



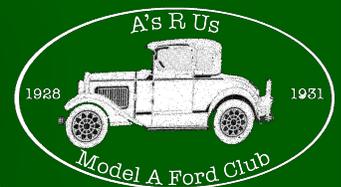
VOLUME 16

ISSUE 7

JULY 2011



# BACKFIRE



Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>  
<http://asrus.homestead.com>

**C**ongratulations go out to Jim Wright for a well-done article in the Restorer magazine. I am including it in the newsletter for all to see. Well timed also. I will reprint Marline's on the Poulsen Project in the next few months.

Nancy and I have been in England for two weeks and missed the "Dixie Dash", and the entire goings on

this month. I will soon catch up.

**Header Picture:**

Paul, Nancy and myself on a ride in a 1935 Morris 8, in Sussex, England.

In the meantime when you just think things can't get any better than being in England our "Mother Country," our friend Andrew arranged with his friend Paul a ride in the countryside in a 1935 Morris 8. ***Continued page 2***



You really see the need for downsized cars on the typical English roads we traversed the two weeks we were there. Amazingly Nancy said that there was plenty of room in the back seat like our Tudors. The front on the other hand; well I am broad shouldered. I was on the lookout for antique cars especially A's. Unfortunately there were few old cars on the road to see. I hope you enjoy what I did see on the trip, until next month....

Phil

Here are the spec's for the:

## 1935 Morris 8

- Price to £120 for the two-door, or an additional £10 for the four-door body
- Engine: Type 'UB'. Four-cylinder, side-valve. 918.6cc
- Aluminum pistons. 5.8:1 compression ratio. **23.5 bhp** at peak 3,900rpm.
- Cooling system thermo-siphon aided by fan. "No pump"
- Three-speed gearbox with synchromesh top and third.
- Lockheed hydraulic brakes.
- Rear mounted petrol tank, 5½-gallons.
- 6-volt electric system, negative earth.
- Armstrong hydraulic shock absorbers.
- Wheelbase 90in. Track 45in.



**9.5 HP 4 cylinder engine!**



**1960 Morris Minor 1000 Woody wagon**



**1932-33 Bedford 2-1/2 ton Truck**

## CLUB EFFORTS

PRESERVE AND PROMOTE

# THE HISTORIC

*Fall 2010 Trip celebrates the Road's 95th Anniversary*

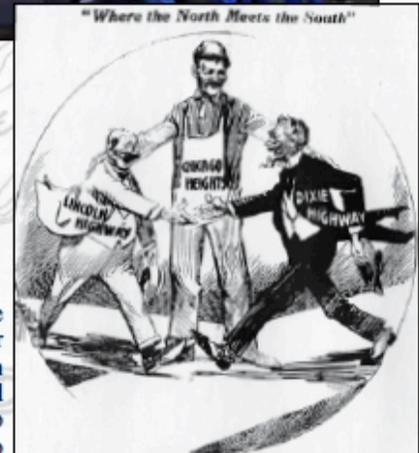
By Jim Wright, Homewood, Illinois



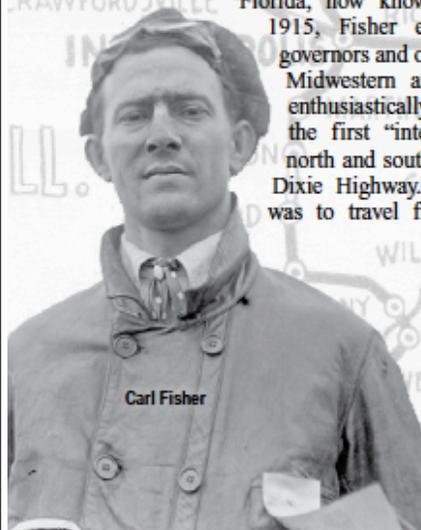
The A's R Us, the Chicago Southland chapter of MAFCA, is a small but active group. Club members participate in a variety of functions including parades, day and weekend trips, car shows, cruise nights and visits to local veterans and nursing homes and to Camp Quality, a local summer camp for children affected by cancer. To foster member interest and camaraderie, monthly meetings are held in members' homes, members participate in a monthly breakfast at a local restaurant and tech talks are frequently given to aid members with maintenance and mechanical problems.



Since 2002, the A's R Us have also partnered with a number of local communities and historical groups in promoting the historic Dixie Highway in Illinois, and the club has been a major organizer of the annual 'Drive The Dixie', a travelling antique car show held the third Saturday of June each year, which begins in city of Blue Island and ends in Mokenca, Illinois.



The concept of the Dixie Highway became so popular that the state of Michigan lobbied to be included on the route. This led to a decision in May 1915 to designate two routes for the highway. A western division carried travelers from Chicago into the south via Indianapolis, Nashville and Atlanta, while an eastern division had its northern terminus in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and took travelers through Detroit, Toledo, Cincinnati and Lexington on their way to the highway's southern terminus in Miami. Later, a branch of the highway extended into North and South Carolina and the northern terminus of the western division also became Sault



Carl Fisher

A section of the original unpaved Dixie Highway.



Ste. Marie. Between 1915 to 1927, nearly 5,786 miles of roadway had been improved on the two divisions of the highway.



Arche Fountain at Chicago Heights now.

Arche Fountain at Chicago Heights then.



Iroquois County - Paving Work.



In Illinois, the origins of the Dixie Highway date back to the 1820's when Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard, a young fur trader with John Jacob Astor's American Fur Trading Company, arrived in eastern Illinois and set up trading posts between Chicago and Vincennes, Indiana. The route between these became known as Hubbard's Trail. In 1835, the Illinois General Assembly

ordered that a state road be established between Vincennes and Chicago, and Hubbard's Trail was selected as the most direct route. This was the first official state route established in Illinois and was then known as the Chicago-Vincennes Road, later designated as Illinois Route One.



Hoopston-Hubbard Trail Marker.



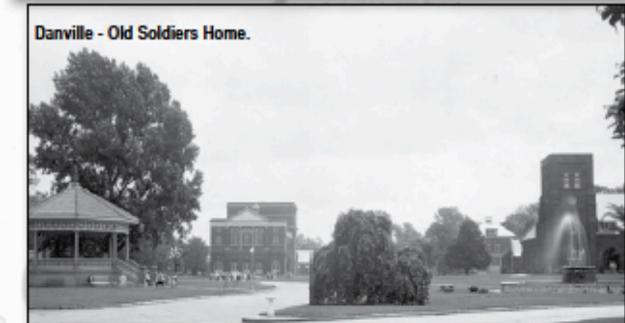
Momence - Bridgework.



Milford - Dixie Garage.

In 1915, Illinois boosters quickly went to work to improve the roads selected for the Dixie Highway, which roughly followed the paths of Hubbard's Trail, the old Chicago-Vincennes Road and the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad. The highway started at the Art Institute on Michigan Avenue in Chicago and traveled south in the city to Garfield Boulevard, then west to Western Avenue. The route continued south on Western Avenue into Blue Island, joining the present route of the Dixie Highway through Chicago Heights, following present-day Route 1 through the towns of Crete, Beecher, Grant Park, Momence and points south to Danville, where the highway heads east on Main Street to the Indiana border.

Work started in earnest on paving the road in 1916 and by August 1921, the full length of the Dixie Highway in Illinois, about 136 miles from Chicago to Danville, was either concrete or brick paved. This was the longest continuous paved road in Illinois at the time. The highway became widely popular and well traveled. Service stations, diners, tourist courts and camps sprouted along the roadside, and local businesses and communities grew and prospered.



Danville - Old Soldiers Home.

Over the years, as more direct routes south from Chicago were developed, and with the advent of the Interstate Highway System and the completion of Interstate 65 in Indiana and Interstate 57 in Illinois, the Dixie Highway lost its stature as a preeminent link from north to south in Illinois. Today, although few travelers bound for Florida motor down the Dixie Highway in Illinois, the road remains the backbone of the communities through which it passes.

In addition to the annual Drivin' the Dixie car event, to be held June 18 this year, the A's R Us 2010 fall trip also helped promote the history of the highway. Club members paraded down the Dixie Highway in Illinois in October, retracing the path of a motorcade of vehicles that drove the route 95 years earlier as part of an inspection tour by highway and governmental officials of the existing roads selected to be improved to form the highway. That group left Chicago the morning of October 9, 1915, and



Hoopston



Beaverville, St. Mary Church.



Lined up at the Possum Trot Restaurant.

arrived in Danville, Illinois later that evening. The original caravan continued their tour of the highway route on succeeding days until arriving in Miami on October 21, 1915.

Prior to the 2010 trip, press releases were sent by the club to local newspapers along the way to publicize the trip and its significance. On the morning of Friday October 8, 2010, 20 cars and 47 A's R Us members and guests began retracing the route of the original motorcade. They started their journey in Chicago Heights, Illinois at the Arche' Fountain at the intersection of the Lincoln and Dixie Highways - the "Crossroads of the Nation." Other stops that morning were made in Momence, St. Anne and Papineau, Illinois, where the group was given brief histories of the towns and the club presented each community with a certificate of appreciation. Lunch was on the grounds of the Old Courthouse Museum in Watseka. The picnic meal was served from provisions carried aboard the "Chuck Wagon," a trailer specially built to haul a grill and food storage behind the 1930 Tudor of club member Chick Fritz.

Friday afternoon included more stops in the towns of Milford, Hoopston and Rossville. In Hoopston a crowd of residents lined the entrance road to a park adjacent to the highway, where a giant sculpture of an ear of corn commemorates the position the town once held as the sweet corn capital of the country. In Rossville, club members were met by a television crew from the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) station from Eastern Illinois University, which filmed a segment on the highway and the club for its Heartland Highways series.

The day's journey ended about 5:00 pm at a hotel in Danville, Illinois where the group spent the night after enjoying a delicious barbecue pork chop dinner prepared on the "Chuck Wagon." The following morning, club members toured the Vermilion County Museum and the home of Dr. William Fithian, where Abraham Lincoln stayed overnight and gave a speech in his stocking feet from an upstairs balcony during his unsuccessful



1858 campaign for the United States Senate. After a picnic lunch in Kennekuk County Park, the afternoon was spent displaying the cars and visiting with disabled veterans at the Veterans Administration Illiana Health Care Center along the Dixie Highway and on the

grounds of the former Danville Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, established in 1898. Saturday ended with a drive in the country and dinner at the Possum Trot, a wonderful local restaurant.

On Sunday, the entourage left Danville for the return trip back north to the Chicago area. Weather was sunny and bright, and the country roads traversed were highlighted the changing autumn colors. The group rejoined the Dixie Highway south of Watseka, Illinois, where they stopped at the restored 1931 Art Deco style Watseka Theatre. After a tour of this facility, club members were treated to a showing of the 1953 Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz classic *The Long, Long Trailer*. After the movie, lunch was served in the theatre café. The final stop for the day was the beautifully restored St. Mary Church in Beaverville, Illinois, known locally as the "Cathedral in the Country."

Club members agreed that this excursion was a success by all measures – another exciting trip with perfect weather, only a few minor breakdowns, and the company and fellowship of friends. It was also a success in the continuing mission of the A's R Us to promote the Model A and the heritage of the Dixie Highway in Illinois.



For more information on the A's R Us and the Drivin' the Dixie, visit <http://asrus.homestead.com/>

To view the Heartland Highways episode featuring the Dixie Highway and the A's R Us visit the WEIU website and select season 9, episode 903: [http://www.weiu.net/hh/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=12&Itemid=25](http://www.weiu.net/hh/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=12&Itemid=25)



To learn more about the Dixie Highway in Illinois and the book by the same name, visit: [http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Product\\_Code=97807385600](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Product_Code=97807385600)  
\*Current photos provided by Phil Serviss and Joe Krygowski

## A'S R US MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2011

MEETING LOCATION: Bob Steinmetz Garage

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT TIM BOTS AT: 7:18PM

Minutes were approved as read.

TREASURERS REPORT: Jim reported and available at the meetings.

MEMBER NEWS: Herman has been honored with an invitation to the WW2 memorial.

OLD BUSINESS: Tim went right to discussing the upcoming Driving the Dixie on Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>. Assignments were reviewed as follows:

Registrations: Linnea, Dale and Karen

Poker Run/10's in a Bag: Al & Sandy, Ken & Dale, Irv & Char, and Bill from Flossmoor Auto

Secret Stops: Blue Island Chuck/Linnea; Flossmoor Joe/Marlene; Grant Park: Tim Dionne

Sign committee to notify Bob Steinmetz of placement as he is in charge of Sign Sweep.

Traffic Control: Steve, Bob Granko, Claude and Travis.

**Supplies Needed: 3 Tables, 3 Canopies and Chairs. Radios and Safety Vests**

Pre-Registration to date: 37 (last year brought 61 pre-registrants and a total of 137 cars )

Ken suggested a Buffet dinner at Aureilo's after the D.D. event, which will be paid for by the individual along with any liquor purchased. The group was in favor of this idea and Wally said he would be happy to take care of scheduling it with the owner.

### ON GOING BUSINESS

**A'SRUS PICNIC: Jon requested the ladies bring their choice of Sides/Desserts or both.**

Yvonne is in charge of the Kids games and Tim/Pat said they would be willing to help . Chuck stated he will have the Chuckwagon there. Jon cleared reimbursement from the club treasury for food and prizes which will be split with the Highland Club. Picnic Date: July 17<sup>th</sup>. Watch for a notice from Joe.

**Joe stated he has not had any word from the Bride re: her September wedding.**

**Tim was in touch with Becky** re: the Olympia Fields Family Festival, he stated he requested a \$50.00 donation to our club, she stated she would get back to him and hasn't to date.

**Ken received Flyers from Roberta Kelly** the Social Coordinator of the Olympia Fields Senior residence. She is requesting a \$5.00 donation per car and there will be a Residents Choice vote re: our cars with a \$50.00 gift to the winner. Date: **July 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 PM.** 8-9 members stated they would attend and pay the \$5.00 entry.

**Deep River Grinders Ball Team** Tim reported he has been in contact with management, the date for our group to attend has not been determined. More info will be available for the July meeting.

**July 4<sup>th</sup> parades reminder: Homewood lineup at the library or St. Joes parking lots at 10:30AM. Then lunch at Phil and Nancy's, then the Beecher Parade etc.**

Wally made mention that a Cancer Support group may walk with us in Homewood.

**Fall Trip: more info to follow at July the meeting.**

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSIONS: We received a letter of thanks from the Ronald McDonald house for our donation. We also received a beautiful thank you letter from Tim/Pats daughter re: Galvin's Gifts.

Tim presented a Newsletter re: Model A Ford repair DVD's, Tim B stated he has reviewed 3 of the videos and they are not worth the \$300.00, Jon agreed.

Wally gave Ken a newspaper from the Memorial Day Parade, for our history library, with Al/Sandy's Big Red leading the pack.

Bob Steinmetz reminded the membership of the **Teen Bridge cruise night on July 14<sup>th</sup> at Chick Fi lete** which is located near 153rd and LaGrange in Orland.

Wally presented information re: a gentleman who is an illustrator and specializes in automobiles. Anyone interested in a rendition of their car, home or family should contact him.

Tech Talk: Deferred

Breakfast: Deferred

Next month's mtg: JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> AT STEINMETZ GARAGE

50/50 TOTALED \$87.00 AND IRV WON.

\$5.00 WAS COLLECTED IN BADGE FINES

Adjourn: 8:40PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA

## Return to Delavan Lake Wisconsin

Fall Trip - Friday October 7 through Sunday October 9, 2011  
**Delavan/Lake Geneva, Wisconsin**

Block of Rooms Reserved under **A's R Us** at  
Delavan Lake Resort (800-430-8164)  
\$110 per night for 1 bedroom/1 bath suite  
\$145 per night for 2-bedroom/2-bath suite

<http://lakedelavanresort.com/suites.html>

# Up and coming meeting locations:

## Up Coming Calendar of 2011 Events

**Monday July 4<sup>th</sup>:** Homewood parade then drive to Beecher to Phil and Nancy's home for a pot luck and parade.

**Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup>:**

**Teen Bridge Center Fund Raiser Car Show 5pm to 9pm**  
*Come and dine and a % goes to a good cause.*

**Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>:** Picnic at Monee reservoir with the Highland club.

**Wednesday July 20<sup>th</sup>:** AT STEINMETZ GARAGE

**Wednesday July 27<sup>th</sup>:** Olympia Fields Senior Residence  
 1-4 pm. \$5.00 entry



Bruges, Belgium

Saturday was wedding day in Bruges. This was a party's transportation outside city hall for the Wedding guests.

**July 2011**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	<b>4</b>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	<b>20</b>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**August 2010**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	<b>18</b>	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**September 2010**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	<b>21</b>	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## A's R Us officers and Staff

- President – Tim Bots
- Vice President – Tim Borchert / Treasure – Jim Wright / Secretary – Sandy Kaleta
- Newsletter – Phillip Serviss
- Member Relations – Joe Krygowski
- Web Page – Joe Krygowski
- Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom
- Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau
- Nat'l Rep. – Marlene Krygowski
- Historian – Ken Chamis
- Sgt. At Arms Steve Coe
- Motor Medic - Jon Isota

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

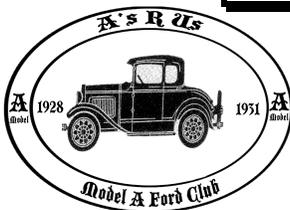
E Mail to: [taxserviss@att.net](mailto:taxserviss@att.net)

Poulsen's cars in Michigan,  
May 2011



## BACKFIRE

P.O. Box 3  
Crete, Illinois 60417



Mail To: