feast and share laughter during the traditional "if you want it, just take it" gift exchange.



Unless otherwise credited all photos are taken by Patty Meritt, the editor

UPDATE FOR THE NEW MUSEUM (as of 12/10/25)

Article and photo by Willy Vinton

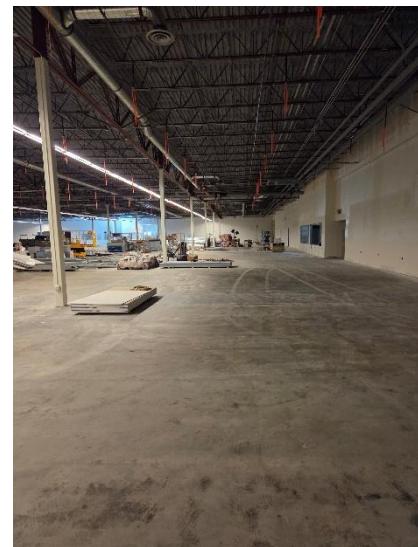
Progress is gaining momentum despite some late product deliveries needed to complete the project. We currently have approximately a mile of lighting track scheduled to ship this week, along with 2,300 light fixtures. The final major component we are waiting on is the flooring—ironically, the first item to arrive—consisting of 90,000 square feet ready to be installed.

The shop area is nearly complete, with final work underway on painting, wiring, bathroom plumbing, and the air system. It won't be long before we can begin moving some items into storage at the new location.

We will remain open at our current location through March, after which we will close temporarily for the move. As you can imagine, this is a huge undertaking and will require the help of many people. The new museum will combine the Air Museum with our existing collections, including automobiles, clothing, photographs, displays, cabinets, and backdrops—all of which will be relocated.

This move will allow us to display more of our automobile collection, as well as several early Fairbanks aircraft. The new facility will feature viewing areas for both automotive and aircraft repair, offering visitors a behind-the-scenes look at restoration work.

This project represents a major improvement for both the museum and the Fairbanks community. A heartfelt thank-you goes to the Cerny Family for making this possible for all of us.



WILLY'S NEW TOY

The Stringo car move mover, with the newly acquired 1931 Studebaker President Roadster. To find out more go to stringo.com



Photo by Willy Vinton

PRESIDENT'S HEADLIGHTS

By Bruce McIntosh

Welcome to 2026! Although it is still -50°F here in Goldstream Valley as I write this, I'm having warm thoughts about the year ahead of us. ;)

As usual, with the new year comes a few changes in the club lineup. I was honored to be elected the new club president for 2026 and will be taking over for Melinda Harris. A big thank you to Melinda for the time and effort she contributed to the club over the past year. Patty Merritt finished her two-year term as a board member and she has now stepped up to take on two new important roles – as the main editor of Nash's News, and she's also taking over the Sunshine Report. We have two new board members to welcome into the fold – George Dalton and Preston Smith.



Although I have turned the reins of Nash's News over to Patty, I will still be managing the club's Facebook page. This last summer I began sending out more frequent emails to the club, usually on a weekly basis, and intend to continue that as we come out of our hibernation and activities begin to pick up again. I received some good feedback on the emails, and folks seemed to appreciate getting more timely updates, news, and reminders.

Even though we will be setting our tentative calendar at the March membership meeting, as we all know our initial calendar of events is always subject to changes and 'adjustments'. For instance, we just learned that the Chamber of Commerce has moved the dates of Golden Days back one week this year. The parade is now scheduled for July 25th, but our raffle car drawing is fixed for July 18th. At the last Board meeting we agreed that this year we'll split the activities – picnic and drawing on the 18th and parade on the 25th.

As we did last year, there are no membership meetings in either this coming January or February. The board of directors will still meet each month and board meetings are always open to members. Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12th, with time and place still to be determined. This March meeting will also be our planning meeting, so now is a good time to start thinking about events we've had in the past, what you'd like to see this next driving season, and any new suggestions that you think club members would enjoy. And, as always, we're looking for folks to take on a Wednesday Night Runaround. If you have an idea for a destination, please share.



Photo: Virtual Runaround at Raven Landing 2025

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FINANCIAL REPORT

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While the club maintains a rainy-day fund, expenses have exceeded income over the past two years—an approach that is not sustainable. There are two primary reasons for this trend. First,

raffle car ticket sales have fallen short. Second, the cost of the holiday dinner significantly exceeds what members currently pay.

To bring the budget back into balance, the Board is considering several possible solutions, including:

1. **Reducing the cost of the holiday dinner** by adjusting menu selections (for example, serving ham instead of prime rib, and cod instead of halibut).
2. **Charging members the actual cost of the holiday dinner**, approximately \$80 per person.
3. **Selling all raffle tickets**, which would require each member to sell approximately 20 tickets at \$5 each.
4. **Increasing the price of raffle tickets beginning in 2027** (tickets for 2026 have already been printed).
5. **Raising annual dues**, which currently largely cover only the portion paid to the national organization.
6. **Adding an additional fundraiser.**

The Board has also considered other measures, such as eliminating the national membership (which would affect our insurance coverage) and discontinuing charitable donations (no donation was made in 2025). Expenses have already been reduced where possible, and no new costs—such as trophies—have been added. Some items, like providing meat for summer picnics, are incidental expenses and cannot resolve the overall budget shortfall.

We encourage members to share ideas with the Board, help sell raffle tickets, and sign up for booth shifts to ensure all tickets are sold.

SUNSHINE REPORT

Tracy McLeod has retired from the position and Patty Meritt has stepped in to fill the vacancy. Most cards have now moved to an electronic format. So if you see a “123 card “arrive in your email inbox, it is not a scam. It is your car club friends wishing you well.



In 2026 we are making an effort to send birthday and anniversary greetings to all members, provided we have a current email on file. When possible, hard-copy “snail mail” cards will be available at member and board meetings. If you would like a thank you card, get-well wishes, or sympathy sent to someone in the club, please email Patty with the necessary information at: pameritt@alaska.edu

Summary of Card Activity:

- **November:** Beginning mid-month, 9 birthday cards, 3 anniversary cards, 1 other card
- **December:** 6 birthday cards and 3 anniversary cards.

If you celebrated a birthday or anniversary and did not receive a card, the club may not have your correct email address.

2026 ADVENTURES BEFORE DEMENTIA TOUR (ABDT) DRAFT SCHEDULE By Scott Grundy

As the event's cat herder, I normally have the tour nearly finalized by the end of the year before the next year's event. But this year's tour involves a short but highly scenic ride on our marine highway system (AMHS) from Whittier to Valdez. Yesterday the DRAFT AMHS 2026 summer schedule was finally published for review. The schedule is identical to last summer, so I don't anticipate any changes.



Following is the draft of this summer's very fun and relaxing tour that will be full of fun events. Perhaps most importantly, it's a great camaraderie building event that's even more special this year as we celebrate the centennial birthday of our incredible and highly entertaining OLD cat - Ed Mc Laughlin!



Sat., June 13: Drive 275 miles to Talkeetna.
Sun., June 14: Drive 195 miles to Whittier.
Mon., June 15: Ride on the AMHS's Aurora to Valdez.
Tue., June 16: Enjoy all Valdez has to offer.
Wed., June 17: Drive 260 miles to Palmer.
Thurs., June 18: Drive 325 miles to Fairbanks.

Full details for the event will be drafted soon for the regular cats to review and develop the final tour. This is ideally an event developed to exercise our vintage vehicles, but drive anything you wish - just join the fun. Please contact Scott Grundy, sgrundy55ply@gmail.com, or call/text 907-322-9283 if you wish to be part of the process.



Sharing dinner with the folks in Homer 2025

VIRTUAL RUNAROUNDS

Begun in 2023, in anticipation of the summer weekly Wednesday night "Runarounds", the purpose of these spring "Virtual Runarounds" is to get us back in touch with each other and looking forward to having our classic wheels on the road again.

The tentative plan is to meet the last Wednesday of February, March, and April from 6-8 PM for a potluck dinner and a movie. The request has been made to continue gathering at the Community and Technical College (free), 604 Barnette St. Stay tuned as we await confirmation from them when their spring semester is finalized.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

• Cars and Coffee

Continues through the winter on Saturdays from 8:00–10:00 AM. at Great Harvest Bakery on Airport Road. Share memories, stories, car problems, or recent fixes while enjoying some sustenance.

• Museum Tour

Some members have expressed curiosity about the future museum space. If you would like a tour of the new facility, please let Willy know and he will be happy to arrange it. 907 450-2100 Tours can accommodate groups of 2–12 people. Wear comfortable walking shoes, as it is a very large building.

• Most Improved Trophy for 2026

Nominations needed! Complete nominations include photos before, during and after restoration, with details of the process. Recommendations may be made by owners or admirers. Send nominations to Patty & Bob Meritt, 2025 recipients.



• For Sale

Have cars, parts, fashions, or other related items to sell? Please send photos and details to Patty Meritt for inclusion in the spring newsletter.

BOARD MEMBERS

Committee Contacts noted with *

President, FB Moderator	Bruce McIntosh	907-322-4685
Vice President	Doug Davis	907 371-8400
Secretary	Donna Wojciechowski	907-490-6740
Treasurer	Wilma Vinton	907-388-7766
Director (Past President)	Mike Lecorchick	907-322-7525
Director	George Dalton	907 750-6426
Director	John McCarthy	907-347-5056
Director	Terry Fogleson	907-590-4713
Director	Preston Smith	907-488-8824
*Newsletter & Sunshine	Patty Meritt	907-978-6626
*Web Masters	Michael Farrell / Wilma Vinton	907-388-7766
*Membership Chair	Rochelle Larson	907-590-8593