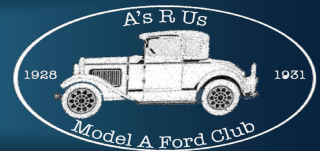


BACKFIRE



Volume#20

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November 2015

The Carp, Editor in Chief



100 years

ago a delegation of the Dixie Highway commission started the inspectional tour of the highway, and yet again our club ran the same route to Danville, IL. Along the way we stopped in many towns to dedicate roadside park signs touting the history of the town that the sign is in. Not all signs are up but by next year the rest should be installed. As a club we seeded the signs cost by paying half the cost of the "Drivin the Dixie" communities, and the villages and cities paid the remainder. South of Momence we also provided support with the production of the signs and a donation from our club. The three days of celebrations were a great, and the club and the towns should be very proud of this achievement!

Phil



A'sRUS Ford Club

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

Presidents Comments

Mr. Dixie Highway, Jim Wright.

We have amongst us a man who seems to have a passion for the history of the Dixie. And it is pretty cool that 100 years have gone by, and him along with the members of A's R Us, are bringing it back and keeping it alive. From his book, to his museum presentation, to television, to the sign dedications plus much more, he is a wealth of knowledge of the road. We formally thank you Jim, for your time, and efforts in the past Dixie Highway events.

Fall is here, and it will be time soon to decorate the cars for the nighttime parades. Randy Senkpeil and Bruce Smit have mentioned that we share ideas for adhering things to the cars, without lasting damage to the paint. So we need to have a tech talk of maybe submitting your tricks to Phil Serviss to share in our Backfire newsletter.

And speaking of fall and changing of the weather, please don't forget to winterize your "A", and if you don't, your "A" will freeze and crack, and no one wants a cracked "A".

You should have submitted your dues renewal form and payment to Jim Wright by now. If not, please do so by the October meeting, or mail it to our post office box prior.

Yahoo! We made it to and all the way back without a break down to Danville. Is that a record?

And finally, there is a day and time change for the October meeting. Our hosts, the Fritz clan has us out at their barn and it will be Saturday, October 24th at 5 p.m. A hayride at 5, followed by as fast as possible I can do a meeting, and then a potluck meal. So please bring a side and maybe a dessert.

Ken aka "Squeaks"



For Sale

Bob Granko Jr, is selling his four-door. It's a 1929 Murray four Door sedan. It was a ground up restoration probably 10 to 15 years ago. All new wood rebuilt engine etc. For more information contact him directly. He wants \$15,000 and his price is firm. If you have an interest, [815-645-4533](tel:815-645-4533).



The 2015 Fall Trip and the Dixie Highway Centennial

events are now ones for the history books and all went off without a hitch, not even a breakdown along the way. The fall trip coincided with special events the club planned for the 100th anniversary of the Dixie Highway, which included a ceremony held in downtown Chicago and dedications of Dixie Highway interpretive signs, co-sponsored by the club in Beecher, Grant Park, Milford, Hoopston and Danville.



The weekend began with a ceremony held on Thursday October 8th at Jackson Boulevard and Michigan Avenue, adjacent to the Art Institute. The ceremony was similar to one that occurred prior to the start of an October 1915 motorcade of citizens, government and highway officials that set out from the Art Institute in Chicago on an inspection tour of existing roads that were identified to be improved to form the highway. That year, the group left Chicago the morning of Saturday, October 9th, and arrived in Danville later that evening. The caravan continued their tour on succeeding days until arriving in Miami on October 24, 1915.



This year, on Thursday, October 8th, after gathering for breakfast in Blue Island, 9 Model A's and 17 members and guests motored downtown for the initial centennial event on a brilliant October morning. The cars arrived downtown at 9:30 am and staged on Jackson Boulevard east of Michigan Avenue and aroused the curiosity of many pedestrians walking in the area. At 10:00 am, Jim Wright led off the program by providing a brief history of the Dixie Highway and the efforts of the club and Illinois communities in promoting it. Joe Szabo, a former official with the United States Department of Transportation and former mayor of Riverdale, John Fortmann, a deputy director of the Illinois Department of Transportation, and Jim Garrett, chief executive officer of the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau also spoke.

Following this, club members helped to unveil a prototype Dixie Highway interpretive sign for Chicago. It is hoped this prototype will serve as the catalyst for installing a sign in the downtown area. Television crews were on hand from WGN and WLS and coverage appeared on their evening newscasts.





After this event, the cars and members visited the old Chicago Motor Club building, built in 1928, which is now a Hampton Inn, to view the restoration of this Art Deco landmark. A large mural depicting named highways from the era and a 1928 Model A on display, overlook the lobby of the building.

The crew then caravanned down the Dixie Highway in Chicago, following the original route - Michigan Avenue to Garfield Boulevard, west to Western Avenue, then south into Blue Island and Homewood where members viewed the Dixie signs installed in each of these towns.

On Friday, October 9th, club members met for breakfast at Raspberry's in Steger. Despite overcast skies, spirits were high for another day celebrating the Dixie. Thirteen antiques, 2 "modern iron" and a contingent of 28 set out for this day's drive down the highway.



After making a brief stop to inspect the Crete sign, Dixie sign dedications were held in Beecher and Grant Park in the morning.



Crete, IL

Due to chilly weather, a “picnic” chicken lunch was held indoors at the Iroquois County Old Courthouse Museum in Watseka. Museum volunteers could not have been more hospitable to our group, providing accommodations that were as good as any restaurant.

On Friday afternoon, Dixie signs were dedicated in Milford and Hoopeston. Hoopeston, as usual, went all out for the dedication. Not only was their sign beautifully landscaped, Mayor Bill Crusinbery and dedication planners welcomed the A’s with “goodie” bags, which included a commemorative dedication water bottle and program. The city also had chairs set out for us, and their residents who attended the ceremony.

After touring downtown Hoopeston following the dedication, Danville and our hotel was the next stop where we all enjoyed camaraderie and a pizza and salad supper in the hotel lobby.



Beecher, IL



Grant Park, IL



Millford, IL



Hoopston, IL



Hoopston, IL

Saturday was another big day and the weather could not have been better.

Dedication ceremonies took place at the Danville sign located east of town. Mayor Scott Eisenhauer, museum director Sue Richter and the owner of our hotel, Mr. Patel, attended. Following the dedication, some left for a day of touring and shopping at the Covered Bridge festival in Indiana,

while others stayed in Danville, participating in the Dixie Highway Centennial car show and history presentation at the Vermilion County Museum. After a long day for all, everyone had a great dinner at the Beef House in Covington, Indiana.

On Sunday, we bid farewell to Danville, driving the back roads home, which highlighted the beautiful autumn colors and harvest scenes of rural Illinois. Stops were made in Rossville for the town's fall festival and in Momence for a late lunch. After saying good-bye in Momence, some drove to Beecher for ice cream at Buddy's Drive-In on Dixie while others headed straight home. No matter which direction traveled, all agreed the 2015 Fall Trip was a great success.



Danville, IL





**A'S R US MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

MEETING LOCATION: Tim and Connie Borchert's home

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT 7:12 PM..

Ken introduced Bill Seper a Charter Member of A'SRUS. The minutes were read by Sandy and approved as read.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Jim gave a report on our accounts. Driving the Dixie:

██████████ and A's balance was ██████████. There was minimal activity for the month, A deposit was made for our Christmas dinner. Jim stated Sign expenses have not been paid as yet. He reminded the membership; their dues need to be paid by the October meeting (\$60.00).

FAMILY NEWS: Chuck stated Linnea is doing well post operatively; she will have Radiation for 5-6 weeks. He and Linnea thanked the club for their prayers. Al Kaleta was home with Pleurisy. McNeeley's announced their 9th grandchild and that they will head for Florida in mid October.

OLD BUSINESS: Ken announced that the Shrimp/Corn Boil was a fun time for all.

Gilmore Trip:

was canceled, Ken stated we can possibly go next year.

Karen and Jerry:

reported that a deposit has been paid to Scrementi's Restaurant in Beecher for our Christmas Party on December 9th. 6:00 drinks and 7:00 dinner (cash bar). More information will follow.

Bob Reported:

The Teen Bridge engine demo was a success. There were 8 teens present, 4 of which were girls. He stated their expansion is moving along and the club will be invited to tour the center when it is finished.

Fall Trip:

Chuck stated he will not be able to pull the chuck wagon this year. Further discussion followed: Friday night menu will be Pizza and Salads; Friday lunch will be a picnic (40-42 people)

Jim reported:

10/07 will hopefully be an event with the Art Institute which can park 8-10 cars in front. Further discussion with them is scheduled for Thursday, 9/17.

October 8th

We will leave from Raspberries Restaurant in Steger. Stops for sign dedication are Beacher, Grand Park, Hoopston, Milford and Danville. More information to follow.

October 9th:

Danville dedication will be at 9:30AM, there will be 2 signs and we will receive a Fire Truck escort into town.

Besides the Covered Bridge Festival, there will be a tour of Danville's Museum with lunch and a video presentation by Jim of the development of the Dixie Highway and its 100th year anniversary.

October 10th:

Leave Danville, Momence might be ready to dedicate. Discussion ensued re: the Covered Bridge Festival, Dale and Bonnie are going to further investigate this and other areas on Rte 41 for those not wanting to attend the museum.

Balmoral Race Track:

November 7th, is open to family and friends of the A's. Buffet dinner: \$22.95 a piece. Please contact Wally with a head count for you and your party. An email to go out to the club.

Ottawa Historic Walk weekend:

September 26/27th, leave Country Charm Restaurant at 9:30 AM (this time was changed after the meeting). An email to go out to the club.

October Meeting: Saturday October 24th.

Open to family and friends of the club members. Low Key Halloween theme, 5:00 hayride, dinner to follow and then a meeting. The dinner menu is Pot Luck, bring sides, deserts or main entrees.

NEW PROPOSALS:

Chuck proposed an Exposure Tour to Greenfield Village, the Henry Ford Museum, Auto Assembly Plant etc. It is a 200 mile trip and he recommended the weekend after Labor Day. If the club is interested reservations for hotels and car parking need to be made well in advance. It was recommended Chuck discuss this proposal further with Phil.

MISC DISCUSSIONS:

WE NEED HOSTS FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING: if you are able to host this meeting please contact Ken kjchamis@yahoo.com Dale suggested this could be our auction meeting.

Bob Granko Jr: has a 1929 Brown 4 door Murray for sale. \$15K firm contact: baybotis@bcglobal.net

Breakfast meeting scheduled for October 17th, at 8:30 AM. Peachtree Rest.

Badge fines: \$1.00 50/50 \$65.00 Winner \$32.00 Jon, \$33.00 to the club.

Adjourn: Ken thanked Connie and Tim for Hosting this meeting and for the delicious. elegant treats.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA, Secretary



Bonnie and Randy's 2 Door and Jim's 54 Ford

Looking forward into 2015

Teen Bridge Center

Veterans Home

58th. Annual Hesston Steam & Power Show 2015

Newport Hill Climb

Fall Trip

Camp Quality

Labor Day Sept. 1st

October 3rd - 5th

October 8,9,10

Dues are due this months meeting. Bring
your $\frac{1}{4}$ sheet and \$60.00

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

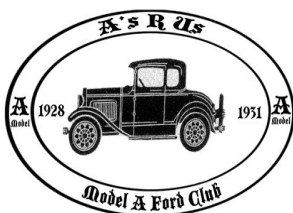
Tourism Award from the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau, for our promotion of the Dixie Highway in Illinois.

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

E Mail to: taxserviss@att.net



BACNTIRE



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