

NASH'S NEWS JULY 2026

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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

The summer schedule has been sent out already in the email.

Current updates go to the website
calendar:

[https://fairbanksaaca.org/calendar/
vlnaacf-calendar/](https://fairbanksaaca.org/calendar/vlnaacf-calendar/)

IMPORTANT! The Antique Auto Musers of Alaska are coming to Fairbanks! Since they have been so gracious in sharing their "garages" and cars when we have been on tour, Bob and I invited them to see our small collection.

On FRIDAY JULY 17 they will come at 6 PM for dinner at our home. The VLN car club is invited too. PLEASE RSVP to Patty: (907) 978-6626 and I hope some of you will volunteer to bring potluck food items, too. .



So here we are, with June already over. I remember the adults warning me about time going faster the older you get, but did I believe them then, when long summer vacations stretched out in front of me? Well, I do now.

It's a busy summer so far, with our multiple shows and the Adventure Before Dementia Tour. In July, we can look forward to the Chena Hot Springs Run (7/12), the Golden Days picnic (7/18) and the parade (7/25). The day after the parade (7/26) we'll be making the poker run to Harding Lake for the potluck picnic once again.

A note on Golden Days – this year we had to split the dates of the picnic and parade. Our raffle car drawing was set up and tickets were printed for drawing on July 18th. Afterwards, we found the Chamber of Commerce moved everything a week later than we anticipated, with the parade on the 25th. Since the raffle car drawing is traditionally a part of our picnic, we decided to split the two events and keep the picnic on the same day as the drawing.

Talking about the raffle drawing – if you've sold yours already, thank you and please turn in all stubs and proceeds to Larsons Locksmith ASAP. The raffle car is our primary fundraiser, and pays for things like our picnic, office supplies, and meeting meals. It also allows us to keep the cost of our annual Holiday Dinner low and affordable, with the club picking up the majority of the tab.

If you plan on joining the parade on the 25th, you will need to register your car with us ahead of time. If you have kids riding along with you, you also need to fill out a parental consent form for each child. These forms were attached to the July 6th Club Update email. Please turn in to Larsons Locksmith.

Hopefully your summer is going well and you're getting a chance to get out and drive. If you're a new member, or someone that hasn't had much of a chance yet to join in with club activities, consider this an invitation. We still have lots of events on the calendar and you won't find a better group of folks to share in the joy of old cars (and trucks and motorcycles).

Celebrate Ed McLaughlin's 100th Birthday!

You're Invited to Ed McLaughlin's 100th Birthday Celebration!

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Time: 5-7 pm

Location: Square Dance Pavilion at Pioneer Park/Alaskaland

Pizza, salad, dessert, and beverages will be provided. Bringing a dish to share is optional, but would be welcomed.

There will be festive entertainment throughout the party and we hope you'll join us!

To help us with a general idea of how many will attend, please text an RSVP to Paige at (907) 978-1987 or email her at princesspaige60@gmail.com

Let the Good Times Roll

Feature Article: 2026 ADVENTURE BEFORE DEMENTIA TOUR (ABDT)

By Scott Grundy, condensed and photos by P Meritt

Spectacular Scenery & Mostly Sunshine On The 2026 ABDT!

The 1,000 mile 2026 tour was blessed with sunshine and spectacular mountain views all the way to Valdez and on the Columbia Bay boat tour. But the focus of this tour was our near centenarian Edwin McLaughlin whose birthday is July 21. Ed has attended every ABDT since its inception in 2009! Ed even purchased a Citroen 2CV for his 95th birthday, insisted that an ABDT be developed (Rick Larrick bravely organized the event.) and then drove by himself on the 2023 ABDT to Dawson City and Eagle. This year he was chaperoned by his daughter, Paige, who assured his good behavior and drove Ed's cute 2017 Nissan Juke!

Twenty Cats and two guests attended all or part of the June 13-18 tour in ten vehicles that involved the Parks, Glenn and Richardson Highways. -



Half of the attendees drove classic cars as acknowledged in the following list:

Participants: Ron & Nancy Allen; Dick & Joni Ellsworth (1976 Chevy Malibu Classic); Denis & Joyce Gardella (1989 VW Westfalia - Talkeetna only); Scott & Lynn Grundy (1955 Plymouth Belvedere); Melinda Harris with two very nice friends

from NM joined us the second day; newlyweds John & Nee McCarthy; Bruce McIntosh (1964 Ford Galaxie 500); Ed & daughter Paige McLaughlin; Bob & Patty Meritt (Honorable mention for their almost classic 2006 VW Bug convertible); Jerry & Carolyn Mustard (A racy 1983 994 Porsche); Rick Larrick (1955 Buick Century that steals attention from my Plymouth!).

My hat is off to retired teacher and organizer Nancy Allen and helpful hubby Ron who organized a scavenger hunt and a really fun and unique \$10 Poker Draw on the first two days. Nancy also offered challenging logic puzzles that were designed for school children but required good deduction skills for some of us ol' farts to accomplish! Fun!

Day one: We drove to the always fun community of Talkeetna. Jerry Mustard suggested we make an unscheduled stop at Troublesome Creek to see the largest cottonwood tree in AK that exceeds six feet in diameter and is known as "Granddaddy Cottonwood." A few "Tree Huggers" made the short hike and were impressed!

Day Two: We had "free time" and regrouped in Sutton where we were met by our Anchorage brethren from the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska" (President, Rich Golding and Scott & Sheryl Hulse). They led us a short distance to Chickaloon to view Dutch Overly's impressive home and collection of Stutz, MG and other unique, gorgeous classic vehicles.



We then departed for our housing at the beautiful log Majestic Valley Wilderness Lodge (MP114.9 Glenn) in the Sheep Mtn. area. Most of us slept in their Grandview Lodge that has a large attached gathering/dining room. There we enjoyed our favorite near centenarian recite from memory and act out the Robert Service poem "The Three Bares." As usual, Ed's performance brought smiles, laughter and applause from all!

Day Three: We drove to Valdez on another beautiful sunny day with gorgeous views. And memorable moments:

- Eureka Lodge (MP 128.3) for breakfast
 - Worthington Glacier
 - Thompson Pass
- Keystone Canyon with fabulous cascading melt water at the Bridal and Horsetail Falls



Day Four was a free day. Most took the Stan Stephens boat tour in perfect weather to the calving tidewater glacier in Columbia Bay



Day 5: Most cats decided to shorten the tour by not stopping in Delta Junction for the night. This cat behavior was anticipated as I learned years ago to not plan any events when the cats sense they are close to home; predictably, they always race home to their sandboxes! We encountered the most dense fog in the Thompson Pass area that I can recall. Sporadic rain then occurred for a few miles. I intended to stop again at the Worthington Glacier but drove right by it in the fog.

Foreseeably, only the McLaughlins, Rick Larrick and the Grundys spent the night in Delta Junction. We all seemed to enjoy the relaxed schedule, good weather and the very nicely refurbished AK Country Inn. Due to our good attitude, we easily tolerated the overcooked steaks at the Cave Restaurant - we just had a pleasant and relaxing time together!



Day 6: The above threesome enjoyed a rare treat of ice cream hosted by the Grundys at the Knotty Shop. A very rare splurge by your usually cheap Cat Herder! (Yes, fortunately all only ordered one scoop!)

Seriously, I want to thank all who participated! You are all great people and you were all prepared, punctual, and

very helpful and considerate to this ol' guy's needs.

Thanks again to Nancy Allen for all the fun activities she added. Thank you Paige for bringing your dad so we had an excuse to party! And my special appreciation to Rick

Larrick who helped me make decisions - like rendezvousing in Sutton at a familiar site and then consolidating the Cats gathered there into a single parking area, and finally for following behind Miss Ghezzie regardless of her varying speed

Car Show at Regal Cinema

President Bruce arranged to use the parking lot at the theater; since True North Church was no longer available. Bruce, Doug Davis, and John McCarthy spent a couple of hours in the hot sun preparing it for us Wilma and friends staffed the table and many raffle tickets were sold.



Over 100 vehicles participated and there was a steady stream of interested visitors!



Possibly the most unique vehicle was the first hearse in Alaska!



June Members Meeting at Chena Wayside

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Unfortunately Not Pictured Timber Creek Senior Living Center, Pioneer Home Car Show, Midnight Sun Car Show. **Your editor would appreciate help with the Newsletter so all activities can be included.**

Monderosa Poker Run to Nenana



Lost a hub cap on the way, but found it.



Oh oh, *really* lost a hub cap in the rain on the way home. Replaced through ebay!

Raven Landing



Other events members might have enjoyed, which were not sponsored by the club:
North Pole car show, East Ramp Pizza car show, Glacier Garage car show

BOARD MEMBERS and Committee Contacts*

President, FB Moderator	Bruce McIntosh	907-322-4685
Vice President	Doug Davis	907 371-8400
Secretary	Donna Wojciechowski	907-490-6740
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Director	George Dalton	907 750-6426
Director	John McCarthy	907-347-5056
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