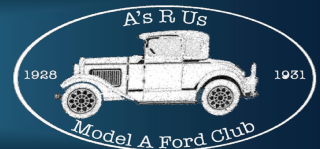


# BACKFIRE



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March 2015

*The Carp, Editor in Chief*



Kayoz Swicago has been promoting our web site and I thank her very much. The introduction to the site says: "A'sRUS is a family friendly Model A classic car club. We have been a club for over 19 years and have a very strong membership from as young as 18 all the way up to (dare we say) 70+ year old members. We are an official club of the Model A Ford Club of America association. We get together once a month for our meetings and also have nearly every month small to large events. Our small events consist of car gatherings at a local diner, breakfasts, wrench fests, fundraisers, dinners, short distance trips < 100miles. Our larger events are usually multi day trips, which consist of visiting museums, historic sites, ice cream parlors, antique shops, etc. Most of these trips are 3 – 7 days long (100-1000miles). It's a hoot and great fun for the entire family." The link is on the bottom of the page. Give it a click and look around.

Phil

(One of my favorite Pictures) 2002 exposure trip to French Lick, IN



A'sRUS Ford Club

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

# Presidents Comments

*I think after the January meeting there was a good feeling response I felt about the few changes I hope to see in the evolution of our club. If you missed it, I proposed for lack of a better definition an auxiliary women's group. I know better and will let them decide if they want a name designation and what it would be. My hope is that they run with the idea and expand us as a group in helping the community, bringing exciting new ideas for the places we visit, and so much more. So ladies, please come with ideas and join us at the meetings!*

*I will try to also shorten the business meetings so that a small tech talk and or discussion relating to any issues we have with our Model A's can be dealt with as a club. If you are having an issue or have an idea for a tech talk, speak up. Remember, we are all here to help those who might need it.*

*In the mail came an invitation for Hagerty Insurance to give us a short presentation of their insurance for the Model A's. In addition, they will answer any questions you might have. They have also stated they may be able to help during the Driving the Dixie, so that's a good thing for us. So this months meeting will begin with her promptly at 7 p.m., and then we will follow that with our regular meeting.*

*Watch your e-mails...the rooms for the spring trip are going fast, reserve today. And a Soup day with the Calumet will be in March. Something to do while we wait for a thaw.*

*Ken aka "Squeaks"*



# HAGERTY INSURANCE



**There will be a presentation at the February meeting by Karen Waslawski of Hagerty Insurance and she will be the guest speaker. Karen will give a short presentation of the available insurance options they provide. She will also answer any questions that you may have. Individual quotes will not be available at that time, however her contact information will be available to you. Some of the club members have had their cars insured with them for years. I was not present when the club actually toured their facilities in Traverse City, Michigan. While I was speaking to her, she informed me of some of the youth projects that they like to sponsor. Talks are also underway to provide things for the upcoming Driving the Dixie. So please come early as I would like to begin with her short appearance, then immediately begin our monthly meeting.**

# *Snapshots of the January Meeting.*



# 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 15<sup>th</sup> through May 17<sup>th</sup>. 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



In the 1920's Milford, Illinois offered free camping and "every convenience to the tourist" in the town's park located on Route 1/Chicago Street - the Dixie Highway - just south of the village's business district and adjacent to their school grounds. Motorists were encouraged to "make this a point on your trip."

Today, the campgrounds are gone and the land is now part of the school athletic fields. Milford though is home to a more unusual landmark on the Dixie Highway, a Republic-Ford JB-2 "Loon", which was the United States' version of the German V-1 flying bomb, also known as a Nazi "buzz bomb." According to local historians, this World War II unmanned aircraft was given to the town's American Legion as a war memorial after World War II. A history of Milford relates Legion members showed up at Chanute Air Base in Rantoul, Illinois to pick up a suitable piece and were offered a full-size bomber.

## DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Fearing this was too big; they were directed to the JB-2 instead, which was hauled back to town. It sat on the school grounds on Route 1 for years, painted in U.S. colors. In the 1970s, someone saying he was from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base showed up, claimed he was there to get the aircraft restored and took it away. When townspeople checked up, they found there was no record of this person or their "Loon" at Wright-Patterson. It later turned up at a private museum in Harlingen, Texas, and was eventually brought back to Milford, where it remains prominently displayed on the Dixie Highway.

**A'S R US MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 21, 2015**

**MEETING LOCATION:** Phil and Nancy Serviss hosted this meeting with 20 members present

**CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT 7:15PM.** December minutes were read by Sandy and approved as read.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Jim gave an updated report listing expenditures from the Christmas Party, MAFCAA donation and miscellaneous trailer expenses. Balance reported for A's account was [REDACTED] and the Dixie account was [REDACTED]. Report was approved as read.

**FAMILY NEWS:** SANDY updated the membership on Al's surgeries. He had cataract surgery on his left eye and is doing well so far. KEN shared that he recently heard that Charlie Jenkins passed away over a year ago. BOB reported that Penny is doing really well after her surgery and was scheduled to see her Oncologist on Thursday.

**OLD BUSINESS:** THANKS were given to the planners and organizers of the 2014 Christmas Party. It was unanimously enjoyed. Bob reported he would be hesitant to return to Balagio's for our 2015 party as there were a lot of behind the scene problems. The membership agreed they loved the format and would like to see something similar for 2015, possibly at a different establishment. KEN passed out business cards, he created for membership review. They were approved and distributed to the membership present. CHUCK reported that the Trailer will be finished and ready for the Spring Trip. Jon stated he has to talk to Ron re: using it for the Spring Trip. JIM updated the members on the 2015 Dixie Dash, June 20,2015. Elaine has scheduled the next meeting for February 7<sup>th</sup>. Bob shared that he was passing out fliers re: the Dixie Dash at a recent swap meet. KEN reported he has been working with Al Betschart on our Web Site update. He said he is encouraged by what has been posted so far. He stated Al has requested that members forward pictures/articles re: club events. Als email is [allan@swicago.com](mailto:allan@swicago.com). To view our Web Site go to: [www.as-r-us.com](http://www.as-r-us.com)



**The last Old Business item was tabled at the November meeting. It was proposed that reimbursements of up to \$100.00 be paid to trip planners. This proposal was briefly discussed, a motion was made and the vote taken and the proposal was unanimously defeated**

**NEW BUSINESS: KEN stated to eliminate confusion; news being emailed to the total membership needs to go through Sandy. Sandy is in the process of checking email accuracy. BUDGET COMMITTEE: Presented a 2014 to 2015 budget review comparison. It was discussed especially the Youth Model A Program donation which is a Bradberry California Organization that supports youth Model A interest. Jim gave explanation regarding the Non-recurring expenses line item for 2015. There is a budget deficit of \$312.00 noted, however Jim stated, expenses are flexible as noted in the 2014 proposed vs. actual budget. Bob motioned to accept the budget as presented, Allan E. seconded and the vote was unanimous. See attached..... CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Was briefly discussed and passed around for membership sign up.**

**This calendar along with meeting information will also be posted on our Web Site. If not sure about a date or time or event go to [www.as-r-us.com](http://www.as-r-us.com)**

**SPRING TOUR: Jon and Ron are working on the details. The proposed dates are May 15, 16 & 17. We will be tripping to LeClaire, Iowa, approximately 160 miles one way. More info will follow re: hotels, riverboat cruises, Antique Archeology etc. SHAKE DOWN TOUR: Will be in late April/early May, Ken & Randy will keep us posted. It was noted this would be a good time to teach our female members how to drive the Model A's. We only have 2 members who are proficient. FALL TOUR: Jim reported it is scheduled for October 9, 10, 11<sup>th</sup> and will recreate the trip to Danville, Il from 5 years ago. He talked about the idea of stopping in the communities in route to Danville to dedicate the proposed Dixie community signage. There was some discussion re: starting the event at the Art Institute. However, more research has to be done regarding security, fees etc as Chicago may not be receptive to shutting down part of Michigan Ave. for us. More information will follow. Jim is happy to have other members join him in this undertaking.**

**NEW PROPOSALS: KEN proposed the club return to monthly Tech Talks after the business meeting. He also proposed that the Women become more proactive regarding their involvement in club projects, such as planning trips, expanding on ideas for the Veterans Home visit etc. Both ideas were well**

received by the membership. **BOB** stated on February 19<sup>th</sup>, Orland Park is having a Chefs Auction at Orland Chateque. He further said that the auction beneficiary this year is Teen Bridge. He proposed a donation from the club for the auction. After some discussion it was proposed the A's donate a list of drive dates in mid April; Members pick up the winners on the chosen date, chauffeur in our Model A's and treat the winners to brunch at the Dwight Country Mansion. It was proposed we donate 4 cars with drivers/couples, to pick up winner couples and we treat them to the ride and brunch. Jim noted this donation could cost between \$160 to \$200.00. Tim made a motion for the club to pay for the brunches as the proceeds go to Teen Bridge. The vote was unanimous. Bob is to finalize the donation prior to the February 19<sup>th</sup> event.

**MISC DISCUSSIONS: MAIL: MAFCAA** has gifted us with 5 free memberships for new members. Haggerty Insurance sent an information pamphlet. There is a Swap Meet in Roselle on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Ken if interested.

**Badge fines: \$7.00**

**50/50 drawing \$62.00: Winner: Jim      Amount: \$31.00**

**NEXT MONTHS MTG:** Will be held at Tim and Carole Dionne's on Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>. Ken thanked Phil & Nancy for their hospitality. Ken also noted there is still an opening to host the **MARCH MEETING...** Contact Sandy if interested. [sankaleta@yahoo.com](mailto:sankaleta@yahoo.com)

**ADJOURNED:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM and interested members proceeded to a Tech Talk on Phil's transmissions...

**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:



Ken and Arlene McNeeley as "American Gothic". Eldon, Iowa is not too far away, (site of the Grant Wood's American Gothic home depicted in his painting)

### 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

American pickers in  
Nashville ,TN



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

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

# BACKFIRE



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