

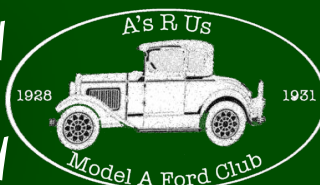


VOLUME 18

ISSUE 3

MARCH 2013

# BACKFIRE



Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of A

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>



## Ken Chamas ;Letting the Cat Out of the Bag

***Carp dies a dramatic death to be filmed June 22<sup>nd</sup>.***

A group of film students just left my house and are on their way to Phil's house to look at his Model A's . They are excited, as they will be shooting a short film set in the 1920's, with my gray sedan and Phil's blue sedan.

The film has a unique twist. There will be zombies in it. Yes, zombies. If you are in your 20's, you are a zombie fanatic. And the best part of all is that they will be killing off the Carp, (Phil), once and for all.

DreamWorks is thrilled! Ha. We understand that they plan to submit it at the Sundance Film Festival. And if it gets picked up, they already have a feature film all written. An agreement has been worked out that we will work for free, with credits. If however they hit the big time, we want a royalty check! They said they have a limited budget, so my guess is hot dogs for lunch.

### ***Header Picture:***

West Dundee, IL  
2002 "Road to Perdition"



Ken aka, "Squeeks"

# “Road to Perdition” 2002



“Squeaks” and “Timmy the Rat”



Jude Law leaning on Phil's car.

# Presidents Comments

## Presidents Comments:

Thinking of last summer I remember offering a ride in our Model A to my daughter-in-law. “No thanks,” She said. “It’s too rickety and it might break down.” She wouldn’t even ride with her own husband (our son) who is working on his own old car, a 1969 VW bug. There is clearly a prevailing fear that Model A’s will break down and leave you stranded in the most embarrassing way.

From reading [fordbarn.com](http://fordbarn.com), I’ve come to learn that well-maintained Model A’s will likely go 10,000 miles between catastrophic breakdowns. So the likelihood of breakdown on one of our tours is less than 2 to 3%. Of course breakdowns will happen. There’s no dancing around that. It even happens with modern cars. But Model A touring is all about having confidence in your car, and knowing you’re in good company should the worst occur. That is why it is so important to go to the safety check at Bob’s garage the week before the shake down cruise. Here you’ll flush out any questionable reliability issues. Parts can be upgraded as you suspect their eventual failure. I read on the barn that 90 % of most failures on the Model A are either electrical or problems with the carb. So my focus will be in these two areas. If we have any questions about either of these two areas on our cars just talk to Jon. Our safety check event will significantly help reduce your chances of a Breakdown.



Are you familiar with the [fordbarn Model A forum](http://www.fordbarn.com/forum)? It’s an forum where Model A enthusiasts can meet online to discuss restoration projects, mechanical challenges, technical questions, upcoming events, and other issues relevant to Model A owners. Participants range from the newbie first-timers to hardcore gearheads. Simply post a Model A question and you’ll get an answer within ten minutes! If it’s a really interesting question, you’ll get a dozen answers, also usually within minutes. Never been to The Barn? Try it: <http://www.fordbarn.com/forum>

Thinking about our Spring Trip – Bob will go over the detailed plans at our next meeting. I am excited to see the new Model A Ford museum. The museum will feature several very interesting Model A Fords but it will be more than just a car collection it will take us on a journey through the Model A years—the end of the Roaring 20s, the stock market crash in ’29, and the birth of Mickey Mouse.

While some of you have been to Gilmore, this will be my first time. The Gilmore Car Museum has nearly one dozen historic structures situated on 90 landscaped acres—making it feel much more like a park than a museum.

The Gilmore Car Museum is truly without equal. Besides its own collection, the ever-expanding campus also serves as the home of the: Classic Car Club of America Museum; Pierce-Arrow Museum; Franklin Collection at Hickory Corners; as well as the Midwest Miniatures Museum and the Tucker Historical Collection and Library. The Cadillac – LaSalle Foundation, Lincoln Motor Car Foundation, and the Model A Ford Museum also all have displays with museum structures planned.

To learn more about the Gilmore Car Museum please visit [GilmoreCarMuseum.org](http://GilmoreCarMuseum.org) and the Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. at [www.maffi.org](http://www.maffi.org)

Read more: <http://museumpublicity.com/2010/11/20/first-major-retrospective-of-paintings-by-alexis-rockman/#ixzz2NZEYR2St>

# GET THE RIGHT BOLT FOR THE JOB

**CUSTOMERS PLEASE NOTE!** The following bolts are now available to those restorers who are finding difficulty in obtaining "real special bolts" to complete their restoration project. Check with your regular supplier for stocks.



FOR MISMATCHED HEADS.



FOR BOLTS TOO NEAR THE HEAD.



FOR BOLTS COUNTERBORE TO HEAD.



FOR BOLTS COUNTERBORE AND COCKEYHEAD.



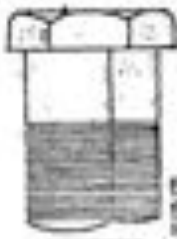
FOR DOUBLE COUNTERBORE BOLTS.



HEATED END BOLT FOR HOT SHIP WORK.



FOR BOLTS WITH SPECIAL BOLT IN SECOND END.



HEXAGONAL BOLT FOR DOUBLE HEXAGON HOLES.



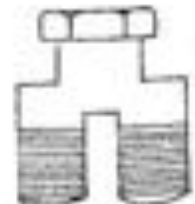
FOR HEADS OF HEATED BOLTS.



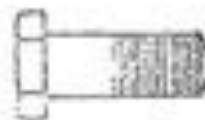
ASSIMILATE SPECIAL QUALITY STANDARD BOLT.



FOR ALL SIZE TABLES.



FOR DOUBLE END TIGHT STALL BOLT MATCH.



FOR OUT-OF-ROUND HEADS.



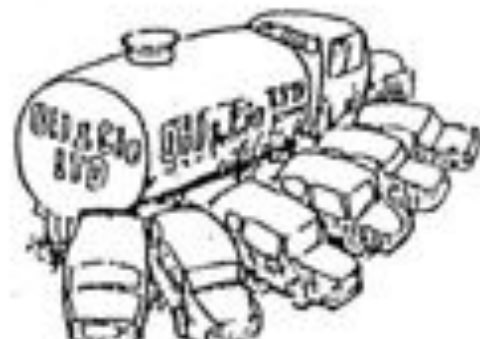
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M	O	T	O	R	A	A	S	N	R
M	B	R	A	K	E	N	R	P	E

## "A" WORD SEARCH

Find the words, they may be forward backward, up, down, sideways, or diagonal.

Vickie, Sedan, Restoration Tudor, Era, Rods, Coupe, Tour, Henry Ford, Bubble Seat, Engine, Roundup, Body Sweepnet, Parts, Model A, Roadster, Tires, Brake, Towncar, Food, Corn, MAPCA, Plug, Gas, Motor, Key.

this puzzle was "borrowed" from The Spartan, BANGLOW A's - Placerville, Ca.



## **The Renovation of the “New” Chuck Wagon**



March 2, 2013

Members of the A's R Us met for a “planning” breakfast to discuss the plans for the renovation of the trailer that was donated by Ken and Dale Chamis. Bob Steinmetz, Ken Chamis, Tim Borchert, Tim Botts, John Lisota, Irv Darnall, and myself all conferred on ideas to make the Chuckwagon more ergonomically friendly. After a good breakfast, the group made their way to the renovation center where work and ideas began to flow. The trailer was inspected and thoughts on how to dismantle were exchanged. The fun began and soon the trailer was missing its top. The sides and doors were removed. Next the floor was removed and voila the naked chassis was exposed. The club picture of Raising the Flag at Iwo Jima was taken as the chassis was turned over to remove the axle and springs. After much effort and it was found that a “blue tip wrench” (acetylene torch) was needed to remove the spring hanger bolts. Ideas on the use of the Bob Steinmetz donated 1930's Chevy front axle and the need to relocate the spring hangers were decided.

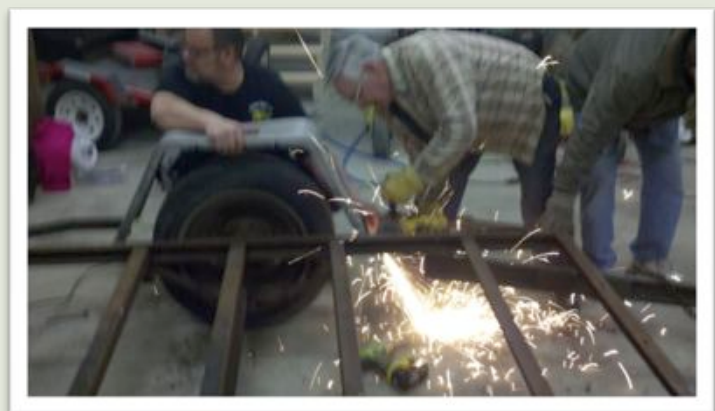
The session came to an end and Eric and I moved the trailer to John Lisota's garage where we removed the springs and axle. We loaded the frame back into the pickup and returned to the pole barn.

March 8, 2013

John Lisota, during the week, blasted and painted various parts for the trailer. Bob Steinmetz worked on the backing plates and brake shoes for the Chevy axle. Irv, Ken and Tim were busy checking on parts for the project. The frame and Chevy axle were blasted courtesy of Sugar Steel. The rust and other crud did not stand a chance after going through the shot blaster twice. We have a clean frame and axle to begin our reconstruction. Many pictures of this project were taken and selected ones will be in the Newsletter.

We will have more reconstruction news as the project progresses. Thanks to all who participated and to those who wanted to be there but could not.

Chuck Fritz



# “Michi gami” Circle Tour

## 1,100 Mile Odyssey

### September 7 – 14, 2013



The Lake Michigan Circle Tour route is the culmination of innovation and hard work by visionary Jack Morgan of the Michigan Department of Transportation. Just 14 months after Morgan introduced his Circle Tour concept in 1987, agreement to designate and fund it was reached between the governors of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. In 1998, the route was mapped and signs were posted along all 1100 miles of Lake Michigan's shoreline.



I am in the planning stages of the tour now and plan to split up the tour with a new lead car every day of the trip so everyone gets to enjoy the lead as well as following. The route will be finalized in the next few months as well as the stops for the night. As lead car you will have your route for the day well in advance of the trip and have the pleasure of finding attractions you may want to stop at along the way.

**Phil**



## DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Michigan is one of the 10 states the Dixie Highway travels through. As originally proposed, Michigan was not even considered a part of the route, which was to travel from Chicago to Miami. The residents of the Wolverine State would have none of this and were so successful in their lobbying efforts that by May 1915, Sault Ste. Marie was designated as the northern terminus of the highway. Their efforts also lead to a decision by national organizers to create western and eastern routes or "divisions" of the Dixie Highway.



## DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Each terminated in Sault Ste. Marie, where a monument was erected commemorating this distinction. One branch of the highway travelled down the east side of the lower peninsula while the other route travelled down the west side. Today in Michigan, some of the old highway is designated as U.S. 31, U.S. 23 and a by number of other state routes.

## A'S R US MEETING MINUTES

February 20, 2013

**MEETING LOCATION:** Park Forest Police Department Hosted by Commander Steve Coe

**CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT TIM BORCHERT AT :** 7:15PM The minutes were read by Sandy and unanimously approved as read.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Jim reported on the A'SRUS account and the Driving the Dixie account. A bill for \$10.00 was presented and approved for the State Registration of our club.

**FAMILY NEWS:** Phil announced that their daughter will be going to Tanzania prior to graduation from medical school. She will then be ready to serve her internship. The Senkpeils had 1 grandchild, a boy and 3 to go. Tim Bj reported that Titus has gained 3 lbs and doing well. Tim Bj. Announced that Joe and Marlene will be stepping down from their positions on the club board. Ken Chamis volunteered to take over for Marlene as the National Representative. Sandy volunteered to do e-mail Blurbs and notices, Irv volunteered to do the website, driving the Dixie maps etc and Phil volunteered to help keep Sandy & Irv on track. Tim Bj thanked Joe and Marlene in their absence for the generous contributions of their time and self which they have given to our club over the years. He also reminded the members to keep in touch. Phil stated he has heard from a Denver Model A club who are going to the Gilmore Museum. He stated he has extended an invitation for them to stay at his home and that it would be nice for us to meet with them. More info to follow.

**OLD BUSINESS: May 4<sup>th</sup> SHAKE DOWN CRUISE** Ken reported it will be a Barn Tour in Kankakee County and that more info will follow.

**April 27<sup>th</sup>:** Tim proposed a pre-trip **SAFETY CHECK** at Bobs Garage. All were in accord.

**May, 17,18 &19- SPRING TRIP** – Bob announced, more info will follow. Tim stated the last edition of the RESTORER had an activities agenda for the weekend.

There was no update on the possibility of a Pontiac Pre-war Festival.

**Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> thru Sept 13<sup>th</sup> EXPOSURE TRIP:** Phil suggested the trip run from Saturday to Saturday, that the extra day may be beneficial especially if there is any car trouble etc. If you are interested in going please give Phil a heads up.

**ON GOING BUSINESS:** Tim reported on the Feb 15<sup>th</sup> **Driving the Dixie meeting.** The towns are very interested in using the brochure sample that Phil & Jim presented as a baseline and Tim feels this may come to fruition this year. There was also discussion of a 2<sup>nd</sup> brochure for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dixie Hwy. **Tim further stated our club** needs to consider a special event for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and suggested the need for a committee. Phil, Steve, Tim D. Bob, Irv and Jim volunteered.

**Club Shirts/Jackets:** were again discussed. Nancy Poulsen is too busy to help at this time. Tim D. stated he has a customer in this line of work and would be happy to bring artwork etc to him. Colors were tossed around – a temporary decision was made for Red Henley shirts, with A'SRUS

## **Minutes Continued:**

and member name in black embroidery with a coupe model A in yellow with black fenders. We hope to have this decided and finished for Gilmore.

**CHUCK WAGON:** Ken Chamis has graciously agreed to donate a trailer to the club. A committee has formed to work on revising the trailer, estimated cost \$700.00. Tim Bj made mention that the club can't own property due to its present State of Illinois registration. Ken stated the trailer is already registered in his name, though it will belong to the club and will be exclusively for club use, he will continue that registration and get a license plate for it. The membership unanimously approved of accepting the trailer, registered in Kens name and of a \$700.00 budget for revisions.

**NEW BUSINESS: ANNUAL EVENTS COMMITTEE:** The committee Bob, Irv and Tim Bj presented a proposed A'SRUS Events list for further consideration. To be printed in this newsletter.

**PICNIC:** Discussion re: dates and a proposal to invite other clubs. A feeler will be sent out by Tim regarding the following options: DATES: June 23, June 30, July 21 or July 28<sup>th</sup>. Please get back to Tim with suggestions and choice of date so Jon can get the permit. Jon volunteered to coordinate the food and Char volunteered for Kids Games.

**ROUTE 30 NATIONAL TOUR:** To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lincoln Highway, Model A Clubs will be touring from the East and West to meet in Carney Nebraska. They will pass the 4 corners in Chicago Hgts on June 27<sup>th</sup> a Thursday. There was discussion regarding meeting the clubs for breakfast in Dyer, In. More info to follow.

**DONATIONS:** Sandy & Jim proposed that donations of \$50.00 be made to the following organizations. Dyer Historical Society; Ancilla Shirine; and Serviss House New Lyle Historical Society. You will recognize all of these from our fall trip. The membership approved the donation of \$50.00 to each organization, who so graciously opened their doors to our club.

**TECH TALK:** Jon has proposed the following: A Demo on a Babett Port Align Bore.... Date to follow.

**BREAKFAST:** March 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:00AM at Peachtree Restaurant after which you are welcome to work on the trailer, if parts are ready, at Chucks Garage.

**Misc Discussions:** PARK FOREST CAR SHOW, Ken shared information regarding this event. It is scheduled for Fathers Day. The club declined it as a function, however, if you are individually interested in participating contact Ken.

**JULY MEETING PLACE: ADD TIM & CAROL DIONNE AS HOSTS FOR THIS MEETING.** 50/50 \$59.00, Chuck won \$29.00. \$3.00 collected in badge fines and \$2.00 for New badges.

**Next months mtg:** MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>, CLAUDE AND NANCY POULSEN WILL HOST.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM. Tim thanked Steve for the snacks and for being a gracious host. Steve also provided a DVD on the 20,000,000<sup>TH</sup> FORD TOUR OF THE USA which we enjoyed while snacking. Ford was quite the diplomat and politician.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA**



## **Gilmore Museum Grande Opening**

**May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**Comfort Inn**

**622 Allegan Street**

**Plainwell, MI**

**269.685.9891**

**93.49 King or 2 Queens 99.10**

## Up and coming 2013 Events:

Meeting Wednesday March 20th: CLAUDE & NANCY POULSEN  
 11812 S. GLEN RD PALOS PARK, IL  
[nanpoul23@yahoo.com](mailto:nanpoul23@yahoo.com)

Gilmore MI, spring Trip: May 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

Exposure Trip / Lake Michigan Circle Tour:  
 September 7<sup>th</sup> thru the 13<sup>th</sup>

<b>March 20th</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Claude &amp; Nancy Poulsen</b> _____ <b>Palos Park, IL.</b> 11812 S. Glen Road
<b>April 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Tim &amp; Connie Borchert</b> _____ <b>Frankfort, IL.</b> 22547 N. Pebble Lake Ct
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Bob Steinmetz</b> _____ <b>Frankfort, IL</b> 24356 S. Harvest Hills Rd
<b>June 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Bob Steinmetz</b> _____ <b>Frankfort, IL</b> 24356 S. Harvest Hills Rd
<b>July 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting</b>	_____
<b>August 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Ken &amp; Dale Chamis</b> _____ <b>Oak Forest, IL.</b> 4924 Timber Court
<b>September 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Al &amp; Sandy Kaleta</b> _____ <b>Tinley Park, IL.</b> 5035 W. 171 <sup>st</sup>
<b>October 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting &amp; Auction</b>	<b>Irv &amp; Char Darnall</b> _____ <b>Peotone, IL.</b> 30461 S. 120 <sup>th</sup> Ave.
<b>November 220<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Chuck &amp; Linnea Fritz</b> _____ <b>Park Forest, IL.</b> 537 Lakewood Ave.
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup> &amp; Christmas Party</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Beggars Pizza ??</b> _____ <b>New Lenox, IL.</b>



**A's R-U's free shipping offer from the Brassworks**  
**<http://www.thebrassworks.net/>**

Historically, The Brassworks has supported regional Model A clubs with advertising, gift certificates and raffle items for events or tours. We enjoy receiving newsletters, seeing photos from the outings and tours, & talking with club members & editors from across the country. These publications are a constant reminder of the fellowship of the hobby and great tool to bring new enthusiasts and members.

As the economy has changed and the scope of our work has grown, our ability to support smaller groups in this fashion has become increasingly difficult. To continue our support, the Brassworks will be offering your club a month of free shipping on Model A radiators placed directly with us. Your club can choose the month to coincide with a tour or special event. Contact The Brassworks after selecting which month suits your group for details.

Coupons will be issued through the [www.thebrassworks.net](http://www.thebrassworks.net) website. Club members will be able to order online or call in with the coupon code. On the website there are photos of our radiators next to original Ford radiators and other useful information about our company and products. We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,  
Holen Johnson

500 Linne Road - Unit I  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
Tel: 805-239-2501  
Fax: 805-239-2545  
[www.thebrassworks.net](http://www.thebrassworks.net)

***This is the last month for this offer so  
take advantage of it if you can.***

## • A's R Us 2013 officers and Staff

- President – Tim Borchert
- Vice President – Irv Darnell / 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:

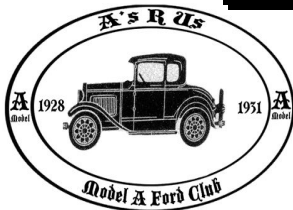
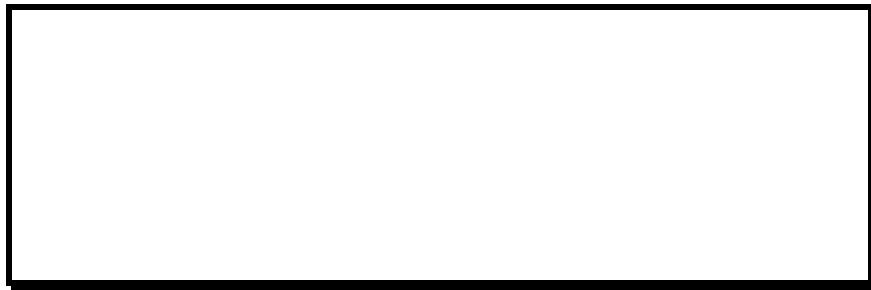
E Mail to: [taxserviss@att.net](mailto:taxserviss@att.net)

A new and improved  
Chuck Wagon on its way



## BACKFIRE

P.O. Box 3  
Crete, Illinois 60417



Mail To: