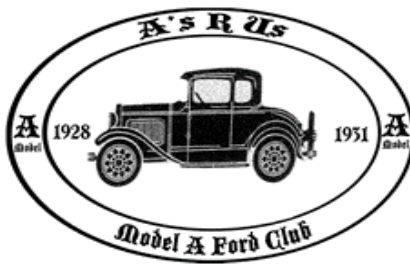




BACKFIRE

Volume #23 Issue #2

February 2018



February 14th was Valentines day and I hope you guys didn't forget your sweethearts..

Historians believe Valentine's Day actually began in Ancient Rome as a pagan fertility festival called *Lupercalia*, which included sacrificing animals and whipping women with animal skins until they bled, signifying their fertility. So romantic.

The holiday was Christianized — no more animal sacrifices! — and was celebrated in mid-February because many believed that birds started their mating season on February 14, which is why doves are often associated with love.

Saint Valentine wasn't just one person.

In fact, he might have been two or three. But the most common "founder" of Valentine's Day was the Saint Valentine who defied Emperor Claudius II. At the time, Claudius had banned marriage because he thought it distracted young soldiers. Valentine felt a bit differently — he illegally married couples until he was caught. After he was sentenced to his death, young couples would visit his cell and give him flowers and cards. And the day he actually died? February 14. Allegedly.



But there have been multiple St. Valentines throughout history, including one pope. (He only served for 40 days in 827 A.D.)

But not until the 17th century did people start exchanging cards and letters. And Valentine's Day cards weren't mass-produced until the 1840s.

About 55% of Americans celebrate Valentine's Day and spend an estimated \$18.2 a year, including more than \$1.7 billion on candy alone. On average, men spend \$150 on Valentine's Day. And the women? Just \$74. Time to step it up ladies.

Americans send 141 million Valentine's Day cards each year.

That's more than any other holiday except Christmas. And how sweet: Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards annually, followed by children, mothers, and wives.

The most popular gift on Valentine's Day is flowers.

Followed by chocolate and then jewelry. Americans send more than 220 million roses each year, and as many as six million couples will get engaged on February 14. (February is the second most popular month after December for proposals.)

The first heart-shaped box of chocolates was introduced in 1868.

Today, more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are sold each year. That's 58 million pounds of chocolate.

It's celebrated differently around the world.

Many Latin American countries know the holiday as *el día de los enamorados* (day of lovers) or *día del amor y la amistad* (day of love and friendship.)

In Japan, it's customary for just the women to give confections to the men in their lives, with the quality of the chocolate indicating their true feelings, according to Fortune. On March 14, the men repay the favor by celebrating the increasingly popular "White Day."



MAY 55



After spending the last week digging out of the snow I was wondering how people were able to deal with it back in the 20's and 30's.



Looks like tracks and ski could have been a good option.

Or maybe chains on the tires. I felt like a snowman myself a few times lately.





THE SUPER
POWERFUL SNOW TRAVEL EQUIPMENT
Snow Bird



**HEAVY DUTY, TRACK GRIP,
 6-PLY PNEUMATIC TIRE**

**POSITIVELY NO SLIPPING
 NO TIRE CHAIN WEAR
 NO BELT WEAR**

SUPER SNOW BIRD EQUIPMENT IS DRIVEN BY A PAIR OF HEAVY DUTY SPROCKET TIRES FROM THE REAR WHEELS ONLY. THE TRACKS ARE GEARED TO THE TIRE SO ALL SLIPPAGE IS ELIMINATED. THE REAR WHEEL DRIVE IS THE ONLY DRIVE THAT PULLS THE LOWER SECTION OF BELT TAUT SO THE UNSUPPORTED SECTIONS BETWEEN THE WHEELS CARRY THEIR PORTION OF THE LOAD OVER THE SNOW.

EXCESSIVE BELT TENSION CAUSING FASTER WEAR IN LINKS IS NOT NECESSARY WHEN USING SPROCKET TIRES.

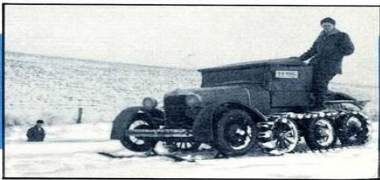
SPECIAL FEATURES

The invention of the ARPS SUPER SNOW BIRD SPROCKET TIRE MARKS A TREMENDOUS STRIDE IN THE SUCCESS OF THE SUPER SNOW BIRD

- NO MORE TIRE CHAIN TROUBLES.
- TIRE TROUBLES ENTIRELY ELIMINATED.
- BELT SLIPPAGE IS A THING OF THE PAST.
- MAKE YOUR BELT AND TIRE GRIP 100% EFFICIENT WITH SPROCKET TIRES.
- NO MORE POWER LOSSES DUE TO SLIPPAGE.
- A GOOD TIRE FOR MUD TRAVEL.
- NO MORE CHAIN WEAR ON TRACKS.



W. E. Smith, St. Charles, Minn., is well satisfied with SUPER SNOW BIRD. During the worst storms in history, 1926-27 winter, he made his route regardless of snow conditions.



Floyd Luce, McGregor, Iowa, had to go over 18 ft. drifts on his 48 mile mail route in 1926. "It takes a SUPER SNOW BIRD to do it."

At least today we have snow blowers for our driveways and departments of transportation plowing our streets.





I'll not torture you anymore with pictures of snow. I happened across some pictures I took of last years Danville trip and the hot air balloons. Here's to warm thoughts.



That's our car in front. Ah.... Blue skies and warm weather.

Nice crowd enjoying the day.



Up, up and away.



These balloons were an awesome sight lit up at night.



Great finish to a great day.



A rooster, a duck, and a sheep were the first hot air balloon passengers.

In 1783, the first hot air balloon was set to fly over the heads of Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, and the French court in Versailles. Like monkeys in space, this odd assortment of animals was chosen to test the effects of flight. Sheep, thought to be similar to people, would show the effects of altitude on a land dweller, while ducks and roosters, which could already fly (albeit at different heights), would act as controls in the experiment. The balloon flew on a tether for 8 minutes, rising 1500 feet into the air and traveling 2 miles before being brought safely to the ground. The animals were unharmed.

The first pilots were almost condemned criminals.

When it came time to choose a pilot for the first hot air balloon flight, Louis XVI didn't want to be responsible for potential fatalities, so he figured: Hey, condemned criminals are going to die anyway, let's have them fly the balloon.



Luckily, he was talked out of the idea. Instead, scientist Jean-François Pilâtre De Rozier (above) and aristocrat François Laurent d'Arlandes were chosen to fly the balloon. On November 21, 1783, the men flew for 20 minutes, becoming the first people to experience sustained flight.

The first pilot was also the first air crash victim.

Following the flight, Rozier became the Charles Lindbergh of his day. Two years later, he decided to break another record by crossing the English Channel in a new kind of balloon, one that was half hot air, half hydrogen. Sadly, 30 minutes after taking off, the balloon exploded. Rozier and his co-pilot were killed, giving him an unfortunate new record: the first person to fly in a balloon, and the first person to die in one.

And that was a brief history of the origins of the hot air balloon. I also have an interesting history piece submitted by sandy Kaleta. Thanks Sandy.

Hours after Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, the Secret Service found themselves in a bind.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt was to give his Day of Infamy speech to Congress on Monday, and although the trip from the White House to Capitol Hill was short, agents weren't sure how to transport him safely as the limo they had wasn't bullet proofed.



At the time, Federal Law prohibited buying any cars that cost more than \$750, so they would have to get clearance from Congress to do that, and nobody had time for that. One of the Secret Service members, however, discovered that the US Treasury had seized the bulletproof car that mobster Al Capone owned when he was sent to jail in 1931.



They cleaned it, made sure it was running perfectly and had it ready for the President the next day.



Al Capone's 1928 Cadillac V-8 "Al Capone" Town Sedan Became the President's Limo in December 1941.



Mechanics are said to have cleaned and checked each feature of the Caddy well into the night of December 7th , to make sure that it would run properly the next day for the Commander in Chief.



To top it off, the gangster's 1928 Cadillac Town Sedan had 3,000 pounds of armor and inch-thick bulletproof windows



It also had a specially installed siren and flashing lights hidden behind the grille, along with a police scanner radio.



OK, I know what you're thinking. I have the Valentines Day theme and the Mob tie-in, I wonder if he's going to do a piece on the St. valentines Day massacre. Maybe next year.

Now for some business.



A'S R US MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 17 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Jon Lisota. Home of Phil and Nancy Serviss. 17 members were in attendance.

Minutes were read by Dale, filling in for Sandy.

Minutes were accepted by Chuck and Bob

Treasurers Report: John read the treasurers report in Jim's absence.

Approved by: Bob and Chuck

A letter sent to the mayor of Tinley By Al & sandy praising the venue. Thank you letter was sent to Nights of Harmony. Jon Lisota, Dale Chamis and Bonnie Senkpeil noted our holiday party was wonderful and thanked Al & Sandy for hosting. The entertainment was enjoyed by everyone.

Member News: Jon Lisota's mother in law passed away at 91 years young. Jon also noted their beloved Snoopy crossed the rainbow bridge.

Jim Wright's mother was hospitalized after a fall. She is home and is doing well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ron B will no longer be the Safety Officer. Steve Coe will assume this role.

Budget Committee: Bonnie, Dale, Jon Lisota – Meeting date tbd.

Shakedown Cruise: Jon asked for a volunteer to plan the event/date.

Spring Tour: We are set for Michigan – Lakeside Inn

If anyone would like to plan an additional spring trip, Jon is asking for volunteers.



Auction was postponed. The auction will be held at the June meeting at Bob's garage.

Fall Tour – need volunteer

Phil- Exposure Trip

Holiday Party – tbd

Bob S. The Bridge is hosting a Chef's auction March 4th at Silver Lake Country Club. We have in the past donated a ride to 4 couples. This year a ride in the Model A locally, then take them to the restaurant plus the drivers would have dinner at the restaurant. No out of pocket to the club. Dinner location unknown at this time. All club members in agreement. Bob will let us know how many cars would be needed for this event.

PICNIC:

Ken mentioned doing a day trip with the Calumet Club. Jon Lisota will reach out to Art and will revisit next meeting.

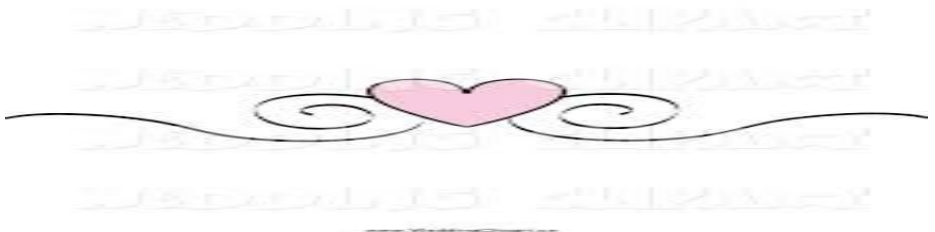
Jon found some tech talk DVD's and gave to Chuck to add to the library.

Bonnie noted the holiday party was fabulous. John thanked Al & Sandy for a great Christmas party. Food, venue and entertainment was fabulous.

Phil submitted a bill to the club to purchase pads for the AED. \$82.05. Henry will provide to Jim.

Mafi thanked us for our donation.

Nancy will shred medical documents for old members. Nancy distributed current member's previous documents for updates. Nancy has blank forms/envelopes for those who need forms. The medical forms are contained in plastic box in sealed envelopes and brought with on our trips. Nancy discussed new Medicare laws for 2018 relative to receiving therapy. Nancy will provide a website for those who would like to protest this.



March 18th 35th Annual swap meet to be held in Roselle at Friendly Ford.

Ken noted Mafi has free memberships for kids. Anyone who is a member of Mafi will have also free admission to the Gilmore Museum.

Chuck mentioned a revisit to Joliet for the Shake-down.

After the meeting, Phil showed the members the first aid kit and what it contains to the members. Phil also did a demonstration on the AED, which is transported on all trips. Phil then talked about CPR, and the difference when applying on adults vs. small children. Those who were interested practiced CPR with Phil's guidance.

HAPPY RAINY DAY, THIS WEATHER IS CRAZY!!!!!!OUR FEBRUARY MEETING IS THIS WEDNESDAY, FEB 21ST. 7:00PMJON AND YVONNE LISOTA'S, 511 W. STANTON LANE, CRETEHOPE TO SEE YOU THERE. MARCH 21ST MEETING WILL BE AT THE: PARK FOREST VILLAGE HALL BOARDROOM, 350 VICTORY DRIVE, PARK FOREST, IL. JUST NORTH OF INDIANWOOD BLVD AND WEST OF THE FIRE DEPT BUILDING. THANKS STEVE FOR ARRANGING THIS. STEVE WILL PROVIDE THE LIQUID REFRESHMENTS, POP, WATER AND COFFEE. HE ASKS THAT WE BRING SNACKS AND DESERTS AS USUAL. SANDY

