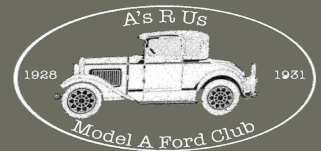


BACKFIRE



Volume #21

Issue #2

February 2016



The Carp, Editor in Chief

We are counting the hours now for the 3 new grand children to arrive. It looks like this Thursday is the big day for our girls. This will be a great week for the Serviss household. That being said the winter is almost over and the time to get the cars out will be upon us. I for one am looking forward to this as I can open the garage again and get to work on my cars. I hope to drop the trans on the 29 this spring and get the thump out of 1st gear that's been there for years. See you soon with lots of pictures of our new model A future owners.

Phil



Presidents Comments

Freezing our “A” off. At least some of us are. Others have flown the coup and went south. I hope you all get sunburn.

It has been a busy month with some of us left behind. We had numerous meetings trying to get the upcoming Dixie event in motion. Minor changes are in the works, and it appears that the towns may be on board. We are trying to shorten it a bit, and freshen up the event is the objective. Also this may free some of the efforts by all of the people working the event on that day of so that we can enjoy ourselves too.

Al Kaletas motor has a boo boo, and is now in the hands of Ray Schmude. New Babbitt needs to be poured and so far two tech talks were completed on this process. I imagine two more tech talks will be planed, one on the reassembly of the motor, followed by the install. Those dates will be announced as the project moves along. However this is the perfect time of the year to do as I suspect he has no plans of driving it in the new 2 months, in reference to freezing his “A” off.

March and September host meeting places are still open. Hopefully we have a place soon. If you are one of the escapees and plan to be back in March, give a call please if you can host. Even if you won't be back, we can grab the hidden key under the mat and let ourselves in. We promise to clean up and lock up when we leave.

Ken



DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



HOMWOOD: A Bustling Town Grows Along a Former Indian Trail

Following a path worn by buffalo, Native Americans traveled the length of the eastern border of Illinois. French fur trapper-traders utilized the same trail. Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard, a fur trader for John Jacob Astor's American Fur Trading Company, became legendary as "Swiftwalker" and established trading posts between Chicago and Vincennes, Indiana. The route was identified as "Hubbard's Trail" on early maps. Suspecting the Winnebagos were going to attack Fort Dearborn in July 1827, Hubbard rode 140 miles to Danville, Illinois in 20 hours to recruit a company of Vermillion County Rangers. In 1835, the Illinois General Assembly ordered a state road to be established and Hubbard's Trail was selected as the most favorable route - Route 1 - and mile markers were placed along it. Hubbard was a close friend of Abraham Lincoln's and constructed the "Wigwam" in Chicago where Lincoln was nominated for president.

Settlements developed along the route with the first residents arriving in this area in the 1830's and 1840's to farm the fertile soil. James Hart platted Hartford as the first subdivision in 1853 the same year the first Illinois Central Railroad train came through. The railroad designated the stop as Thornton Station. Thornton Flour Mill Company (1856), general stores and taverns opened to serve the residents. As the settlement's importance increased, and to prevent a mix-up of the mail, the US Post Office changed the name to Homewood in 1869. Homewood was incorporated in 1893.

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



By 1915 automobile travel became increasingly popular for business, agricultural, and recreational uses. Citizens demanded that the government provide better roads, which at this time consisted primarily of dirt and were passible in fair weather, yet quickly became muddy and impassible after a few hours of rain. Governors from several states met to consider an improved road from Indianapolis to Florida. States lobbied for inclusion, so instead of a single route, two major divisions were designated. Carl Fisher, a civic booster, an auto enthusiast instrumental in developing the Indianapolis Speedway, a Florida land developer, and called the "Father of the Lincoln Highway," convinced the governors that Chicago should be the northern terminus. The great Dixie Highway was born.

By the turn of the century, golf courses sprouted in Homewood's countryside and wealthy Chicago golfers developed two golf courses in Homewood: Ravisloe Country Club in 1901, and Calumet Country Club relocated here from Chicago in 1917.

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



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



Looking north, circa 1920, the Dixie Highway had already been paved at this intersection with Main Street, now called Ridge Road. Concrete paving of the highway in Homewood was completed in 1917. Two old houses standing along from the street.



Homewood's first traffic signal was installed in the center of the intersection of the Dixie Highway and Main Street (Ridge Road), Cook County Trust and Savings Bank, on the left, opened its business in 1920, replacing the former corner that had previously occupied the site. The signal was removed after being struck too many times.



The Homewood Garage was converted into the Homewood Theater.



The Homewood Theater was converted into the Homewood Theater.



Homewood Service Garage, built in 1924 on the west side of Dixie Highway just south of Ridge Road, sold Standard Red Crown 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

During the past century, Homewood has grown from a small village to a bustling town. The town's growth is largely due to its location along the Dixie Highway, which was completed in 1917. The town's growth is largely due to its location along the Dixie Highway, which was completed in 1917. The town's growth is largely due to its location along the Dixie Highway, which was completed in 1917.



The 1922 Village Center Building, built on the west side of the Dixie Highway in Homewood, Illinois, is a landmark building in the town.



The 1922 Village Center Building, built on the west side of the Dixie Highway in Homewood, Illinois, is a landmark building in the town.



In the 1920's, Amalfi Gardens, a restaurant at 175th and Dixie Highway, drew visitors from as far away as Chicago. After several different owners, it became Surma's Restaurant (1946-2003) and still operates as a restaurant today. Dixie Highway became Homewood's main thoroughfare. A white frame two-room school built in 1880 now houses businesses and apartments just north of this sign. Next to the building is a Dixie Highway mileage sign post. On this site known as Independence Park, a four-room, two-story brick side building named Standard School was built in 1904. An underpass was constructed under Dixie Highway so students could cross the highway safely. The Homewood Village Hall, at Dixie Highway and Chestnut Road, was built with the aid of PWA funds and was dedicated in September 1939. It is considered an architectural gem. In 1998 the Village of Homewood Heritage Committee sought the cooperation of the Illinois Dixie

Sandy Kaleta Reporter on



CHICAGO – Get up close and personal to the costumes from hit British show Downton Abbey at a new exhibit in Chicago.

“Dressing Downton: Changing Fashion for Changing Times” follows the first four seasons of the award winning PBS show features at the Driehaus Museum.

35 costumes are on show from the popular series, most of which were also original pieces from the time period.

People can also experience that most English of traditions – high tea. And what’s most fun is the wait staff are in full costume.

The popular exhibition already has more than 14,000 tickets.

If you want to check it out, here are details:

Dressing Downton

February 9 - May 8

[Driehaus Museum](#)

(312) 482-8933



[Home](#) [1920s Sewing Patterns](#) [#2004 1920s Tier-rific Ensemble](#)



#2004 1920s Tier-rific Ensemble

\$ 25.00

Quantity

1

[Add to cart](#)

Pattern Size	A			B			C		
Bust	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
Waist	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40
Hip	33	35	37	39	41	43	45	47	49

measurements in inches



#2003 1920s Hazel's Frock
\$ 23.00



#1706 1917 Fox Trot Bag
\$ 10.00



#1902 1920 Tunic with Kimono Sleeve
\$ 12.00

This intriguing 1920s sewing pattern features an under-dress/over-blouse ensemble. It is incredibly chic and figure flattering.

The under-dress has 2 applied tiers cut on the straight of grain but sewn onto the under-dress at a diagonal. Each tier has a loose drape section at the left side providing that finishing element to the design. Contrast bias binding finishes the edges of over-blouse and tiers. Slip-on under dress has straight silhouette with 4" of ease at the hip.

Bodice of under-dress made of lining fabric and has shoulder darts. Over-blouse has cap sleeves and bust darts. Wrong side of fabric will show in draped section; choose fabric accordingly. Also, be aware of the play of grain line in the design if you are considering fabric with a stripe or defined grain line.

Dress weight fabrics are appropriate; linen, silk, rayon or cotton. Lining fabric for bodice of under-dress should be smooth, lightweight and breathable but still sturdy.

Pattern includes all 9 sizes.

Share this item: [G+1](#) [Tweet](#) 102 [Like](#) [4](#)

Tech Talk

with Ken Chamis

Well we've had two tech two weeks in a row. We took a peek at Als Model A & found out that he had some broken Babbitt. So that means the engine has to come out. And as you see in the pictures it is out. The motor is going to have to go to the Babbitt shop but the best part about it is he will be able to reuse virtually all of his internal components. But while out it was probably a good idea to replace his ring gear which is a little chewed up and put a new clutch and pressure plate in there. If he doesn't do it now and he has an issue with those things the whole engine will come out so it's definitely the smartest thing to do. Luckily Ray is able to do some of the things for the engine and will have a true reading of the condition of it before it goes to the shop. So in the meantime he'll get to paint it all up nice and pretty and when it comes back then we're going to schedule another tech talk for the reassembly and installation. It's definitely interesting if you've never done it before and you can see more of the working components and get hands-on because you can read all you want in a book but it's definitely better to do it as a hands-on project. I believe you actually learn a lot more. The best part about this is that is actually being done in the downtime of winter and as soon as spring comes it will be all brand new again. Good for another hundred thousand miles. So just be prepared that we will have more TechTalks on this and you should come out and lend a hand. And 2 times in a row we had no steak sandwiches so maybe third time's the charm. Ha.



**A'S R US MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20TH, 2016**

MEETING LOCATION: Phil and Nancy Serviss

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT 7:15 PM. December Minutes were read, corrected and approved as corrected.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Jim reported the Dixie account balance was [REDACTED] and the A'SRUS account balance was \$ [REDACTED]. He reported on miscellaneous Checks being written and \$63.76 being sent to Lakeside Inn as a deposit for our Spring Trip. His report was approved as submitted.

FAMILY NEWS:

Dale announced that she and Ken are going to be grandparents again. Nick and Kristina are expecting. Karen reported her foot is healing and improving since surgery. Steve stated he bought a 1930 four door Model A. Phil said he has 3 grandbabies coming due and it is going to be a very busy time for him and Nancy.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ken reported that we will be having our February meeting at Bill and Maryellen Sepers and Tim D. stated he and Carole will take the month of August. We still need hosts for MARCH AND SEPTEMBER.

SHAKE DOWN CRUISE:

Steve and Randy reported the date has been changed to SATURDAY APRIL 30TH. We will meet at the Country Charm Restaurant and leave around 9:30-10:00. We will be enjoying Rte 66, more info will follow.

SPRING TRIP:

Bob reported that the dates are changed to May 20th – 21st and that rooms have been blocked at the LAKESIDE INN, in Lakeside MI near Union Pier. The phone number for reservations is 269-469-0600. Bob explained that a block of rooms have been set aside, but because this is an Inn the room bed arrangements and prices are different. More information to follow. Bob recommends if you are interested in going, make your reservations soon.

EXPOSURE TRIP:

The dates are September 6th through September 14th. Chuck Handed out a packet for the trip which included sign up sheet for hotel rooms, restaurant information, a form to complete if you want to show your Model A and have it judged. There is more to be finalized and more information will follow. **IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE TRIPS PLEASE CONTACT THE MEMBERS WHO ARE CHAIRING THE EVENT.**

REQUEST FOR AN AMISH TRIP:

Ken mentioned the request at our last meeting. He has suggested Arthur, II near Arcola. The club was interested, October 15th was the proposed date and Bonnie/Randy will chair the event. This was approved and accepted by the membership present.

DIXIE DASH:

It was proposed by Bob that we continue sponsoring the Dixie Dash. Ken proposed tweaking the day. Both proposals were approved by the membership and Bob stated the committee will have to start this tweaking soon so it can be presented to the towns by the March meeting. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS :

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

The budget committee met and Jim presented a 2016 proposal. After some discussion the proposal was approved and accepted by the membership present. Copies of the budget are available.

2016 PICNIC:

Discussion ensued and the project was tabled till next meeting. Ken proposed a Christmas in July Family event which was declined.

TEEN BRIDGE CENTER:

Bob announce we have been invited to tour the Bridge and Thrift Store as they are very appreciative of our donations and involvement. A date has yet to be set, more info will follow.

SAFETY CHECKS:

Will follow the Shakedown Cruise . The date will be planned, based on need.

MISC DISCUSSIONS:

Steve stated he has a friend with a Historical home in Joliet. Her group is proposing a Historical Walk and wanted to know if we would be willing to provide Model A's to park in front of the proposed homes. Steve will keep in touch and bring more information closer to the time of the event.

Ken announced the A's won an award for participating in the Tinley Park Christmas Parade.

Randy proposed that we participate in the Tinley Park Christmas Parade annually. He and Dale stated it was a great parade and a fun time for them and their grandchildren.

MAIL:

Ken read a thank you from the Old Court House Museum in Iraquois for our donation. MAFCA sent a thank you for our donation and an invite to tour the museum the 3rd weekend in September. H & H in Manhattan invited us for a Shop Tour, meet and greet in late March.

TECH TALK:

A Tech Talk will be held at Al Kaleta's garage, 5035 W. 171st Street on WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27th to start at 1:00 pm. Al has a knock in Red that needs a cure. Everyone is welcome to participate.

BREAKFAST MEETING:

January 30th, 8:30AM at Peachtree Restaurant

Badge fines: \$4.00, 50/50: winner Chuck \$27.00 and amount to the club \$28.00

Ken thanked Phil and Nancy for their hospitality, we enjoyed their collection of Christmas trees. Also thanks to those who brought treats.

Next months mtg: February 17th at 7:00 PM.

Bill and Maryellen Seper

14201 S. 88th Ave. Orland Park, Il.

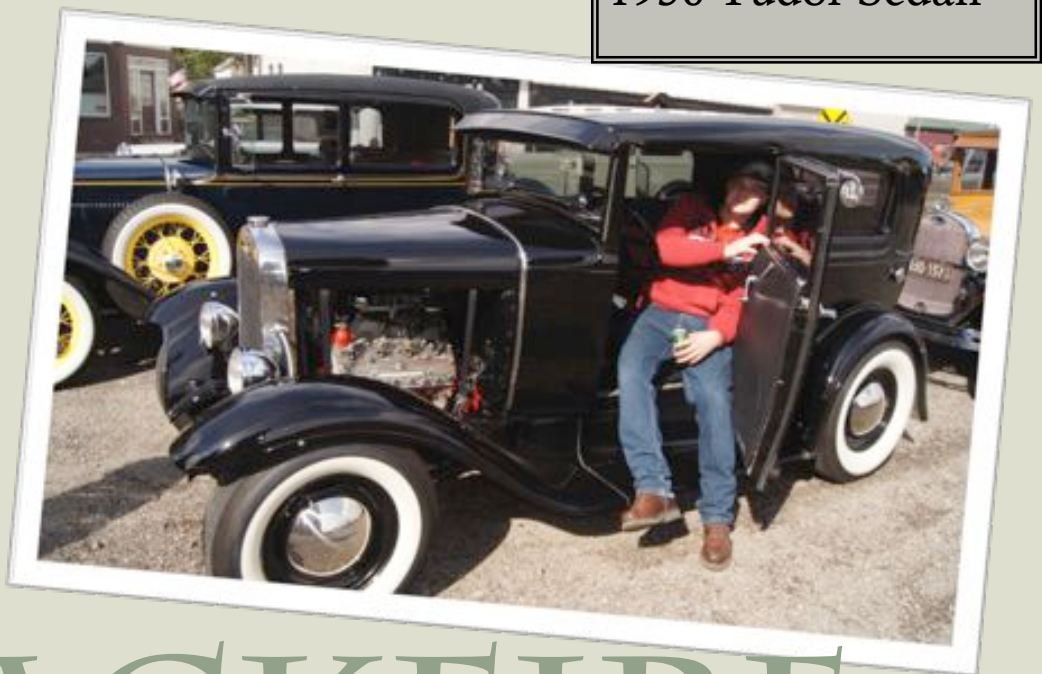
ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Sandy Kaleta, Secretary

A's R Us 2016 Officers and Staff

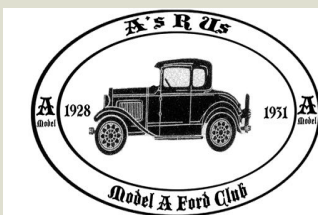
- President – Ken Chamis
- Vice President –Randy Senkpeil
- Treasure –Jim Wright
- Secretary – Sandy Kaleta
- Newsletter – Phillip Serviss
- Member Relations – Ken Chamis
- Web Page – Allen Betschart
- Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom
- Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau
- Nat'l Rep. – Ken Chamis
- Historian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

1930 Tudor Sedan



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

BACKFIRE



P.O. Box 3
Crete, Illinois 60417