

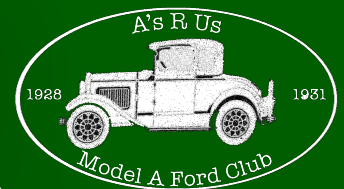


VOLUME 16

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JUNE 2011

BACKFIRE



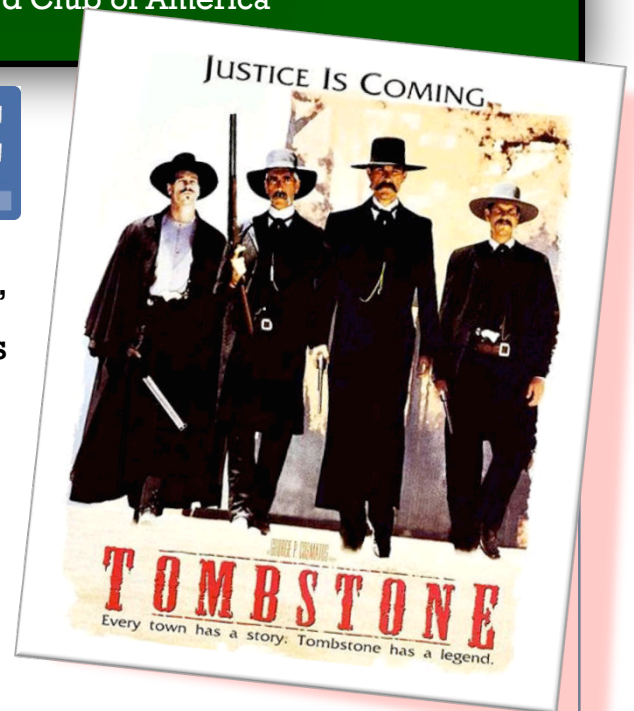
Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>

<http://asrus.homestead.com>



Well just when you think things couldn't get very exciting we all became part of the "shoot-out at the O.K. Corral!" Well let me tell ya you would think that these cars hadn't been out in a while with all the fits and problems we had with numerous vehicles. I will relate my weekend with Jezebel as an unproven car on our 360-mile weekend to Holland, Michigan, in the rain, inside this addition.



Header Picture:

Washington, D.C., circa 1926. "Minute **S**ervice **S**tation, Georgia Avenue N.W."

Phil

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Service station architecture in the 1920' and 1930's blended well into residential environments. This quaint cottage-style station was built in 1933 on the northwest corner of Ridge Road and the Dixie Highway in downtown Homewood. Shell brand oil and gas products were sold here for a few years until the station rebranded and Sinclair products were offered until 1979. Jack Kurtz, station owner for over 40 years, is pictured. A newer structure replaced this building on the site in the late 1950's.

Proving Jezebel's road worthiness by going to Michigan

So I bought a new 1931 Tudor last October and now I am going to drive her up to Michigan on its first long distance trip in probably 20 years. I worked for a couple days pulling the wheel drums and greasing the bearings. In fact I had to replace the Rt. front bearing the night before the trip. I had asked a couple of guys in the club what they thought about the roof and they suggested to Armorall it and if I have problems later deal with it then. I stayed up until 1:00Am working on the car and felt that it should be ready to go. Friday was a beautiful day of driving with no problems



and she was running like a top. We arrived at the hotel and checked in, dropped our luggage off and then went to Ron's new home about a ½ mile away. It started out as a very nice night then rain started rolling in. We stayed in the pole barn as the storm crashed around us and deluged us with rain. After it passed thou the temperature dropped so I went to get Nancy's and my coat out of the car. I opened the car door and water poured out of the car. Well I didn't leave a window open and I found that my roof was in-fact a sponge! Ron told me to

get the car into the garage up front and we began the drying out process. Now the weatherman is calling for rain thru Monday so how will I get this car home. Friday night was a night of little sleep as I was thinking of all the possibilities to temporarily fix the roof. Randy seemed the most confidant with attaching plastic to the roof with clips on the gutters and visor, then duct tape the remainder down.

The next morning Nancy and I went into Holland with Steve in his car for the festivities and parked at a little mall that happened to have a fabric store. We went inside and asked for table cloth material and found a PVC cloth backed material that was very thin and flexible. Well we decided that this would be our new roof. We enjoyed the day in Holland and on our way home we picked up contact adhesive and 1/4 " water pipe to make clips.



PVC material and contact adhesive along with gutter clips weatherproofed the car so I could get back home.

Saturday afternoon Randy, Steve and myself went to Ron's and installed the roof. The first coat of contact cement was sucked up into the roof. The second worked like a charm. Randy made clips and Steve helped install the roof. We pulled it tight and it hugged the roof. The cement held tight and the clips insured air couldn't get under it. We decided to pick the car up Sunday morning for the drive home.



Sunday was raining and as you can see in the picture the water beading on the roof. This is where we have more fun with the car. Nancy and I drove to breakfast after push starting the car at Ron's house. We came out after eating and she wouldn't start. So numerous club members pushed the car and we couldn't get her started. Claude towed us to the hotel where I popped the clutch in the parking lot as we arrived back and she put on a show! I'm in the car doing everything in my power to keep her going and she was firing volleys of backfires the likes I've never herd before, then she died. Well Jon gave it his all under the awning and we finely decided to tow her back to Ron's pole barn to get out of the weather.

It was decided to get 15 of the Model A's on the road home while Jon, Randy, Herman and myself stayed and worked on getting Jezebel back to life. Nancy, Yvonne and Bonny took refuge in the house at one time even turning the lights out on us as they figured out how to start the well pump for water in the house.

We knew that my battery was dead so we took Ron's battery from his car that he was leaving up there. Then the team started tracing the electric problem by changing parts out and checking for dead shorts. We were getting no spark at the distributor. A little over an 1 ½ hours later Jezebel sprung back to life! Seems that with the new parts in the distributor we had a bad set of points.

We took off thru the rain almost 2 hours behind the others going down the Blue Star Highway and then on the Red Arrow checking in with the other group by phone occasionally. We were going to meet in Michigan City for lunch. We pulled in ½ hour behind them as their route took them father East of the lake than did our route.

All I can say is it's always easier being on the giving end of help rather than the receiving end. Thank you to everyone in the club for their help. It was still a fun weekend!

Phil

History According to Chamis



As I sit and reread the past newsletters to pick a few tid-bits of our past to share, I am here smiling at the memories and the pictures in my mind. I was not a charter member, but pretty close and all I read is a reminder of who we are. Our history runs deep, and I for one am proud to have been a part of it. You may here a name that is not familiar to you, but they too are who we are. I am seeing a name from the past, and his nickname was Ricochet. He earned that on a trip and an incident with his car. His real name is Irv Darnall and his wife is Char. And it is by his contribution to writing several years worth of newsletters that I have material to share with everyone. And I thank him for all of his past work.

Reading the April 1997 newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 4 shows our president Bill Seper is touting the outing to Tommy Guns was a huge success. Next event is a fund raising auction. Sound familiar? In the highlights section, he mentioned the upcoming club picnic, and two new members, Randy and Bonnie Senkpeil of Orland Park. And Irv was selling a Ford Tractor and a 25-foot boat. I hope there are gone by now. He was also a guy to put the info on the mechanics with things to look for, or to do before it breaks. The same things we are doing now to get ready for the shake down cruise. It's funny to read his statement "be sure you have extra points and condenser with you." Nowadays, we carry almost an entire car in spare parts with us. But, we do drive a lot more than the early days.

So by now in the club we have a formal newsletter, a logo, stationary, t-shirts, jackets, hats, outings, picnics, auctions, banquets, and much more. Seems like a fast start up, and that's good. The club has grown to about 18 families. Looking good.

SPRING TRIP – 2011

ALLEGAN, MI

It almost always begins the same. Arrangements are made days before as to who will meet along the way and travel as a little group enroute to breakfast. Two by two or three or even five at a time arrive at the designated breakfast destination. There is always abundant laughter, speculation as to who may or may not break down along the way, will Bob have a flat tire, and it goes on and on. The club agreed to travel in two groups and start out about 30-40 minutes apart. The second group picked up Tim Dionne in St. John, IN and our long lost good friends Ray and Ruth Nelson in Lawrence, MI. Ray and Ruth moved a couple of years ago and agreed to join us on the trip. We also had new/old members Irv and Char

Darnall who have rejoined the club after too long an absence. Bob/Debbie /Joey Granko and Randy/ Bonnie Senkpiel joined us later in the day.



We traveled to Bendix Woods County Park west of South Bend for a picnic lunch. Thanks to Chuck/Linnea for picking up all the food and those who brought extra goodies for dessert. Group two caught up with the first group and we had lunch together. Actually, group one planned to leave early and

have group two clean up but that just didn't seem to be a prudent way to treat friends. Group I stopped in Dowagiac, MI for a little treat of ice cream. The shop had all of the antique drug store soda fountain ambiance with marble top counter, high stools and of course little booths. The huge glass counters were full of wonderful homemade chocolates



of all kinds and some of the old fashioned candies you'd expect to find.



Bob cooking on the "Chuck Wagon" dinner for Friday night.

returned. More importantly, save pie. For the rest of us our focus was on relaxing. Bob/Debbie/Joey Granko arrived. Bob's car sounded like it had pneumonia and was gasping for air. It was one sick car. Motor Medic to the rescue. Rain continued to try to spoil the whole evening but somehow the bon fire was lit, Ron opened the poll barn, connected the karaoke machine, everyone set up their chairs, grabbed a drink of something or another and settled in. I don't know when Nancy decided to go out to their car in the pouring rain but good thing she did. Their beautiful and recently purchased Model A had leaks in the roof and the interior roof and most of everything else was saturated. Nancy said she

Group I arrived at the Sunset Motel in Allegan, MI hurriedly checked in and then headed off to Ron Bonneau's wonderful home on the Kalamazoo River. Can't blame Ron for wanting to stay there most of the time. Beautiful home and a great view from all those windows. Chuck had lit the grill on his famous "chuck wagon" and got ready to grill some delicious marinated pork chops. Ron had purchased potato salad, asparagus salad, applesauce and, most importantly, PIES. There are no words to describe the pies other than "good grief, this is so

good". Group II headed off to a concert and skipped dinner for the time being but made us promise to cook more pork chops after they



opened the car doors and the water poured out. They pulled the car into the garage and began the drying out process. I saw Travis Poulsen running with a shop vac and knew the situation couldn't be good. The concertgoers returned about 10:30 p.m. and ate a fashionably late dinner. The rest of us

boogied back to the motel for a hot shower and some sleep.

After breakfast on Saturday, we left for Holland, MI and the tulip festival. The Poulsen men and Ken and Randy headed off to a Model A "Promised Land" somewhere scouting out materials for more projects while others went to save Phil's car. The rain and cold were becoming more than a problem. Umbrellas, rain ponchos, and anything else available were pulled out and used. The shuttle bus station was nearby so we walked there with great expectations for an interesting day. The shuttle buses provided a tour of Holland that, somehow, passed our group of cars two or three times to the joy of some passengers and the irritation of the rest of us. Neither the drivers of the shuttles or the club members had any idea of where we were, or where we were going. Everyone had split up. Some wandered around in the rain. Others went on a shopping trip downtown. We started walking back to the cars, which was taking forever. We ultimately found out the shuttles had stopped running due to the parade. Chalk it up to good exercise I guess. Fortunately Linnea contacted a police/safety official who volunteered to drive Ray and Ruth back to the cars. Finally back to the motel to get ready for dinner.

Cocktails at Ron's friend Marty's home was an experience. What a beautifully warm and welcoming home and charming hostess. Marty played the piano, the group joined in some sang old show tunes and others just enjoyed view of the lake, the amazing home and being part of the whole scenario. On to a wonderful restaurant called the Silo. We had a room all to ourselves. The buffet style dinner was delicious. Tim and Connie Borchert brought a candlelit cupcake for Randy Senkpiel's birthday. We, of course, all serenaded him.



We headed back to Ron's place to pick up our chairs and clean up the previous night's party. Chuck's car almost didn't make it back. Jon, Joe, Ron and Chuck worked on the car until midnight. After much work on the car, Ron who admittedly says he doesn't know much about cars, came up with the solution. I had the easy job just sitting in Ron's house in a comfy recliner, having coffee, leftover pie, and a blanket provided by the generous host.

Sunday morning began with a BANG, or I should say several bangs. As Phil's car pulled into the motel door canopy, it sounded like gunfire in Kandahar. I wasn't sure if we should hit the ground or not. If we had been in Detroit we would all have been on the floor. As I remember Jon/Yvonne, Phil/Nancy and Ron got the car back to Ron's house. In actuality, they cannibalized Ron's car to get Phil's car home.

The ride home was cold and wet. We said goodbye to Ray and Ruth as they headed off to Watervliet. No stops at antique shops, ice cream shops or anywhere other than to pull over for cranky car engines. The goal was let's just get the cars home. All in all it was a good trip but one of the wetter ones. No matter the weather, when you can enjoy the company of thirty friends it's a good day and a blessing. Thanks to Jon, Ron, Chuck and all who led the event.



Ray, Ruth and Marlene

Mar

A'S R US MEETING MINUTES

MAY 18, 2011

MEETING LOCATION : Ron host. Ted and Barb Griffins home.

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT TIM BOTS AT : 7:20PM

Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: Jim reported we have received 3 applications for Driving the Dixie to date.

Report read at the meeting.

FAMILY NEWS: Tim Dion is scheduled for a Cardiac evaluation. Tim Bots had been given an All Clear.

It is recommended we send cards to Marvin. Cory will hopefully be home from Afghanistan by the time you read this newsletter.

Welcome back to Irv and Char.

OLD BUSINESS: Tim thanked Ron, Jon & Yvonne, Chuck and Linnea, Phil and Nancy for hosting past meetings. It was reported that the Shake Down Cruise was a success and a good time was had by all, thanks to Bob and Wally. The Spring trip was Great! There were 38 people and 19 cars. A thank you card was sent to Marty for being such a gracious hostess.

Memorial Day Parade: MONDAY JUNE 30TH, WE NEED TO MEET AT CRETE PARK AT 11:00am.

June 15th and July 20th: Next meeting at Bobs Garage

June 18th: Driving the Dixie

July 4th : Homewood Parade and Beecher Parade (more to come) Phil said he and Nancy will host a pot luck lunch, Fireworks are late.....

July 9th: Olympia Fields Family Festival. Time will be in further contact with Becky.

July 17th: A'sRUS picnic. Food will be finalized at the next meeting. We need a GAMES COMMITTEE.

Deep River Grinders Baseball Game (Hobart, In) Dates to consider: Aug.21st, 9/25th, 10/02. There was conversation re: use of a Pavilion and having a group BBQ. More will follow. Joe has not had further contact with our bride re: her September wedding.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ju;y 14th; Bridge Teen Center, will host a cruise night in the parking lot of Chick Fi lete at 170th and LaGrange.

August meeting Dale and Ken,/ September Joe and Marlene.

ON GOING BUSINESS: **Driving the Dixie Committee reports:**

Joe reported that Dale has the labels finished and the registrations are ready to be mailed. Thanks to Dale, Joe and Karen., Dale passed out registration forms to the membership present. Tables/Canapys/Chairs are needed for the day of the event and will be provided by Tim, Joe and Ken.

A committee was formed to pass out signs and posters to communities. Joe will have a Map available so they know where to place the signage on the day of the event. Tim, Tim, Bob and Joe.

Joe will take the registration packets to Office Max for copy and Bob will copy the Passports.

Costs are to be submitted to Jim. Tim will handle the Driving the Dixie Decal and that expense 9 is also to be turned in to Jim.

Tim set out WORK SIGN UP SHEETS for positions on the day of the Event. Jim stated he will check with IDOT re construction along our route.

Bob Granko suggested we run a 10's in a Bag event, in place of the Poker Run, after discussion it was unanimously accepted.

Tim JB passed out posters, hand outs and a list of car show events for the membership to pass out.

DATE: JUNE 18TH MEMBERSHIP SHOULD ARRIVE BY 8:15am. MEMBERS WHO HAVE DRIVING THE DIXIE SHIRTS SHOULD WEAR THEM. MEMBERS WORKING THE PARKING LOT, NEED TO WEAR SAFETY VESTS (SEE BOB AND PHIL).

Tech Talk: postponed for now. Tim will talk with Jon and set up a future date.

Breakfast: postponed to July

Misc Discussions: Last Saturday of the Month, ARMSTRON BREWERY has free coffee and doughnuts from 8:00 to 11:00 at the Flossmoor Station.

50/50 \$79.00 Wally won

Badge Fines \$2.00

THANKS TO TED AND BARB GRIFFIN FOR A VERY INTERESTING TOUR OF THEIR HOME, BARN AND MANY COLLECTIONS. A CARD WAS ALSO SENT TO THEM.

Next months mtg: JUNE 15TH AT STEINMETZ GARAGE.

Adjourn: 8:55pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA
SECRETARY

Return to Delavan Lake Wisconsin

Fall Trip - Friday October 7 through Sunday October 9, 2011
Delavan/Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

Block of Rooms Reserved under **A's R Us** at
Delavan Lake Resort (800-430-8164)
\$110 per night for 1 bedroom/1 bath suite
\$145 per night for 2-bedroom/2-bath suite

<http://lakedelavanresort.com/suites.html>

Up and coming meeting locations:

Up Coming Calendar of 2011 Events

Wednesday June 15th AT STEINMETZ GARAGE

Saturday June 18th: "Driving the Dixie"

Monday July 4th: Homewood parade then drive to Beecher to Phil and Nancy's home for a pot luck and parade



Holland Michigan 5/13-15/2011
Traditional "Dancing in the Streets!"

July 2011

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August 2010

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September 2010

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

A's R Us officers and Staff

- President – Tim Bots
- Vice President – Tim Borchert / Treasure – Jim Wright / Secretary – Sandy Kaleta
- Newsletter – Phillip Serviss
- Member Relations – Joe Krygowski
- Web Page – Joe Krygowski
- Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom
- Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau
- Nat'l Rep. – Marlene Krygowski
- Historian – Ken Chamis
- Sgt. At Arms Steve Coe
- Motor Medic - Jon Isota

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

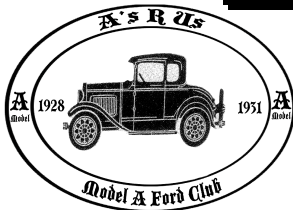
E Mail to: taxserviss@att.net

**Ted Griffins 1912 Model T
At our May meeting**



BACKFIRE

P.O. Box 3
Crete, Illinois 60417



Mail To: