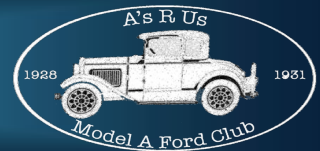


# BACKFIRE

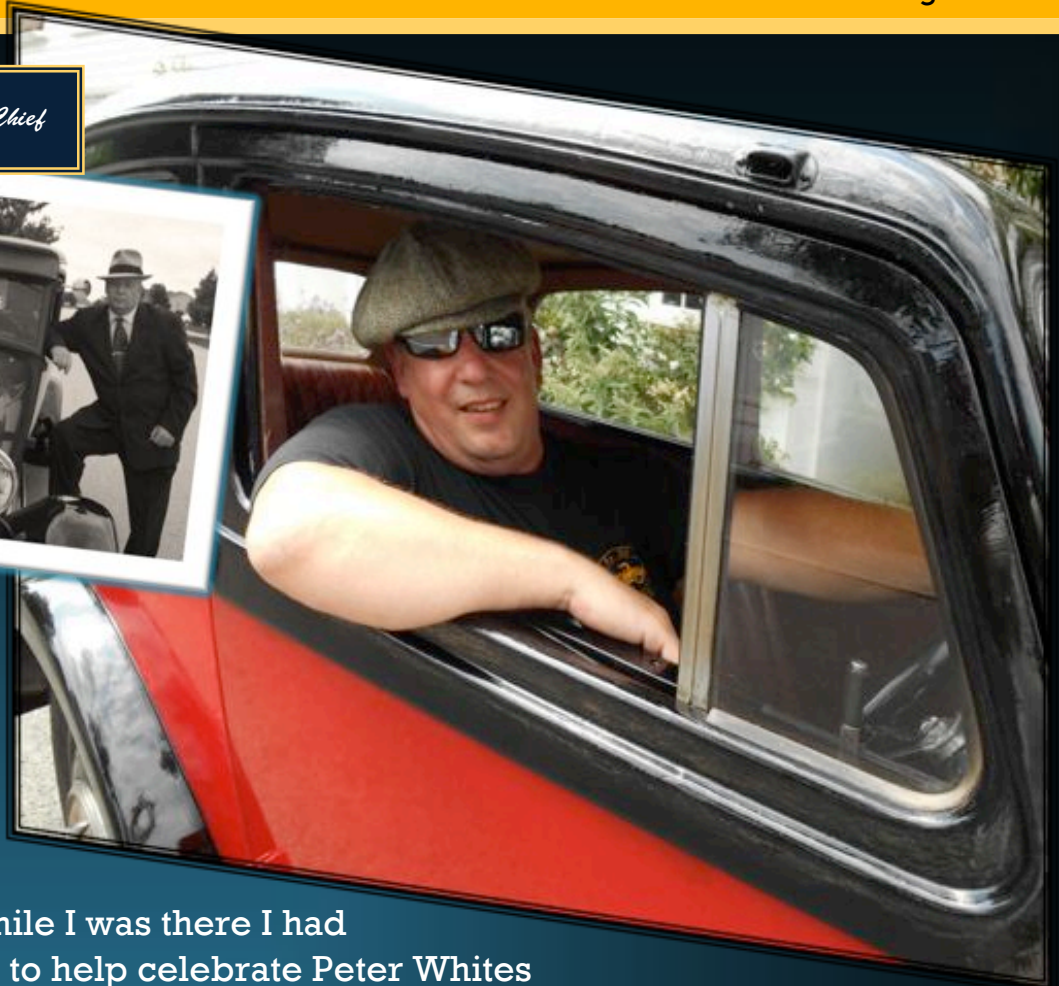


Volume#20

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*The Carp, Editor in Chief*



It's been a very busy June/July for me. I just got back from Hastings, England to visit

Andrew White. While I was there I had the great pleasure to help celebrate Peter Whites birthday, Andrews dad. I also was able to spend a day with Paul Dine and drive his 1935 Morris 8 around Rye. I also met up with Andy and his girls along with Dave and Pauline. The 8 days went by fast and it was over. The one thing I noticed while there was it was rare to see any old cars at all on the road. I certainly didn't see any A's unfortunately. Next month I'll be able to catch up on our all our clubs activities as we have been very active. Until next month,

See you soon, *Phil*

Jon wiping the rain off before the Crete parade.



A'sRUS Ford Club

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

# Independence Day Celebrations



Karen and pat



My little helper Morgan



Ron's 1931 4 Door  
and Bruce's 1930  
Pick-up



# Independence Day Celebrations



Jim's 1954 Ford



Wally and Kay's 1931 Victoria



Tim and Pat's 1929 Tudor

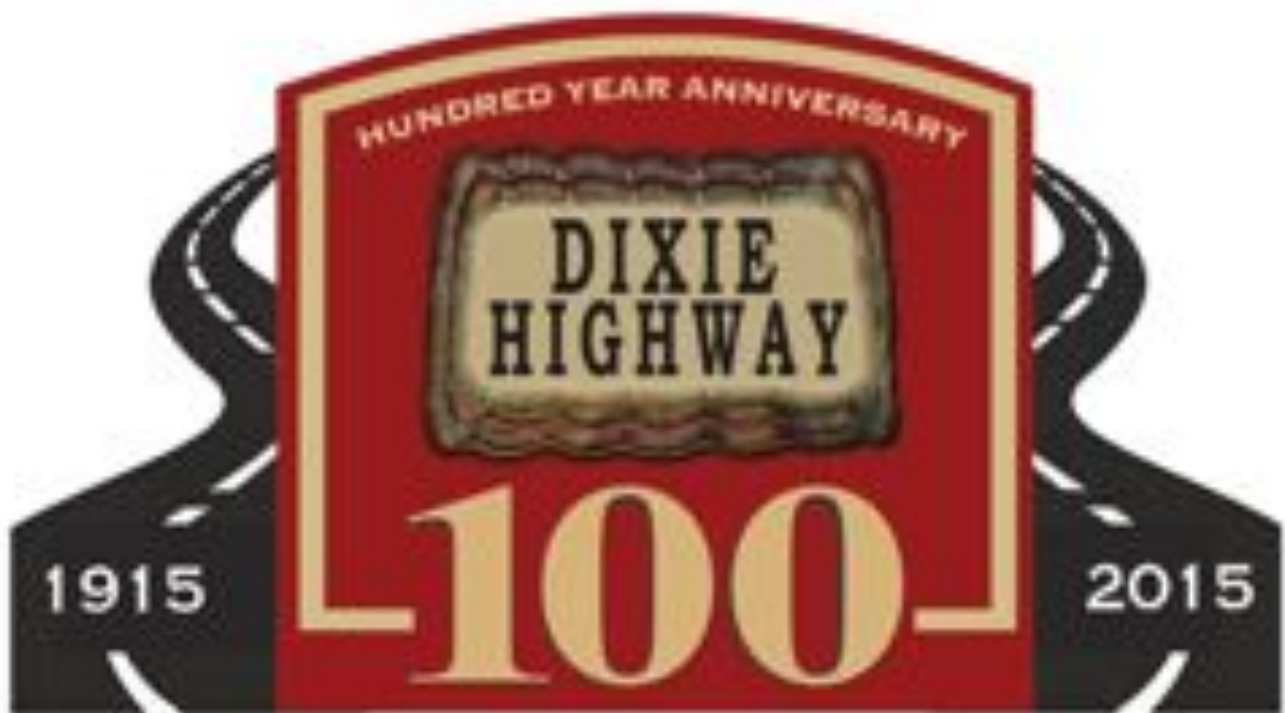
Ken and Dale's  
1929 Tudor

Phil and Nancy's 1931  
Tudor that ran out of  
gas before the parade  
even started. Note to  
self "check gas before  
going to the parade"



# DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



During this year's Drivin' the Dixie, a commemorative sticker celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Dixie Highway was given to all the registered participants. The sticker, designed by Pam Peckman, Bob and Penny Steinmetz's daughter, incorporates the original cotton bale logo of the Dixie Highway that dates to 1915. Flanking the logo, are images of roadway with the dates 1915 and 2015, in honor of the highway's centennial. As a tribute to the A's R Us involvement in the annual Drivin' the Dixie, the shape of the sticker design is meant to loosely mimic the shape of the front of a Model A.

## DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



During this year's event, another Drivin' the Dixie logo was used on the t-shirts sold by the A's R Us. Designed by Paul Simpson of Momenca, the logo was originally used on the Dixie Highway brochure completed in cooperation with the community groups in 2013. The sleek logo incorporates a Model T driving down a roadway with the wording "Drivin' the Dixie." The Model T was used to represent the vehicles on the highway in 1915 when it was established. The t-shirts and design were a big hit at the Drivin' the Dixie, with close to 100 sold that day. The remaining shirts will be sold at our Dixie events this fall.

# Sandy Kaleta Reporter on

\*STORY NUMBER ONE \*

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder.

Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. Eddie was

very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal maneuvering kept Big Al out of jail for a long time.

To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, but Eddie got special dividends, as well. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live-in help and all of the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago City block. Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him.

Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Eddie saw to it that his young son had clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object. And, despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was. Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example.



One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie wanted to rectify wrongs he had done.

He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al "Scarface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some semblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. So, he testified.

Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street. But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer, at the greatest price he could ever pay. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion, and a poem clipped from a magazine.

The poem read:

"The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Live, love, toil with a will. Place no faith in time. For the clock may soon be still."



## \* STORY NUMBER TWO \*

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare.

He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific.

One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank.

He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship.

His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet.

As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American fleet.

The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenseless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet.

Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another.

Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent.





Undaunted, he continued the assault. He dove at the planes, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly.

Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction.

Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier.

Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had, in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft. This took place on February 20, 1942, and for that action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of W.W.II, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Medal of Honor.

A year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His hometown would not allow the memory of this WW II hero to fade, and today, O'Hare Airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man.

So, the next time you find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honor. It's located between Terminals 1 and 2.

**\*SO WHAT DO THESE TWO STORIES HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER? \***

Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.



**A'S R US MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 17, 2015**

**MEETING LOCATION: Bob Steinmetz Frankfort Garage.**

**CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT 6:53PM. May minutes were read by Sandy and approved as read.**

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

**JIM reported a current balance of \$ [REDACTED] in the A's account and [REDACTED] in the Dixie account. He stated there has been a lot of activity on the Dixie account, preregistrations, signage expenses etc. He will have an up to date report next month, which will include Driving the Dixie. His report was approved as read.**

**FAMILY NEWS:**

**Ken reported that Yvonne is home from the hospital and doing somewhat better. He also read a thank you card from Nancy and Phil to the club, for the flowers, cards and prayers.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**DALE reported that the Ronald McDonald event was a great success. She further stated she hopes we put this on our agenda again this year. She will have more information at the next meeting.**

**GRINDERS GAME: was tabled, waiting for Tim Bots to bring the schedule to select another date.**

**ST. DAMIAN CHURCH in Oak Forest is having their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Car Show in conjunction with its Block Party on August 1, 2015 from Noon to 4 PM. We have been invited to participate.**

**ST. JAMES at the Sag has changed the date of their Car Show and Picnic to July 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**A'SRUS PICNIC: AT Goodenow Grove on June 28<sup>th</sup>. An e-mail is to be sent out to the membership to determine if enough members are going to attend to continue with the picnic plans for this year. An e-mail is also to be sent out to the membership regarding the Crown Point 5K run and car show on the morning of June 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**FALL TOUR:**

**Dixie Hwy to Danville on October 9, 10, & 11<sup>th</sup>. Rooms are at the Holiday Inn in Danville: 1-217-442-2500 for Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>. Double Queens \$98.00/night and Kings \$103.90/night. Please make your reservations.**

**VETERANS HOME: the month has been changed to September. Jim will make contact for date availability.**

**KEN reported he has received a copy of our Charter from MAFCA and our registration.**

**DRIVING THE DIXIE update: the signup sheet was discussed and assignments were completed. T-shirts were brought by Jim for sale at the event, they were purchased and it was approved to sell for \$10.00@. It was decided that the club members would wear our Driving the Dixie shirts from the past or our red club shirts for the event this year. Wally will get the Trophys for the Cub Cars Derby in Steger, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Bob brought all the signage and supplies he had been storing since last year for pass out.**

**JIM discussed our club paying a percentage of the Driving the Dixie signage to have our A'SRUS LOGO placed on each sign. It was motioned and approved (by: Bob/Phil) that the club will pay a \$100.00 supplement toward the signage from Blue Island to Danville. Jim estimates it will be 5-6 signs. WALLY thanked Jim for his time and dedication to this project.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**WALLY reported that Homewood will be having a Parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY.. 8:00 AM line up in the Church parking lot to be followed by a BBQ at Phil and Nancys, bring a dish. The Beacher Parade follows with a 4:00 PM start.**

**WALLY/TIM extended an invitation for a Shrimp, Corn Boil on September 5<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day weekend, at their Cedar Lake Club.**

**We have been asked to please bring our cars again. It was reported that Frankfort is having a Parade on September 6<sup>th</sup>, but the membership passed on participation.**

**MISC DISCUSSIONS: BREAKFAST MEETING; was tabled for this month due to all the planned activities. Ken thanked Bob for hosting this months meeting. Refreshments were from the Ronald McDonald dinner.**

**No Badge fines collected. 50/50 drawing: winner Phil \$29.00 and \$29.00 to the club.**

**Next months mtg: Will be a Tim and Pat Bots home.**

**Meeting Adjourn: at 8:07 PM**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA  
SECRETARY**

## Up and coming 2015 Events:



My new hat and our club shirt, oh ya and dark sunglasses. All set to drive on the wrong side of the road.

### 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. 1<sup>st</sup>

September

October 3rd – 5<sup>th</sup>

## A's R Us 2015 Officers and Staff

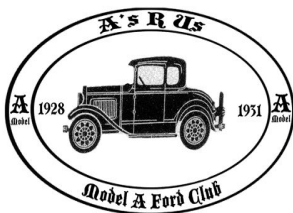
- President – Ken Chamis
- Vice President –Randy Senkpeil
- Treasure –Jim Wright
- Secretary – Sandy Kaleta
- Newsletter – Phillip Serviss
- Member Relations – Ken Chamis
- Web Page – Allen Betschart
- Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom
- Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau
- Nat'l Rep. – Ken Chamis
- Historian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

1935 Morris 8. Not a model A but still fun to drive.



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

# BACKFIRE



P.O. Box 3  
Crete, Illinois 60417