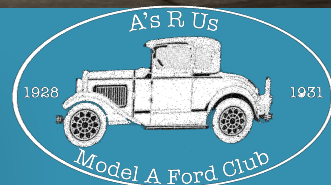




BACKFIRE



Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2010

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>

<http://asrus.homestead.com>

Work ,Work, Work

As most of you know my oldest daughter was married on July 17th. And we are very happy with the new addition to the family, Adam. At the same time unfortunately the supervisor of my works Tinley Park clinic stepped down and now I am temporarily supervisor of both clinics and our storage facility. I have had little time to dedicate to anything but work lately, but we will give this newsletter a try. By the way as promised months ago we have an article on Kirk and Travis project truck by Marline Krygowski.

Header Picture:

A models with the wedding party in Batavia, IL

*The Carp
Editor in Chief*

Inside this Months Issue:

- Poulsen Project
- Meeting synopsis
- Jim's Dixie History
- Spring trip
- Exposure Trip

More inside!

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Poulsen Project

Interestingly enough, within the A's R Us Club, we have three generations in one family. Two generations of Poulsen's have been members of the club for several years, and the Rauch's the past five years. The third generation of enthusiasts is the grandsons and sons in the Poulsen/Rauch family. The two young men are Kirk Poulsen age nineteen



and Travis Poulsen age sixteen. The two have been immersed in the world of Model A's since Kirk was three and Travis a newborn. At that time their parents, Claude and Nancy, were driving a 1926 Model T Coupe. When Travis appeared on the scene there was no room for an additional child. The search began and a 1929 Model A Tudor was soon the newest member of the family. Shortly thereafter Kirk and Travis had their first formal ride in a parade. It was the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Hometown, IL.

Kirk and Travis actually started working on Model A's around age seven or eight. They worked on Grandpa Rauch's 1931 Tudor. Since that time they have worked on at least six, as far as they can remember, some cars belonging to members of the A's club. They agreed that doing the bodywork on each car is the most difficult because it involves the greatest amount of time. Lots and lots of sanding, and then more sanding. I asked if they ever argued or fought with each other while working on cars. They replied, "not really because each of us has a different interest and talent. Kirk enjoys the wiring, mechanical and technical aspects. Travis prefers doing sheet metal work, welding, engine work and restoring interiors. It's no problem".

Their dad, Claude, and Grandpa Poulsen have been a major influence. Working on Grandpa Rauch's car at such an early age also added to their interest. Grandpa Poulsen lives just two doors down and much of the work goes on in his garage. The family Tudor has actually been totally restored twice. After a fire two years ago, there was little left but metal frame.. The boys said, "The toughest battle of that restoration was just waiting for parts". They managed to completely restore the car over the winter months. The boys shared, "working with dad and grandpa is just fun. They are both good teachers and don't put pressure on the us. It's always an all round good experience".



The impetus to create their truck centered on the fact they needed more legroom. They are both tall young men. A four-door 1930 Model A was found. It was not much more than a rusted out body with a rotted out floor on a frame. The work began. Over the next year and one-half, Kirk and Travis worked on the truck after school, after part time jobs and on weekends. Dad and Grandpa were usually nearby lending a hand and some guidance. In late October, the first year, the truck became a Halloween decoration. Rather than letting it just sit in the garage, it was taken outside. They put skeletons in the truck, decorated it

appropriately and then put spotlights on the entire spectacle. There is no end to their creativity.

Just putting the truck together was slow going at first. Apparently, sanding the wheels was the most difficult job. They created customized wood on the truck's floor and rear guard rails. The tires are bigger than what is customarily seen on a Model A. They shared that the larger balloon tires were, in their opinion, a little more "manly". Besides, the tires had been laying around in the garage for quite a while and the price was right. Although the project stated as a 1930 Model A, it got stretched, welded otherwise maneuvered and some 1929 parts were added. Technically it is probably a 1929-1930.

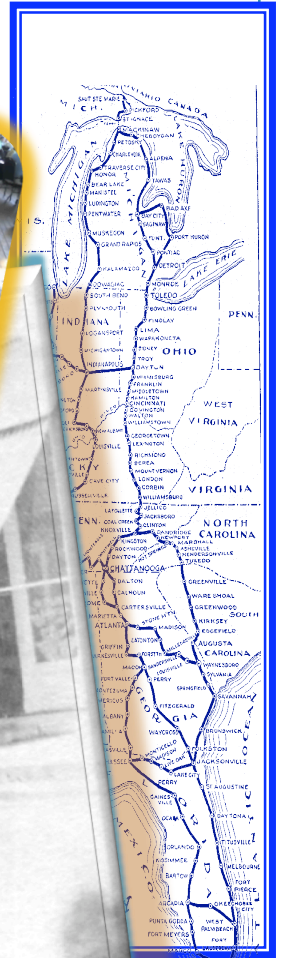
The truck, like most Model A's, is never quite finished. There is always something to fine tune, replace or repair. It's an ongoing process they said. Their first trip with the truck was about 25 miles to visit a family friend. The second trip was about 100 miles out to Kankakee. The real test came in April 2010. The A's R Us Model A Club took our annual spring trip to Galena, IL. Kirk and Travis drove their beautifully completed and awesomely shining truck. This was their third trip with the club. They joined with the club last year driving their dad's car to Dixon in the spring and to Milwaukee in the fall.

Although our club members range in age from 40 to 85, Kirk and Travis said they have fun going with the group. Their favorite part of any trip is lots of food. Anytime there is a breakdown on the road, Kirk and Travis are always the first to get their heads into the engine compartment. They know what they are doing much like their dad and grandpas.



DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Chicago Street, the Dixie Highway, is the main street through downtown Rossville. The charming little community in Vermilion County just north of Danville is home to a number of antique stores and the village's old town hall and rail depot both serve as historical museums. This view from July 1930, looking north on the highway, shows the Dixie Cafe on the east side of the street. The cafe was one of the first businesses in town to capitalize on its location when the highway was routed through Rossville in 1915. A major fire in February 2004 destroyed many business buildings on the west side of the Dixie Highway in Rossville's downtown but did not harm any of the buildings pictured here.

Exposure Trip to Tell City, IN



Still Time to Reserve

Sept. 7 th	Turkey Run	Reservations	765-597-2211
Sept 8 th & 9 th	Tell City, IN	Reservations	812-547-0800
Sept 10 th	Princeton, IN	Reservations	812-385-2400
Sept. 11 th	Terre Haute, IN	Reservations	812-232-6081
Sept. 12 th	Home		

**A's R Us Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2010**

Meeting Location: Steinmetz Garage
Call to Order: 7:05 pm - 28 members attending;

Meeting was called to order by President Chuck Fritz and welcomed everyone to the home of Rob Steinmetz. Minutes from the June meeting were read and approved.

Member News: Linnea is doing well; Allan Ekstrom has sold his car.

Jim Wright read Treasurers Report. The CD has been cashed out and put into a money market account earning .3% interest. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made for disbursements of the Dixie Dash. Some of these are a one-time expense, such as the sign charges. Picnic expenses for kids' game prizes was presented by Arlene McNeely and approved for reimbursement. Bob Steinmetz motioned to not spend any club funds without prior club approval. Reimbursement to Wally Ekstrom for pizza after the Dixie Dash.

OLD BUSINESS.

Driving the Dixie: Karen read survey responses; most were favorable, with a suggestion of some "new points of interest." Randy suggested for future, A's members not participate in Passport stamps; poker run. Thank you to all who helped make our event yet another success. Randy also suggested that all A members wear the "reflective yellow vests" in the future, making us more visible.

UPCOMING BUSINESS/EVENTS:

CAMP QUALITY: August 3rd; line up at trolley barn 6:00 pm

Joliet Jack Hammers Outing: August 21st 7:10 pm. Those interested in attending, please contact Chuck Fritz. Chuck would like list of those attending no later than July 4th so tickets can be secured. This is a "friends and family event, and Modern Cars only."

PICNIC: July 25th: Arlene McNeely and Irene Rauch will be heading the kid's games this year. Members will provide both a side and dessert to share. Everything is set and ready to go.

EXPOSURE TOUR: Leave date is September 7th. The destination is French Lick, with a scenic river route. More info to come later.

FALL TRIP: 10/8,10/9, &10/10. Hotel info in newsletter. The hotel was experiencing phone issues; but all has been resolved.

MOVIE IN THE PARK: Olympia Fields Park District will be hosting a wine concert/movie in the park on August 13th and has asked for cars to be displayed from 3 pm to 5 pm.

HOMEWOOD CRUISE NIGHTS: August 19th, 6:00 pm located on Ridge Road.

Bob Steinmetz asked for 2 cars to help transport some boys from the Bridge Teen Center to the car show. Chuck Fritz and Phil Serviss volunteered.

BREAKFAST MTG: August 14th, Peachtree Restaurant.

OLYMPIA FIELDS CAR SHOW: August 13th 3pm to 5 pm: 207th & Western.

MILITARY DONATIONS: Dale talked about her son Corey in Afghanistan requesting school supplies, clothing, toys for the native kids. A motion was made for the club to donate \$110 to purchase items for the kids, and the American Soldiers. Dale and Randy will go shopping. Anyone wishing to make individual donations may bring them to the club meeting and Dale will pack and ship.

There were 8 No Badge Fines; \$43 to Allan Ekstrom.

**JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT THE STEINMETZ GARAGE:
OCTOBER MEETING: HOME OF WALLY AND KAY EKSTROM
NOVEMBER MEETING: HOME OF KEN AND DALE CHAMIS
DECEMBER MEETING: TBA – CHRISTMAS PARTY**

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HOMEWOOD CRUISE NIGHTS: Beginning Thursday June 17th, and then every 3rd Thursday at 6 pm.



Adam and Jennifer French
7-17-10



Danville, IL Fall Reservations

**Reserve now for the trip down the
Exciting Dixie Highway!**

Days Inn
77 N. Gilbert Street
Danville, IL 61832
217-443-6600

21 rooms Blocked under name **A's R Us** for October 8 and 9, 2010
Mixed King and Double/Double rooms all at \$73.99 plus tax per night.

Up and coming meeting locations:

June thru Sept: Steinmetz Garage in Frankfort

Oct: Wally & Kay Ekstrom

Nov: Ken & Dale Chamis

Dec: TBA

Up Coming Calendar of 2010 Events

Wednesday August 18st Meeting: Bob's Garage in Frankfort

Saturday August 21st: Joliet Jackhammers ball game
7:10 start

Tuesday-Sunday September 6th-12th: Exposure trip to southern Indiana.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday October 8th, 9th, and 10th
Fall Trip to Danville, IL

August 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

A's R Us officers and Staff

President – Chuck Fritz Vice President – Tim Botts Treasure – Jim Wright Secretary – Dale Chamis

Member relations – Joe Krygowski

Web Page – Joe Krygowski

Newsletter – Phillip Serviss

Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom

Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau

Nat'l Rep. – Marlene Krygowski

Historian – Tim Botts

Sgt. At Arms Steve Coe

Motor Medic - Jon Lisota

Banquet Queen – Robin Rodriguez

Please send **Backfire** articles or items of interest to:

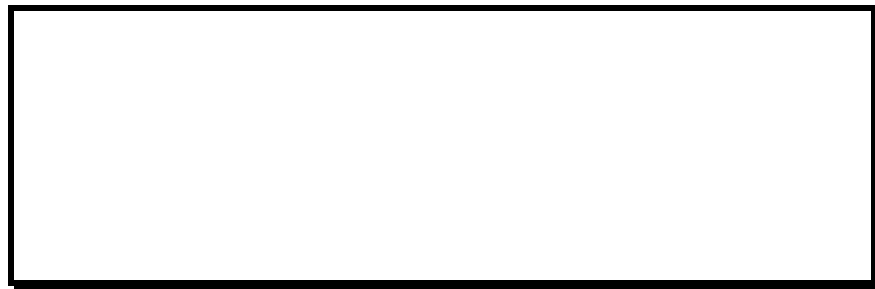
E Mail to: taxserviss@att.net



Amy, Sarah, Jennifer and Adam
7-17-2010

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Crete, Illinois 60417



Mail To:

