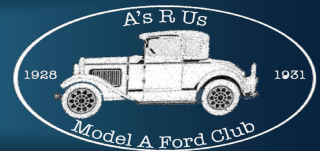


BACKFIRE



Volume#20

Issue#6

June 2015

The Corp, Editor in Chief



We have just gotten back from a wonderful weekend with the A'S R US family to Le Clair Iowa. The weather was forecasted as a pretty wet weekend. We had no rain at all and the ride was getting hot in the car. Thank goodness for 5 point air-conditioning. Out of the 17 cars that went we came back with 17 and only a couple problems.

Now that we are back the final preparations for 100 Years of "Driving The Dixie" are under way and there are a few new things to do. See you soon,

Phil



Heading thru Joliet, IL towards Iowa.



A'sRUS Ford Club

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

Presidents Comments

Driving the Dixie is just about upon us. Remember we need all hands available for this. During the May meeting we need people to sign up for this once a year event. Please save the date!

The trip in May to LeClaire Iowa is going to be a fun trip. My car is ready, and pulling a new to me larger trailer that is set up for my personal taste is all set.

I am so happy after the April meetings tech talk. Why you ask. Because I think that the hands on tech talks are working. Jon Lisota brought several ready to go water pumps, along with the necessary parts to rebuild them. Steve Coe and Tim Dionne spent the time putting them into ready to go status. Bob Steinmetz and Randy Senkpeil were assisting in the rebuilding process. Even tho they were already apart and sandblasted, the whole tech procedure was a success. They got their hands dirty, and gave them the ability to do it themselves if necessary. Thanks to all who participated.

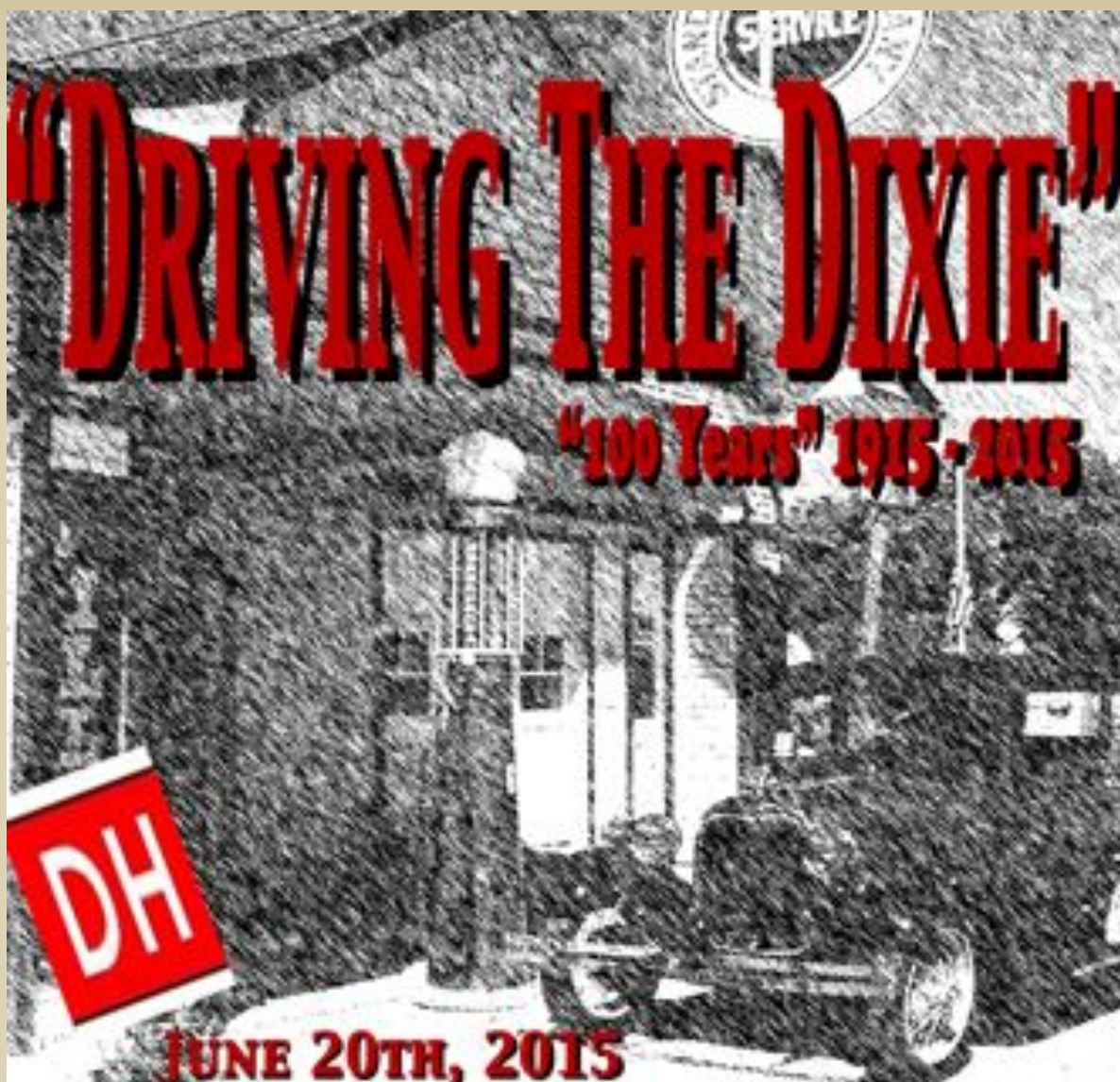
The May tech talk and meeting, to be held at the Steinmetz Auto Facility in Frankfort, will encompass the viewing, disassembly of the crank bearings, and plastic gauging of the lower ends of 2 engines. One is an engine I purchased last year and is supposedly rebuilt with little mileage about 30 years ago. The other is an engine Bob has and I believe it's the one he uses for demonstrations. As we have tried this before, it was difficult because the motor was still in a car. This will make things more viewable and easier for all to see. If you have never heard of or seen a torque wrench in action, this tech talk will be for you.

Randy suggested an upcoming tech talk that needs to be attended. Almost every trip some ones points go out of adjustment, or may need to be replaced. So for that Bobs portable engine will be brought to a meeting and a tune up will be done. How to adjust plugs, install them properly, along with the points replacement and adjustments.

If you have a suggestion for a tech talk, let someone know. Now go get you A out into you're A.

Ken aka "Squeaks"





JUNE 20TH, 2015
"Illinois Largest moving car show!"

- * Meet new people and enjoy the automotive hobby with 150 other enthusiasts
- * Self Guided with passports to win prizes at the end of the run.
- * Lunch Provided by Steger, IL with your entry fee
- * *Blue Island to Momence down Historic Dixie Highway*
- * *Historic Homes, Historic business to Learn and explore at your leisure*
- * *New stop at Mi-Jack in Hazel Crest. Sign up for a tour of the plant*
- * *See the first of the new Dixie Highway Heritage Wayside Signs*

\$15.00 Pre registration cutoff June ,10th

Mail registration to: A'sRUS PO Box #3 Crete, IL 60417

\$20.00 the day of in Blue Island Starting at 8:00 am

Dixie and High Street downtown Blue Island rain or shine.

website: drivingthedixie.com



DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright

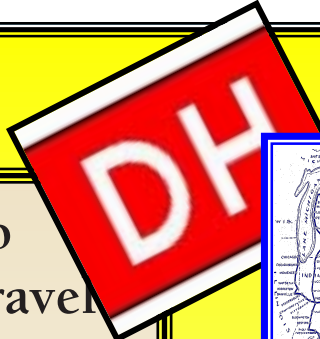


At long last, after almost 2 years, the first Dixie Highway interpretive sign was installed in Blue Island on May 7th. The sign is located in a park on the east side of Western Avenue (Dixie Highway) just north of York Street. It is one of 12 signs to be produced from proceeds from the Drivin' the Dixie through the generosity and the collaborative efforts of the A's R Us and the community groups responsible for organizing the annual event. The sign was installed courtesy of the City of Blue Island. More signs should be installed by the Drivin' the Dixie.

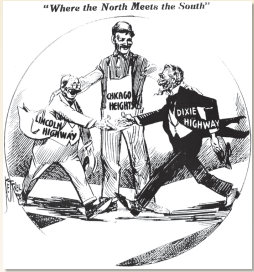
DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright

Dixie Highway connected Chicago to Miami in the early days of automobile travel



The Lincoln-Dixie Theatre opened on June 23, 1921 and it could accommodate 2,500 guests for vaudeville, opera, and dramatic performances. Note the flags with its Dixie-Lincoln Highway marker on the buildings. (Courtesy of the Chicago Heights Public Library)



As the Star newspaper cartoon of 1915 proudly illustrates, with the intersection of the nation's two highest transcontinental highway systems at its center, Chicago Heights would become "The Crossroads of the Nation." (Courtesy of Jim Wright)



With its soaring tower, this ornate art deco structure has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance and is also included on the Society of Architectural Historians register of top 100 significant buildings in Illinois. Broom High School was erected during the early 1930s as part of a Great Depression Era WPA project. On February 6, 1934 students led their parade from "Old Bloom" to the completed "New Bloom." (Courtesy of Broom High School)



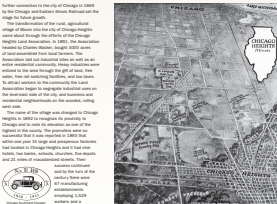
This traffic marker with both the Dixie and Lincoln Highway insignias was located in the corner of Chicago Road/Dixie Highway at its intersection with Illinois Street. This section of Dixie Highway, running north from South Tall to 14th Street, was also overlaid with the original Lincoln Highway route. (Courtesy of the Lincoln Highway Association/Courtesy of University of Kentucky)

Chicago Heights: from ancient railway to crossroads of the nation

Ancient roots
The ancient roots of Chicago Heights, Illinois, date back to the early 1800s when the area was a small settlement. The name "Chicago Heights" was first used in 1889 when the Chicago and North Western Railway built a station here. The area was known for its coal mines and was a major center of industry in the early 20th century.

Dixie Highway Resurgence
The resurgence of the Dixie Highway in Chicago Heights is a testament to the city's rich history and its role in the development of the automobile industry. The highway was built in 1915 and was one of the first long-distance highways in the United States. It was a major route for travelers and goods, and it played a significant role in the growth of the city.

Chicago Heights: Crossroads of the Nation
Chicago Heights is a city of many firsts. It was the first city in Illinois to have a streetcar, and it was the first city in the world to have a streetcar that ran on a single track. It was also the first city in the world to have a streetcar that ran on a single track and was the first city in the world to have a streetcar that ran on a single track.



This 1925 map published by the Chicago Heights Chamber of Commerce clearly illustrates the intersection of the Lincoln and Dixie Highways at the city's center. Note the original route of Dixie Highway as it enters Chicago Heights from the north. Originally travelers were required to turn east and travel a short distance down the Dix Road before continuing south on Chicago Road/Dixie Highway through downtown.

This sign celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Dixie Highway and was made possible by the cooperation efforts of the A.V. Edman and Homewood Garage, Inc., Madison, West Coast, Homewood, Evanston, Chicago Heights, Singer, Crain, Beaches, Great Park and Monroeville.



Dixie Highway connected Chicago to Miami in the early days of automobile travel



Homewood Service Garage, built in 1935 on the west side of Dixie Highway just south of Ridge Road, and Beaches East Coast Gasoline. Some early auto owners stored their vehicles here because they did not have garages to accommodate them at home.

Homewood: a bustling town grows along a former Indian trail

Homewood is a town that has grown along a former Indian trail. The town was founded in 1835 and has since become a major center of industry and commerce. The Dixie Highway played a significant role in the town's growth, as it provided a major route for travelers and goods. The town is now a bustling town with a rich history and a bright future.



This sign celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Dixie Highway and was made possible by the cooperation efforts of the A.V. Edman and Homewood Garage, Inc., Madison, West Coast, Homewood, Evanston, Chicago Heights, Singer, Crain, Beaches, Great Park and Monroeville.



**A'S R US MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2015**

MEETING LOCATION: Ken and Dale Chamis hosted this meeting with 22 members present

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT 7:10PM. March minutes were read by Sandy and approved as read.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Jim reported the Driving the Dixie account is [REDACTED] and the A's account is [REDACTED]. He also stated [REDACTED] has been deducted from the Dixie account as 1/2 of the payment for Blue Islands Driving the Dixie signage. This report was approved as given.

FAMILY NEWS:

SANDY updated the membership on Al's Spinal Stenosis. Tim B stated Connie is recovering nicely.

KEN reported that Ken McNealey has had surgery for skin cancer and he and Arlene are hoping to join us for the Spring trip.

IRV reported that Paul Hankowitz has had 5 cardiac stents recently.

OLD BUSINESS:

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE:

has been confirmed for June 15, 2015 and it will be a Chuck Wagon Meal.

SPRING TRIP:

Jon reported the rooms are full but Tim stated we are able to book a room at the Super 8, next door to the Comfort Inn. Group will leave on May 15th from the Wilmington Restaurant at 9:00AM, for more information check our website and March Newsletter.

GRINDERS GAME:

is scheduled for October 4th. Meet at Hobart Field at 12:00. Bring your lunch, drinks and goodies to share. Game starts at 2:00PM.

**A'S R US MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2015**

DRIVING THE DIXIE:

Ken read a sample registration/disclaimer form for the event. With a minor change it was approved.

Karen stated she doesn't have 2014'S registrations for participant's addresses/emails. Bob stated he will check the boxes he has. Participation is \$15.00 again this year.

PHIL stated the Website is being changed to reflect the distinctive events that are happening in each community, eg: participants will be involved in judging a car show in one community. Details will follow. Sign up for June 20th

Driving the Dixie will be at the next meeting, we need all members to participate.

KEN: reported that he was unable to find an insurance company willing to cover a co-sponsored event at an affordable cost.

JIM :reported 5 communities have their signage layout, 4 are ready for graphics and 3 have yet to respond. He is hopeful that the signage will be up in Blue Island for Driving the Dixie. Conversation followed regarding dedication of the signs. Jim suggested to have all dedications on the 8th & 9th of October on our way to Danville for our Fall Trip. Jim is checking in to something for the club to sell, T-shirts, hats, visors etc.

BOB: reminded the members that this Saturday is the WW11 breakfast event at Durbin's, 173rd and Oak Park, 9:00 AM arrival.

KEN reported that the Soup Kitchen event was a big success, over 80 people attended and the food was great. JON stated more info will follow regarding the Picnic, on June 28th. He did contact the Calumet A's Club but hasn't had a response yet. FALL TOUR, Jim stated more info will follow.

KEN thanked Bob for hosting the preseason Tune up Clinic and Jon for his expertise. It was an overall success and cars are running better.

REMINDER: Send pics and articles for our website to Al B allan@swicago.com. To view our Web Site just click here: www.as-r-us.com

NEW BUSINESS: PHIL reported that the 2015 Exposure Trip to Door County is planned for September 13th to the 20th. Those who are interested should call him for Hotel Information.

IRV stated that he heard via the grapevine that Chuck Miller has the copy of our Club Charter. Ken stated he will check into getting that copy or a new one from the state.

NEW PROPOSALS :

BOB stated there is a 1950 circa movie being made on Church Rd this Friday & Saturday. They are looking for a Model A. Phil said he will call them.

BOB stated he received a letter from St. Damians Church in Oak Forest, requesting we participate in their 1st Annual Classic Car Show in conjunction with their Block Party on Saturday August 1st. No decision was made.

KEN made mention that we have been invited to attend St James of Sac In Lemont, Annual festival on June 14th from 12:00 on.

MARLENE is interested in selling a radio for \$50.00 and has donated a box of period clothes and hats. If interested contact Bob abssurplus@aol.com.

BREAKFAST: Saturday May 2nd , 8:30am Peachtree Restaurant.
50/50: \$54.00 \$27.00 to Tim/Pat and \$27.00 to the club.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 20th BOB'S GARAGE IN FRANKFORT.

KEN THANKED those who brought goodies for the meeting and Bonnie/Randy for their help.

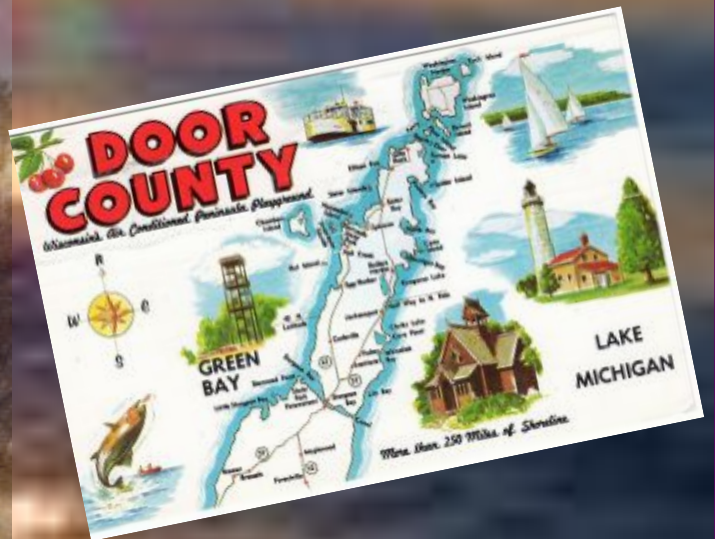
MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:15 with a water pump Tech Talk to Follow.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
SANDY KALETA,
SECRETARY.

Exposure Trip 2015

Door County Wisconsin

September 13th - 20th



Up and coming 2015 Events:



Linnea's celebration of her 65th birthday at the Frankfort Bier Stube along with some good friends!

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

CRETE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Monday, May 25, 2015

Parade at 12:00 NOON down Main Street
from Crete Park to Burville Road

"We Thank You for Your Service"

2015 Parade Theme

11:00 AM
MEMORIAL SERVICE
with our veterans
in Crete Park at
the Amvets War
Memorial

Parade Applications are available at the
Village Hall and online at www.villageofcrete.org

COME
JOIN US!

Beecher 4th of July FESTIVAL

Wednesday, July 1st - 6 pm to Midnight

5:45 pm - Kiddie and pet parade (line-up at 5:15 pm)
6-10 pm - \$20 Wrist bands
7:30 - 11 pm - Maggie Speaks on main stage
11 pm - Early bird car drawing

Thursday, July 2nd - 6 pm to Midnight

6-10 pm - \$20 Wrist bands
7:30-11 pm - Final Say on main stage
11 pm - Early bird car drawing

Friday, July 3rd - 2 pm to Midnight

2:30-7:30 pm - 4-H Farm Expo
4-7 pm - Chamber of Commerce Pork Chop Dinner
2:30-5:30 pm - Iron Horse on main stage
5:30-6:30 pm - Magician
6-10 pm - \$20 Wrist bands
7:30-11pm - Kingfish on main stage
11pm - Early bird car drawing

Saturday, July 4th - 12 noon to Midnight

7-7:50 am - Lions Club 5K Run/Walk Registration
8:15 am - Lions Club 5K Run/Walk begins
12 Noon - Carnival and all stands but beer open
3 pm - Beer stand opens
2-3:30 pm - Parade line-up and registration
3 pm - Float judging
4pm - Parade
7 -11 pm - KO Bossy on main stage
10 pm - Fireworks
11 pm - Car drawing
12 midnight - Festival closes

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

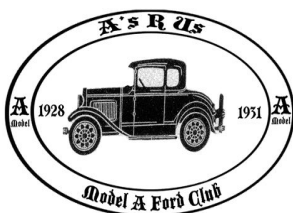
Al and Sally from the
“Mid City Hotel” in
Bloomington, IL.



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

E Mail to: taxserviss@att.net

BACKFIRE



P.O. Box 3
Crete, Illinois 60417