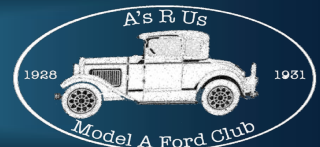


BACKFIRE



Volume#20

Issue#4

April 2015

The Carp, Editor in Chief



After months of hibernation it is almost time to un-bury the model A's. At this point I could put the snow blower away and take all the garbage off the running boards of the 31 and go for a ride. This option will have to wait for another week or so as Nancy and myself along with other friends are going to go to much warmer climates. All I can say is 50 degrees feels balmy right now! 80 will be absolutely fantastic. So if everyone can join me and pull are girls out and stretch their legs this weekend or next, you will find that "Touring Season" is here!

Phil

There are two A's entombed in the garage right now.



A'sRUS Ford Club

<http://www.as-r-us.com>

Presidents Comments

Perhaps spring has sprung?
Actually to soon to call but as I write this there is a fast thaw going on. I can see my grass again! So very soon we will be able to yank the A's out of storage and get some miles on them.

In 6 or 7 weeks we may have our first outing of the year, a combined shakedown and brunch to the Old Country Mansion in Dwight. I believe we have gone there at least 2 times as a club, and it way to long ago. Nice ride there and good food too. Looking forward to partake in the many opportunities to get together as a club and cruise. And speaking of cruuzzzzing; if you have a destination you believe may be cool place to visit, either plan it or tell someone, as there are many hidden treasures all around us hiding, so share, share, share.

Al Betchart has been rapidly updating our web page, www.as_r_us.com. Where's the next meeting? It's in there. I'm planning a vacation, but don't want to miss an outing, so just refer to the web site and check out the calendar. And that's just a spattering of the goodies packed inside.

I hope those who attended the February meeting enjoyed our guest speaker. There was a good amount of questions afterwards during the Q & A period. As far as insurance is concerned, we all hate paying for it, and hope never to need it, but sure glad we have it if the need arises.

Our award winning, internationally recognized, highly respected Editor in Chief Phillip Serviss is always looking for your input for our highly sought after journalistic documents known as "Backfire". Do you have a flair for writing, and I know some of us ain't got no good English, but that's okay. He is always looking for a different perspective on an event we attended, a parade, or what have you. He would be very grateful for anything sent to him.

Ken aka "Squeaks"



Snapshots of the March Meeting.



After over 2 years of meetings the first sample of the new Dixie Highway sign was unveiled to the group. These will be a joint project with the A'sRUS providing 50% of the cost of the signs and the participating towns funding the rest including installation. It looks as if a QR symbol will be added that will direct smart phones to a web site that will provide more information to those that are interested. The sites could be the towns own, or they could be directed to a site hosted by us to provide this information. The site could include more history, the town's local city or historical societies site, web coupons for local business to promote shopping or dining. This of course would be left up to the participating towns discretion. The hope is to have Blue Islands up by the June Driving the Dixie event. The rest by the October 100th anniversary of Dixie Highway. Congratulations to the committee pushing this project ahead.

Join US on the Spring 2015 Trip



This year we are venturing to LeClaire, Iowa. A vintage town lying right alongside the Mighty Miss, LeClaire offers much more than the site of American Pickers headquarters. A vibrant and quaint riverside downtown with lots of shopping, both boutique and antique, as well as restaurants and watering holes it is a step back in time. Other adventures include the Buffalo Bill Museum (his homestead is 12 miles north) as well as an authentic paddle wheeler.

The dates for this A's R Us Spring Trip is May 15th through May 17th. The trip is being planned by Jon and Ron and we have driven it one time already. Our hotel is chosen, the Comfort Inn and Suites in LeClaire with a block of 20 rooms (Kings at \$123 and Doubles at \$113 which includes hot breakfast) is set up.

Call **563-289-4747** for reservations in the block.

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Homewood is home to 14 murals created by famed muralist Richard Haas. Three of the murals celebrate the village's location on the Dixie Highway. One of these murals, on the west side of Dixie Highway at 187th Street, pays homage to the Dixie Service Garage. The mural actually blends the history of two service stations located on the Dixie Highway in Homewood. The first was the Homewood Service Garage built in 1924 by Bertram Heuer. In addition to auto repairs, Heuer sold and serviced Chevrolets and Sinclair brand gasoline. The business fell victim to the Depression and closed in 1936. The building was later converted to the Homewood Theatre, opening in 1937 and was eventually demolished in 1992.

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

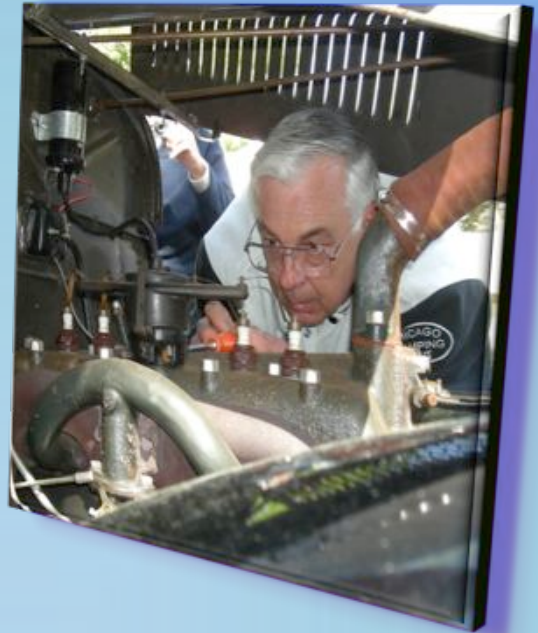
By Jim Wright



The Dixie Service Garage, owned by Raymond and Walter Schmidt, was built in the late teens and was located on the southeast corner of 183rd Street and the Dixie Highway. The brothers also lost the business in the Depression. It then became Ruge's Super Service and in 1949 Van Drunen Ford bought the building, enlarged it and ran their dealership there until 1973. De Re Automotive took over and the last business occupying the building was Chuck's House of Magic. Ironically, the building burned down in a spectacular fire on Halloween night 2004. A Chase bank branch is located on the site today. The mural incorporates elements of both businesses and the artist also painted one of his favorite cars and Nicki, a Black Lab owned by Homewood's mayor, in the scene.

Jon Lisota:

Motor Medic



Tech Tip

When working on the cooling system of you're A's and you are working on the return outlet this must be torqued down to the head bolt specs. A normal head torque is 55 foot pounds. If you have a hi compression head you will then need to go to 65 ft. lbs. A problem can arise with using the gaskets supplied by the part houses. The outlet water neck will crack if using these gaskets. What happens is gasket compresses underneath the ends where the nuts are tightened, but the middle part of the gasket does not. I have found that by filing the gasket surface of the outlet housing to a nice flat surface, and doing the same with the surface on the head where it is mounted, this eliminates this problem. Once both surfaces are filed flat, coat with No. 4 Permatex. Then I use a piece of grocery shopping bag. (paper) to make a gasket. Just lay the paper on the head or water outlet and gently tap with a small ball peen hammer. This will cut the paper and form a perfect gasket. Now when you torque the nuts for the outlet housing, they will not crack. I have broken several of these before figuring out how not to. With this method, you will not ever break one again.

Jon

Sandy Kaleta Reporter on the Know!



2316 Madison St., West from York, showing condition of roadway after snowfall. (AP) Dec. 24/27.



1920's Womens Sweaters and Cardigans: Fashion of the 1920's can't be discussed without mentioning the fashion queen Coco Chanel. She reinvented women's fashion borrowing frequently from men's fashions, especially the sweater. She introduced the Sweater-Shirt, a man's sweater worn with pushed up sleeves and a thin belt around the middle. It caught on quickly, what's not to like about a comfortable, casual sweater. Coco then trimmed down the man's sweater into a lighter, more fitted pull over women's shirt style.

The Cardigan jacket was introduced by Chanel in 1925. It was a sweater that buttoned part way up the center leaving a deep open V in front. A cardigan that buttoned to the neck was referred to as a ladies Blazer coat. Both jacket and coat had thick vertical stripes, black, orange, red, white and purple.

Out of the Cardigan came a sleeveless coat sweater or what we call a knit vest. This became very popular with golfers. Susan Lenglen and Julie Vlasto, six-time Wimbledon champion set shocked the fashion world by wearing short skirts and knit sweaters. Common Cardigan colors were pale green, orange,

burgundy, salmon, peacock blue, golden yellow, tan and black. Solids had knit texture, for a bolder look wide horizontal stripes, narrow vertical stripes and all over large print checks and plaids gave variety.



**A'S R US MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

MEETING LOCATION:

- **Tim and Carol hosted this meeting with 17 members present.**

Pre Meeting Presentation:

- **Prior to the business meeting Karen Waslawski from Hagerty Insurance gave an informative presentation: Highlights : information regarding insurance renewals, altering values, consolidating multiple cars on one policy, travel endorsement for longer trips, towing package, trip interruption, kit cars, supervised drivers for age 26 and under, and a question re: Liability insurance for Driving the Dixie. Jim will investigate with MAFCA and there was discussion re; Hagerty sponsorship for the Driving the Dixie. For information or questions regarding the above information contact Karen at Hagerty Insurance.**

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT 7:04PM.

January minutes were read by Sandy and approved as read.

TREASURERS REPORT:

- **Jim reported the balance for the A's account was \$ [REDACTED] and the Dixie account was \$ [REDACTED]. His report was approved as read.**

FAMILY NEWS:

- **BOB reported Penny is much improved and exercising. JON said Yvonne is doing better. Al was at the meeting....**

OLD BUSINESS:

- **DALE reported on Ronald McDonald House. Date available is June 15, 2015 for Oak Lawn, Karen stated there is more availability at the U of C facility. A menu has to be presented, Dale suggested a BBQ, more info to follow.**
- **JON stated there was nothing new to report re: The Spring Trip, 20 rooms have been blocked for those attending.**
- **JIM reported on the Driving the Dixie meeting on February 7th. This Driving the Dixie will be similar to past events. Next meeting will be in Hazel Crest, date to be determined.**
- **There was discussion regarding signage and posts for participating communities (10-12 towns) and an example sign was displayed. There was further discussion regarding QR Symbols and Al B recommended a 2"x2" symbol. He further stated he can arrange for the QR symbol to direct inquiries to the Town Website and our A'sRUS website.**
- **The Art Institute stated we can use their facility, but there is no parking and they have no control over Michigan Ave. Use of Roosevelt Rd was discussed.**

- **BOB** reported the Chefs Auction is a go, dates for consideration are April 12, 19, and 26th. Ken proposed we have our Shakedown Cruise on the same day and we will consider period dress.
- **Al B** reported pictures have been placed. old issues of our Newsletter scanned and the site is looking great. He would like more pics and information sent to him by e-mail, CD or Thumb Drives. allan@swicago.com. To view our Web Site go to: www.as-r-us.com

NEW BUSINESS: UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **PICNIC** date will be June 28th, JON will book the date and be reimbursed by the club treasury.
- **GRINDERS GAME** date to be selected, Tim Bots will have a schedule next meeting. **FALL TOUR:** Dixie Highway to Danville, October 23, 24 and 25th. Jim stated more info to come.

MISC DISCUSSIONS:

- **KEN** proposed we talk with Chuck re: a fundraiser, car show or swap meet. Also to talk with Wally regarding this years parades.
- Ken further discussed the A's attending a Soup Kitchen invitation from the Calumet Club on March 29th, Crete Park, Il. Flier to follow.
- Ken tossed around the idea of the club going to the Chicagoland Speedway or Pontiac, Il for day trips.
- Bob suggested touring KIPERS Museum in Kalamazoo. More discussion to follow.
- Bob offered his 3 prime spaces at the Swap Meet on the 2nd Sunday in June for anyone in the membership who would like to take his place on that day. Let Bob know if you are interested.

BADGE Fines: \$1.00, 50/50 \$60.00 Winner: Steve \$30.00. Club \$30.00

Next months mtg: Wednesday March 18th more information to follow

Adjourn: Ken thanked our hosts Tim and Carol for a delicious spread and for their hospitality. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA
SECRETARY**

A's R US master sign up responsibilities sheet 2015

So that not just a few people are overwhelmed with things to keep a smooth oiled running club, a list of some things that we have available for the members can do for the upcoming year. And don't be afraid to sign up for more than 1 item, or team up with someone.

Thanks

- 1. Parade coordinator ...Keeps us up to date on local events, does applications, and informs the club of items for the event.***

- 2. National Representative ...Liaison between the club and the MAFCA. Also submits a summary of our events for the Restorer.***

- 3. Inter club relations officer ... Keeps in touch with the other local clubs for one or more joint ventures during the year.*** _____
- 4. Swap meet, cruise night event manager***

- 5. Calendar of events manager... Keeps a complete calendar of all upcoming club events, informs both Sandy to email and Allan to add to the club website he maintains***

- 6. Historian ...Keeper of the items of our past***

- 7. Spring trip organizers***

- 8. Fall trip organizers***

- 9. Shakedown organizers***

- 10. Tech talks presenters***

- 11. Breakfast meeting manager***

- 12. Director of safety***

- 13. Greeter ...Welcomes guests, contact person for them***

- 14. Bereavements***

- 15. Sergeant at arms & 50/50 raffle manager***

- 16. Director of Cultural affairs ...*** _____ ***Phillip Serviss*** _____
- 17. Events sub categories..***
 - a. Picnic***

 - b. Christmas festivities ...*** _____
 - c. Grinders ball game ...*** _____

Up and coming 2015 Events:



Now this is Snow Fighting equipment!

Looking forward into 2015

Ronald McDonald House

Shake Down Trip

Veterans Home

58th. Annual Hesston Steam & Power Show 2015

Exposure Trip 2015 Door County WI ?

Newport Hill Climb

Fall Trip

Teen Bridge Center

Spring Trip

Camp Quality

Labor Day Sept. 1st

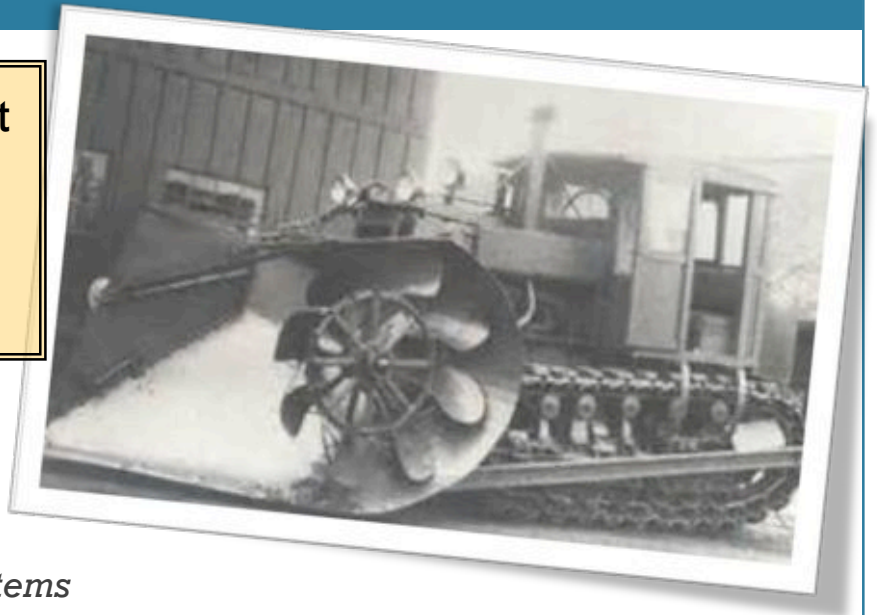
September

October 3rd - 5th

A's R Us 2015 Officers and Staff

- President – Ken Chamis
- Vice President –Randy Senkpeil
- Treasure –Jim Wright
- Secretary – Sandy Kaleta
- Newsletter – Phillip Serviss
- Member Relations – Ken Chamis
- Web Page – Allen Betschart
- Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom
- Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau
- Nat'l Rep. – Ken Chamis
- Historian – Ken Chamis
- Sgt. At Arms Steve Coe
- Motor Medic - Jon Isota

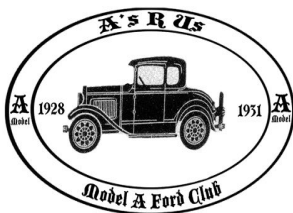
Snow fighting equipment



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