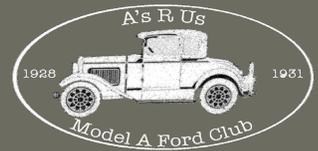


BACKFIRE



Volume #22

Issue #2

February 2017



*The Carp,
Editor in Chief*

If you haven't gone to our Facebook site lately we now have 279 members that have joined to share and enjoy our hobbies. I'm averaging 5 to 6 request a week now as the site is shared with other like-minded car, guys and gals. You will see we have members from Germany, Brazil and England to all parts of the USA. So submit your

photos and stories and comments with the site and enjoy the feedback.

Phil

October 7th 2000
A'sRUS on the
beech of Lake
Michigan in
Michigan.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/176076325>

Presidents Comments

Happy February club members.

Valentines day is upon us already so it is hard to believe we are almost half way thru this month. They sure do go by quickly. But that means we are closer to spring and closer to getting our cars back on the roads.

This is a good time (if there is a heated garage) to go over your vehicle. I know my car needs quite a bit of work. It just seems time goes by so fast. Maybe as I am getting older it just seems faster.

If anyone has some ideas of future activities or destinations that you were considering please bring them up at the next meeting.

We as a club have been to many areas but there are numerous more.

Bring us your ideas and let's discuss them.

Hope to see all at the meeting.

Tim Dionne | President



DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Carl Fisher: A Brief Biography of the Father of the Dixie Highway

Born in 1874 in Greensburg, Indiana, Carl Fisher quit school at age 12 and five years later opened a bicycle repair shop in Indianapolis.

A successful entrepreneur, he was approached in 1904 by the owner of a U.S. patent to manufacture acetylene headlights. Soon Fisher's Prest-o-Lite Company supplied nearly every headlamp used on automobiles in the United States and manufacturing plants were built all over the country to supply the demand.

The headlight patent made him rich and Fisher made millions in 1909 after he sold the Prest-O-Lite automobile headlamp business to Union Carbide.





A Battery and a Service for Every Car

PREST-O-LITE is the universal battery, designed and built to give greater vitality, endurance and durability to every electric system. Back of it is a great, country-wide Prest-O-Lite System of Service waiting to furnish courteous, intelligent attention to every car owner.

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Tour where you please, from coast to coast

—you will find Prest-O-Lite Direct Factory Branches backed up by Prest-O-Lite Battery Service Stations, carrying stocks of new batteries and battery parts—ready to serve you.

No matter what battery you use, Prest-O-Lite Service—including expert inspection, tests, repairs and recharging—is always ready to give cheerful, painstaking care to your battery requirements.

The Prest-O-Lite Co., Inc.

U. S. Main Office and Factory: Indianapolis, Indiana

Canadian General Office and Factory: Toronto, Ontario

Factory Branches in Principal Cities

Special Service Stations Everywhere



In answering this advertisement it is desirable that you mention MENARD'S MAGAZINE.

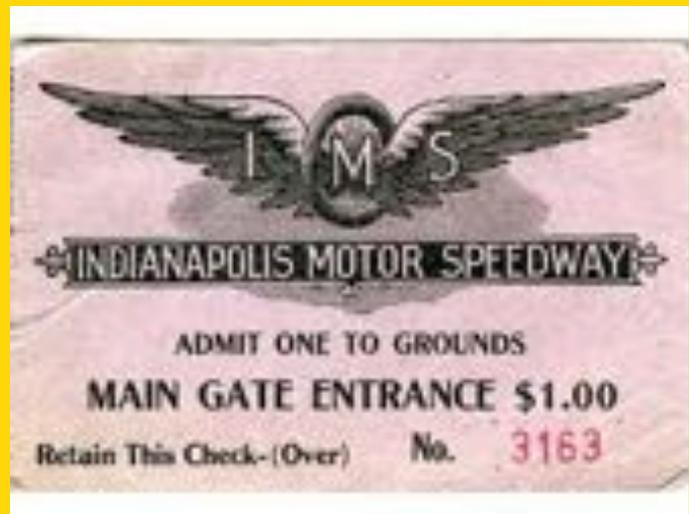


Fisher was also involved in automobile sales with his friend Barney Oldfield. The Fisher Automobile Company in Indianapolis (1900) is considered to likely be the first automobile dealership in the United States. It represented multiple manufacturers like Oldsmobile, Reo, Packard, Stoddard-Dayton, Stutz, and others.

In 1909, Fisher joined a group of other Indianapolis businessmen in a new project, investing in what became Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The first automobile race in August 1909 ended in disaster. The loose rock track led to numerous crashes, fires, injuries to race car drivers and spectators, and even deaths. The race was halted and canceled when only halfway

completed. Despite this debacle, Fisher convinced the investors to install 3.2 million paving bricks, leading to the famous nickname "the brickyard".

The Speedway reopened and, on Memorial Day, May 30, 1911, 80,000 paying spectators at \$1 apiece watched the 500-mile event, the first in a long line of races known as the Indianapolis 500.





In 1913, foreseeing the automobile's impact on American life, Fisher was instrumental in the development of the Lincoln Highway, the first road to span America, linking New York City with San Francisco. Fisher estimated the highway, an improved, hard-surfaced road stretching almost 3,400 miles would cost ten million dollars. Others helped Fisher with their promotional skills, together creating the Lincoln Highway Association.

Success with the Lincoln Highway, led Fisher to turn his attention to creating the Dixie Highway, a network of north-south routes extending from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to southern Florida, which he felt would provide an ideal way for

Midwesterners to vacation in the sunny south. It was no coincidence that Fisher purchased significant parcels of property in what was to be come Miami Beach, which he was able to later sell at handsome profits.





By 1926, Fisher was worth an estimated \$100 million, and he began working on a "Miami Beach of the north " a development project at Montauk on the eastern

tip of Long Island. Despite prior successes, Fisher's fortunes changed as land prices in Florida plummeted in the late 1920's following a devastating hurricane that hit Miami Beach and the Montauk development never took off. With these reversals and, the effects of the market crash of 1929, Fisher was left virtually penniless and never recovered financially. He died in Florida on July 15, 1939.

Jim Wright

A'S R US MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 18, 2017

MEETING LOCATION: Phil and Nancy Serviss, Beecher, Illinois

CALL TO ORDER BY PRSIDENT TIM DIONNE AT 7:12 P.M.

Minutes were read and accepted by Bob Steinmetz and seconded by Jon Lisota.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tim Dionne reported for Jim Wright in his absence. There were several expense checks written as follows:

Karen Kolenda – reimbursement for Scrementi's deposit

Secretary of State – Annual Fee

Pat Botts – Christmas Party Expenses

Karen Kolenda – Christmas Party Expenses

Scrementi's for dinner

Illinois Knights Templar – Memory of Ken Botts

Total Checks

DEPOSITS:

Christmas Party Payments

BALANCE as of 12/31/16

This balance still includes 2016 Driving the Dixie funds not yet distributed

DIXIE ACCOUNT BALANCE:

Interest:

BALANCE

Bob Steinmetz motioned to approve the Treasurer's report and Jon Lisota seconded motion.

MEMBERS NEWS: Bob Steinmetz shared that his sister-in-law, Betsy Christensen fell in her garage and broke both of her legs. She was getting out of rehab on Saturday. Her address is 307 Roscommon Ct, Glen Ellyn, Il. 60137.

Tim Dionne thanked Karen, Pat and Geri for organizing the Christmas Party. We all loved the calendars. They did an amazing job.

Tim Dionne also commented on the Christmas parades that we had a good turnout and they went really well.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tim Dionne talked about the spring trip to Lakeside Inn. He tried to call the hotel but the phone was out of service. During the meeting it was noted on the website that the phone was temporarily out of service but to contact them by the website until phone service is restored.

Phil Serviss is looking for suggestions for the Exposure tour. He researched going to Niagara Falls, but felt it was too far. Some places that were mentioned was Nashville, Door County, Shawnee National Forest, Baraboo, Wisconsin. Members were asked to contact Phil with ideas and feedback as soon as possible so plans can be made.

There was also discussion regarding three day trips and traveling around 150 miles. Galena is approximately 160 miles. Tim Dionne also suggested that we could go on a one day or overnight trip in our modern cars in addition to our regular "A" trip to involve families.

Tim Dionne reported that Jim Wright got a note from Robert Harwood inviting us to participate in the 150th anniversary celebration of Watseka on June 8 and 9.

Tim Dionne reported that Jim Wright also got a note from Carol Healy regarding the 4/2/17 Calumet Region Fundraiser Soup Day if members would like to participate.

NEW BUSINESS:



MISC DISCUSSIONS; Discussion was held regarding hosting a picnic this year. Jon Lisota agreed to check for availability for July 23 or July 30th and to purchase the permit.

BUDGET COMMITTEE –

Tim Dionne is getting together with Jim Wright to discuss a proposed budget for 2017.

BREAKFAST MEETING:

Next breakfast meeting is scheduled on February 4, 2017 at Peachtree in Matteson at 8:30 a.m. It was mentioned that maybe after a breakfast meeting in the future that Ray Schmude would arrange a visit to Eastwood in Crestwood.

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:

Will be at Claude and Nancy Poulsen's, 11812 S. Glen Road, Palos Park, IL. Wednesday, February 15, Regular time: 7:00 p.m.

YOU'RE INVITED!!



soup



salad

bread

chili

dessert

3RD ANNUAL
CALUMET REGION MARC
SOUP DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

**673 PENFIELD
BEECHER, IL**

1:00 PM

**HUBLEY DERBY
\$1.00 PER CAR
PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED
SO BRING YOUR HUBLEY
AND JOIN IN THE FUN!**

**\$10.00 PER PERSON
\$5.00 AGE 12-16
FREE UNDER AGE 12**



**A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE DAY WILL
GO TO THE
MODEL A YOUTH GROUP SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Please join us for our annual day of Food, Friends
and Fun! Enjoy many different homemade soups
and chili's provided by the members of the Calumet
Region. Salad and dessert are included.



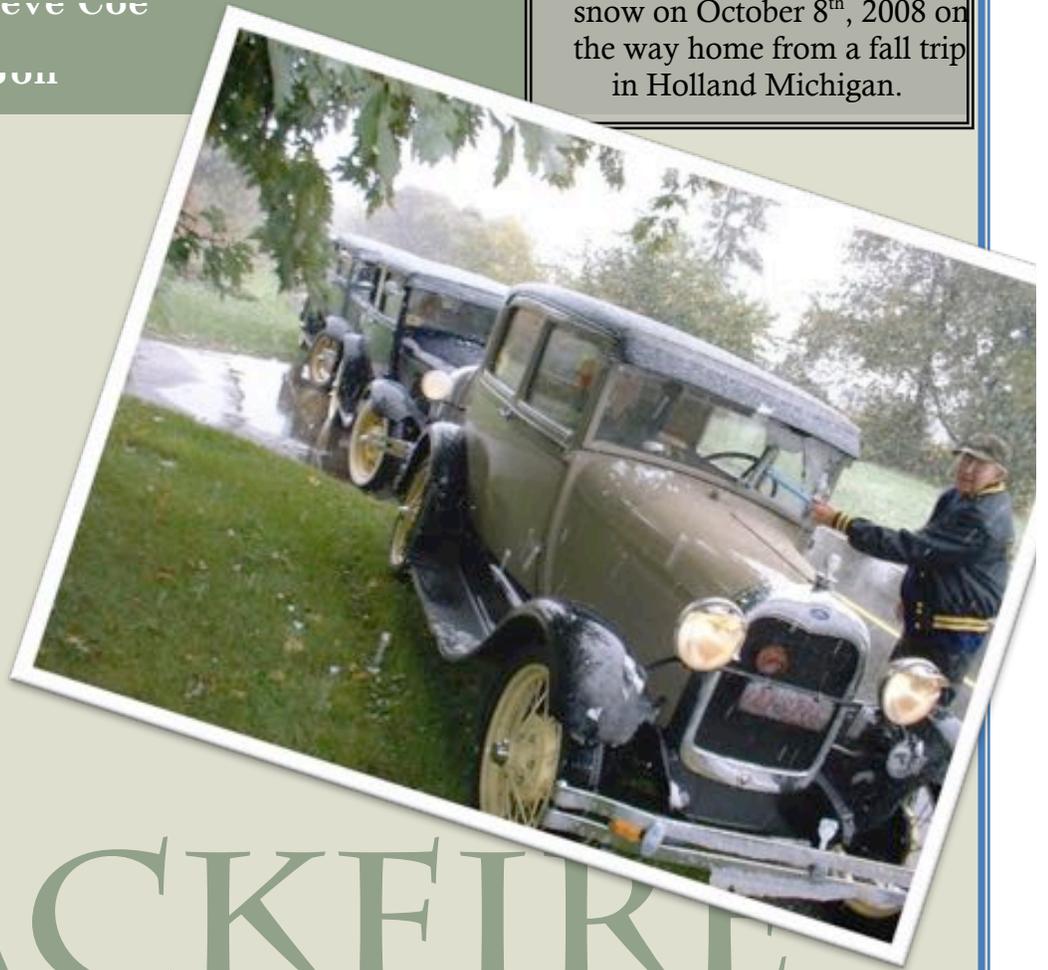
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Carol Healy, 708-799-9142

A's R Us 2016 Officers and Staff

- President – Tim Dionne
- Vice President – Chuck Fritz
- 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
- Model Menic – John

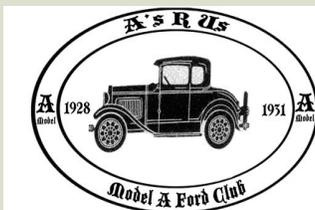
Herman getting ready for snow on October 8th, 2008 on the way home from a fall trip in Holland Michigan.



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

E Mail to: taxserviss@att.net

BACKFIRE



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