

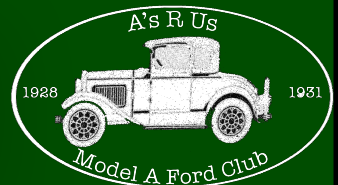


VOLUME 17

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2012

# BACKFIRE



Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>

<http://asrus.homestead.com>



May and June are the months of weddings. My Daughter Sarah, my Niece Lisa and a very special girl from my re-enacting days Vicky were all married to great guys since the last newsletter. Unfortunately Nancy and I weren't able to make the spring trip thou Jim, Karen and I did drive to lunch on Friday and had a great time with everyone. I did overheat on the way back from Streeter, IL but that will be another story that had greater consequences for later.



***Header Picture:***

Jon Lisota is getting his "KICKS" on route 66!

*Phil*

# DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



In Illinois the Dixie and Lincoln Highways intersect in Chicago Heights, the "Crossroads of the Nation." Currently, the roads cross at the intersection also known as U.S. Route 30 and Illinois Route 1. From 1915 to 1928, the Lincoln Highway shared the same alignment as the Dixie Highway south of this intersection to Sauk Trail, where the Lincoln Highway then traveled east into Indiana. In 1928, the Lincoln Highway was rerouted to the present alignment, which bypasses "downtown" Chicago Heights to the north. In Indiana, the Lincoln Highway has also traveled across two different alignments over the years. The 1913 alignment arced north through South Bend and La Porte then down to Valparaiso. The 1928 alignment traveled a more direct path across the state from Dyer, through Valparaiso and Plymouth to Fort Wayne. On this routing, the Lincoln and Dixie Highways cross in downtown Plymouth, a stop we will make on our tour along both highways in September.



Homewood Parade-July 4, 2012  
Line up is in the St. Joe/Homewood Library parking lots - 17949 Dixie Highway, across from the fire station,  
line-up begins at 10:00 am and the parade starts at 11:00 am.

“Pot Luck” Lunch and Beecher parade.  
Come to Phil and Nancy’s home directly after the Homewood parade and spend the day with your A’sRUS family.

## Fall Trip to exciting South Bend , IN Reserve Now!



### South Bend Trip:

Friday 9/28/12 - Sunday 9/30/12

Overnight Friday 9/28/12 & Saturday 9/29/12

### Location:

Ivy Court Inn & Suites  
1404 Ivy Court  
South Bend, Indiana  
574-277-6500 - phone

### Rates:

Double Queen or Single King \$89.00/night plus tax  
1 Bedroom Suite \$109.00/night plus tax

includes full hot breakfast

Block of 20 rooms on reserve

# SPRING TRIP TO PEORIA

May 18-20, 2012

By Char Darnall



Our day started with breakfast at The Wilmington House Restaurant in Wilmington. We were to leave at 9:00 am sharp. Some of us were late in arriving and then, we were late being served. Breakfast was so-o-o good and the service was so-o-o fast, we just can't wait to go back there ... (not really).

Stopped (not on our itinerary) at Rub Ford in Gardner

to see an old Ford Dealership. On our way in minutes.

Arrived in Streator at the Weber House and Gardens. Tim Weber gave us a tour of the beautiful English gardens and inside of the storybook cottage. It's amazing the amount of flowers, trees, plants, statues and winding paths that are within a two acre area.

We then drove to the beautiful Marilla Park for our picnic lunch, everything was great except the restrooms were locked, so afterwards, we stopped at a Wal-Mart for "the pause that refreshes".

On the road again...we won't mention the many, many miles of gravel, dusty roads we traveled, but you actually felt like you were in the 1930's traveling (all the way from Chicago to California). The scenery was beautiful though.

As soon as we got to the motel and checked in, Irv snuck out and cleaned his car but he got caught by Jon and Bob when they came out to fire up the grill.

We had a fantastic dinner of grilled pork chops and chicken provided by the special chefs of A's R Us, which was cooked in the parking lot of the motel. Between Ron bringing his "Sing along with Mitch" cd and Tim playing requested songs on his radio(?), we were (to say the least) a rowdy crowd and enjoyed every minute of it, ask Irv.

We had people coming all evening looking at the Model A's in the parking lot of the Country Inn. Word got around and we had our own car show going without any effort.





Saturday morning we had a great breakfast at the motel. We were ready at 9:00 am waiting for the Forever Fours Car Club. They gave us a beautiful scenic tour of Peoria. We then drove to Warren Danz car museum, a private car collector, quite a selection, even the gals were in awe. He had an original popcorn wagon and was serving free popcorn, pop and water. We had lunch at Avanti's Restaurant, which a waitress asked if all our cars were Studebaker's? Then headed out to see another private car collector's



museum, Jim Mamer in East Peoria, what an array of beautiful cars. The garages were like the inside of a house, even air conditioned, which we welcomed since it was a very HOT weekend. Forever Fours said goodbye, most of us returned to the motel, but some went shopping and exploring on their own.

We had reservations at Fairview Farm Restaurant. There was another car club there also and we saw Ted and Barb Griffin, that was a surprise. We had a delicious dinner, then back to the motel and crashed.

We had another nice breakfast at the motel, packed up our belongings and were "on the road again" at 9:30 am, pulled into Pontiac at 11:45am and 93 degrees. We didn't have enough time to spend in Pontiac and see everything we wanted to see. We met Pontiac's Mayor Bob in the Walldogs, which does brush paintings on buildings but what was really cool, was the brush painting on long evening gowns.





The gowns in normal light were white but they had been painted with special paint and when you put the black light on, it was amazing the beautiful designs on those gowns. We then went to Bernardi's II Italian Restaurant and had a delicious lunch. We walked ½ block to the Pontiac Museum and met up with Mayor Bob again, who gave us a special tour of the museum, (we need

to go back there again). As we're leaving, he tells us to drive our cars down an alley behind another museum, to see the mural on a building (painted by the Walldogs) that has Route 66 painted on it. We drove around there and guess who's there again...yep...Mayor Bob. We had our pictures taken in front of the mural.

Toured an old school bus that had been converted (by Bob Waldmire) into living quarters. He had a prolonged passion for the Mother Road and traveled Route 66 between Chicago and California all his life. It was amazing all of the amenities he had built into this "home".

On the road again...stopped at Odell at an old Standard gas station and also toured a 1949 travel trailer. Drove by another old gas station in Dwight. Bob mentioned that our very first A's R Us Club tour was a Sunday brunch at The Mansion Restaurant in Dwight in 1995.

Stopped in Wilmington for ice cream at 4:30, home by 5:30.

GREAT TRIP!



[Additional pictures from, Steve Coe](#)

May 16, 2012

**MEETING LOCATION: Tim and Connie Borchert**

**CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT TIM BORCHERT AT:** 7:10PM Minutes were read by Sandy and approved as read.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Jim reported A'SRUS on the accounts. Bills were presented to Jim at the meeting. (For mailing of pre-registration forms by Karen).

**FAMILY NEWS:** Joe has had 15 radiation treatments and is now waiting scan results. He is still making every effort to participate in the club and is in our prayers. Marlene is due for another shot. Allen and Chuck are much better and Chuck is back working. Linnea had minor surgery for a nasal abscess with a Staph infection. She is doing OK now. Encouraging is her doctor is considering exploratory surgery to remove the tumor and free her from Chemo. Ray Nelson a former member is fighting liver cancer. Ron thanked the membership for their donation to the Police Officers Memorial for officers killed in the line of duty. He said the memorial was very touching and there were 3 bands there. Tim BJ stated he and Connie attended another Honor Flight, Midway Airport on April 25<sup>th</sup> for returning WWII vets. Ron said his father was in that group.

**OLD BUSINESS: Driving Dixie** Committee meeting is on 5/31, 7:00PM, at the Hazel Crest Fire Station #2. Tim request membership attendance. Discussion resulted in a decision that advertising posters will be made, taken to this meeting and given to each town to put in store windows etc. (100 color, 100 black and white). Though the route guide is finished, Wally proposed adding another stop in Steger at Matt's Garage. Joe was contacted and said it could be done. Wally will co-ordinate with Joe, to have the changes ready to bring to the committee meeting. Jim reported that 17 pre-registrations have been received already and a donation from Scott's Garage for a \$175.00 Gift card (for routine maintenance) to be raffled.

Tim stated we need e-mail addresses on all registrants and he proposed emailing a Driving the Dixie invitation to the clubs who attended the shakedown cruise. This was well received by the membership. It was also discussed to use E-Mail Blasts for a survey after the event.

**Sign up Sheet for the day of Driving the Dixie event was passed around.** Bob stated he has the majority of the signs, stamps, and pads. Jim will have change available. Jon and Tim will bring canopies; Phil will get tables and chairs. Phil will be in charge of the Parking lot, he and Jim went to examine the Chicago Hts lot where the Car Show will be held. Signage will be placed early the morning of the event by Wally, Bob and Ron. Bob will do a sweep at the end of the day. Al/Sandy & Irv/Char will do the Poker Run and 10 in a bag. The spots will be Next to the Registration Desk, the 3 secret Stamps (Chuck, Ron, and Tim D.) and the final gate in Momence. Card Exchanges and drawings will be held in Momence. We will get the cards etc. to the 3 secret stamps. Bob stated he is still working on getting shirts. Fran asked why we are not using the E-Mail advertising Phil sent out. Phil said he will have to work on that for the future.

**Re-Cap Shake Down Cruise:** Tim reported the comments were positive and next time we need to plan for more socialization with the other clubs. There were 5 Model A clubs and 1 Model T club that joined us.

**Spring Trip:** We will meet at the Wilmington House Restaurant on Friday 5/18/12; plan to leave at 9:00AM. Ken will be pulling the Grill and Jon generously agreed to do the shopping for lunch and dinner. Though he is not going Chuck said he would help him. They proposed that the Lunch menu be similar to the Shake Down Cruise and it was decided we would have pork chops, salads, applesauce, a roll and pie for desert. There are 28 members committed to the trip and Bob and his harem will join us for lunch. Jon said we will be meeting with the River Forest Model A club on Saturday for a driving tour.

**Fall Trip: Destination** is Southbend Indiana, the Ivy Port Inn and Suites: There have been 20 rooms blocked 9/28 thru 9/30/12 and events have been scheduled. We will be on the Lincoln Hwy, Dixie Hwy and the Yellow Stone Trail. More to follow.

**Exposure Trip:** more news to come.

**Picnic:** July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jon asked Tim to call the Highland Club and ask if they wish to participate and what they would like to do for the picnic (food, games etc.). Tim said he will do that.

**Lincoln Way Disabled Vet Car Show:** May 27<sup>th</sup>, again if interested, contact Tim.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The members chose the Manteno Veterans Home for a visit. Jim said he would co-ordinate the visit. We proposed dates of June 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>. If they can't co-ordinate those dates we will look at September. Chuck stated if we wish to do pictures again, we would need a new printer.

**Parades:** Memorial Day May 28<sup>th</sup>, Crete (contact Wally) 4th of July Homewood / Beecher. (Contact Jim)

**2013 Gilmore Spring Trip:** 5/17 thru 5/19.... Bob and Ron will co-ordinate.

Wally asked if members were willing to provide a **Wedding Cortege** of 5-6 cars for a \$100.00 donation to the club. June 22<sup>nd</sup>—8:00PM from the church to Bolt Field.. Al, Phil, Ron, Irv and Jon volunteered to join him.

**Tech Talk:** Jons Garage, Thurs. 5/24 @6:00PM

**Breakfast:** June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30AM Peach Tree Restaurant

**Next months mtg:** June 20<sup>th</sup> Bobs Garage – Frankfort

Badge Fines: \$3.00 50/50 \$61.00 Winner: Wally \$30.00

**Adjourn:** The membership thanked Tim/Connie for their hospitality and for spoiling us with goodies. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA  
SECRETARY



## **Up and coming meeting locations:**

### **Up Coming Calendar of 2012 Events**

**Meeting Wednesday June 20th: Bob's Garage  
24356 S. Harvest Hills Rd Green Garden Twp.**

**Exposure Trip to: Cincinnati, Ohio September 4<sup>th</sup> -  
9<sup>th</sup>**

**Fall trip: Fort Wayne, IN September 28,29,30**

<b>June 3-10-24</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>St. James Church Cruise 1V, Lemont led by Joe</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Drivin' the Dixie - Blue Island to Momence</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Meeting at Steinmetz Barn in Frankfort</b>
<b>July 18</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Meeting at Jon &amp; Yvonne, Crete</b>
<b>Aug 7</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Camp Quality – Meet at the Trolley Barn, Frankfort</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Meeting at Irv &amp; Char Darnall, Peotone</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Grinders Ball Game led by Tim &amp; Pat Bots</b>
<b>Sept. 5-10</b>		<b>6 Day Trip to Springfield-Cincinnati led by Phil Serviss</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Meeting at Joe &amp; Marlene Krygowski, New Lenox</b>
<b>28-30</b>		<b>3 Day – Fall Tour to Destination un-determined led by WSJ Tours</b>
<b>Oct 17</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Meeting &amp; Auction at Wally &amp; Kay Ekstrom Crete</b>
<b>Nov 21</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Meeting at Chuck &amp; Linnea Fritz, Park Forest</b>

# A's R Us 2012 officers and Staff

- President – Tim Borchert
- Vice President – Ken Chamis / 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:

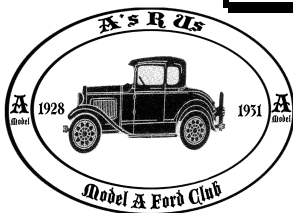
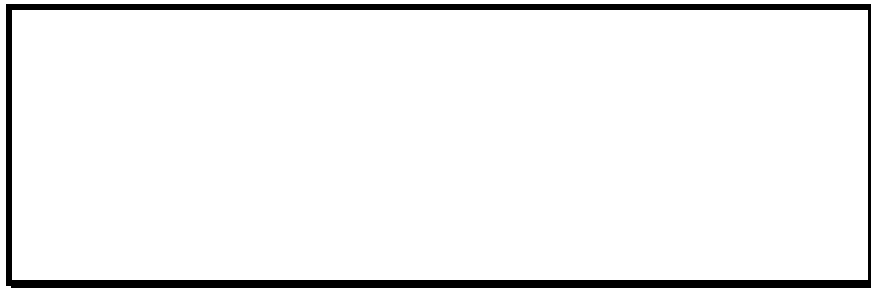
E Mail to: [taxserviss@att.net](mailto:taxserviss@att.net)

Wally's Victoria on the  
spring trip in Streeter, IL



## BACKFIRE

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Mail To: