

Antique Auto Mushers of Alaska



Tinkering Times



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May 7, 2025

Model A's Do Garage Tour



Cresap

Gary Klecka's driveway had plenty of room for this bunch of AAMA/Alaskan A's Model A Fords visiting his spacious three-door shop in Eagle River: Tom Cresap's 1931 Slant Window, Art Isham's 1930 Roadster, Louie Finch's 1929 Coupe, Carl Godsoe's 1931 Pickup, Phil Morrow's 1931 Cabriolet, Michael Packard's 1928 Roadster and Tom Schrader's 1931 Tudor.

by Tom Cresap

On Saturday, May 3rd, a bunch of the club's Model A's and guests did a garage tour of four AAMA members' garages.

The fun began with a very enjoyable breakfast at Bobby's Restaurant and Bakery in Peters Creek. The group then caravanned to Isham's, where they saw Art Isham's service and restoration bay and separate "carriage house," where he stores his impressive collection of cars.

Second on the itinerary was Richard Golding's garage with its awe-inspiring combination of car lifts, car storage and service bay. The tourists were able to view Richard's 1928 Model A, which is undergoing the replacement of a piston that disintegrated, a whole 'nother' story.

In Eagle River, the group toured the almost historic 29-year-old woodworking, car storage and repair shop built by Tom Cresap in 1996. Tom and his wife, Marcy, lived in this building for two years, starting in 2003, while Tom built their

separate home next door.

Finally, in the heart of an Eagle River subdivision, Gary Klecka's beautiful, clean and well-arranged three-bay "Garage Mahal" was the envy of the group. Gary has created a generous, open space where he can easily store cars and still be able to do service and repair. His Model A taxi was in the process of receiving a replacement engine, and several of the guys helped remove it from its shipping crate and place it on a workbench, where Gary will complete its assembly.

Organizer of the tour, Jim



Fredenhagen

Garage Tour breakfast was at Bobby's Café and Bakery in Peters Creek.

Fredengagen says, "Thanks, one and all for making this outing a very fun time. Special thanks to our garage hosts, Rich, Art, Tom and Gary."

May Meeting

Our May meeting will take place at Hope Community Resource Building at 570 W. 53rd Avenue in Anchorage at 6:30 pm.

We will get the latest info on the Shakedown Cruise, the Homer Tour, our first drive about for the season and the May Adopt-A-Road.

We will dine out afterward.

Running Board Reflections



Rich on the Road

With only three days into the month of May, our old car season has already taken off like a bullet.

Not only have the Model A's (accompanied by a 70's Lincoln Continental and an 80's Citroën Deux Chevaux) already journeyed down Turnagain Arm to Indian for their early Spring Bratwurst run, but just last week my lovely wife and navigator Linda and I were able to join the Ishams for a quick two day drive up to Denali and back in our little French 2cv's. The two Citroëns garnished immediate attention wherever we went. At every stop along the way, inside and outside the park, there were several people, Alaskans as well as tourists from the Lower '48, all coming over to our vehicles and asking questions about them. I got several chances to address their queries. The most common question being "What kind of cars are those?"

I patiently explained that the Isham's orangy-red 2cv was a Citroën.

"What about the blue one?" most then asked, pointing at my 2cv.

"Why that is a Maserati," I responded in a positive, authoritarian voice, and a big smile.

Nobody, and I do mean NONE OF THEM, ever doubted my words.

Then, a few days after returning to our homes in Peter's Creek, both Art and I partook in a 'shop crawl,' hosting nine Model A's. After lunch at Bobbie's Cafe, we all toured the shops of Isham, Golding, Cresap and Klecka—located within the Chugiak-Eagle River area. All in all, there were nine Ford Model A's, and over a dozen owners in attendance.

And all this happened prior to the first full week of May.

The rest of the coming Spring/Summer season promises lots more exciting activities. The Spring Shakedown Cruise, the AAMA Adopt-a-Road cleanup, the Homer Car Show, our Father's Day Show at the Zoo, are all occurring within a month's time. Watch for all event information and dates in the pages of this and upcoming issues of the Tinkering Times or check out our club's website calendar.

It's going to be a great Spring/Summer. Air-up your tires and get on the road! —I'll see you there!

—Richard



2025 Officers

President:

Richard Golding (907)227-2595
rsg1952@gmail.com

Vice President:

Michael Packard (907)382-1221

Secretary:

Greg Carpenter (907)891-4988

Treasurer:

Louis Mestier (512)507-8028

Sergeant-at-Arms:

Dutch Overly (907)338-1789

Members at Large

Tamea Isham-907-688-3671

Donn Reese-907-245-7203

Scott Hulse (907)240-4028

Past Presidents (10 years)

Linda Mattes Golding

(2022-2024)

David Jensen (2019-21)

Gwyn Wiedmer (2017-18)

Brian Anderson (2015-16)

Mike Wiedmer (2013-14)

Tinkering Times Staff

Editor: Tom Cresap

Proofing, scheduling and keeping the old man in line: Marcy Cresap

Send correspondence to:

Tinkering Times

Tom Cresap, Editor

P.O. Box 770703

Eagle River AK 99577

or email:

tmcresap@mtaonline.net

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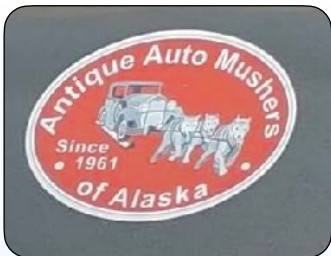
Opinions expressed by authors of Tinkering Times—including statements about how wonderful we are—are their own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska or any facsimile of reality, for that matter.

One Man's Treasures

Our ads are intended for members and others who wish to sell cars and related items. There is no charge, and the ad will run for three consecutive issues before being removed. To pull an ad, extend it or to place a new ad, contact Tom at 907-694-7510.



FOR SALE: 1956 Ford Thunderbird, rebuilt 292 engine, electronic ignition, 3 speed/no overdrive, soft and hard top w/ dolly, shop and parts manuals, car cover, extra set of mounted radial studded snow tires, some extra parts. Runs well. Everything works. Solid #3 condition. 3rd place in Concours Class at 1990 Classic Thunderbird Club International, National Meet held in Williamsburg, VA. \$41,500. Contact Art/Tamea Isham 907-688-3671.



AAMA Magnetic Decals

Large AAMA decals mounted on heavy, .030" magnetic backing that holds great on a steel door or panel. \$45.00 (\$30 to AAMA for the decals and \$15 to Scott Hulse for materials and labor). Scott Hulse at (907) 240-4028, or email hulse@alaska.net

Schedule of events

- o **May 10**—Shakedown Cruise Mike Wiedmer and Dutch Overly 907-727-1789
- o **May 14**—6:30 pm, Meeting
- o **May 17, 18, 19**—Homer Tour, Richard Golding 907-227-2595
- o **May 21**—6:00, First Driveabout, REI parking lot, Anchorage
- o **May 24**—9:00 am Adopt-A-Road, Marcy Cresap 907-947-7509
- o **June 7**—Model A Reunion Jim Fredenhagen, 907-351-3115
- o July 4—Parades
- o July 4—Potluck at Cresaps'
- o July 11—6:30 pm, meeting
- o **June 15**—Zoo Car Show David Jensen, 907-244-4197



For Sale: Show-ready and regularly driven 1963 T-Bird in superb condition and a dream to drive. Engine is 390 4-barrel with pertronix and A/C update. Power steering, automatic transmission, power brakes, A/C, hydraulic wipers and power windows all work. Original interior is incredible and protected by ceramic window tint. Plus upgraded sound system with amp, subwoofer and custom trunk enclosure. Also, includes shop manual and

supplement, extra unused spare tires, Platinum Shield car cover, XL folding chairs for car shows and cleaning/maintenance supplies. \$30K negotiable. Louis Mestier, (512) 507-8028 or mistertax@hotmail.com



For Sale: 1930 Model A; formerly owned by Ken Stout; new brakes and running gear; new steering components; LED lights; alternator; electronic ignition; new battery; cowl-light turn signals; needs attention, but reliable daily driver; extra parts. Mark Barker 907-242-3660 or mbarker@gci.net

Secured, Enclosed Storage In West Downtown Anchorage

9'x18'x 7-1/2' high space
\$150/month for single
2 spaces-\$125 each
Dave Syren
(907) 440-2982

Upholstery Work: Car upholstery, roadster tops, she does it all. Her father and uncle (Dan and Bob Bloom) redo old army vehicles. Contact phone for Sarah Coffman is 907-671-8907.

AAMA Business Meeting

April 9, 2025

Location: Hope Community
Resources Learning Center
at 570 W. 53rd Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm by President Richard Golding
There were 34 members present.

March Minutes

The minutes were approved from the March business meeting as published in the Tinkering Times.

(See p. 5, "April Minutes")

Impromptu Trip Yields Denali Views



The two Citroën 2-CV's pulled over in the queue provided by suddenly clearing skies in order to view clearing mountains, including Denali.

By Linda Mattes-Golding

On Friday, Tam Isham called to ask if we wanted to take a trip to Denali National Park. On Monday. Three days away. April 28th. "The park road is open to vehicles to Mile 30 until mid-May. We should go. Now. Let's take the 2CV's."

Plans were quickly made. Very few hotels are open before that mid-May date, but we found rooms at the Aurora Denali Lodge in Healy, eleven miles from the park entrance. Further research ascertained that we would not go hungry (always an important matter for AAMA members); several restaurants were serving food in Healy.

We agreed to meet at 10am Monday at "Lady Bug Rock," a Peter's Creek landmark which is equidistant from our houses. The skies were gray, temperatures were in the low 40s. But we are sturdy, long-time Alaskans. And we know how to layer items of clothing. And bring hats and gloves. We even threw winter boots in the car, just in case we'd have to deal with (here we whisper the dreaded four-letter "S" word, snow).

On the drive north, we could not help but notice that the birch trees are already in bloom here in the banana belt. This phenomenon usually occurs a few days into May, so the spring green leaves are nearly a week early. Less and less green was observed as we moved northward.

What we did experience, however, was rain in various intensities, from

drizzle to downpour. In certain drizzly areas, the pavement was steaming.

After Houston, there is a long stretch of road where numerous trees have obviously cracked from high winds over the winter. And if anyone can tell me about the moss that (might) be strangling both spruce and birch trees, I'd like to know the deets. It looked like pictures I've seen of the Louisiana bayous.

We stopped for lunch at Talkeetna Junction, then moseyed northbound to the Park Visitor Center, where we double-checked road conditions. The Ranger on duty looked at our passes; we would not have to check in the next day. Dinner at the Totem Inn was burgers all around. I particularly enjoyed the patty melt. The restaurant filled up as we were eating; I'm sure half of the local high school was there for pizza.

Tuesday dawned. Temperatures had dropped overnight; it was by then freezing (literally) and cold winds were a-blowin'. We ate a hearty breakfast at Rose's Cafe, checked out of the hotel, then drove off to the park. It began to rain. The winds were fierce; our intrepid drivers had to fight to keep the cars from being blown into oncoming traffic. We hoped we were not on a fool's errand.

The Denali Park Road was surprisingly free of snow, and in very good condition. Even though the temperatures stayed cold, the clouds began to break up and the rain stopped.

We were able to make out hills and ridges, then valleys and blue skies, then mountains. We stopped at an overlook, and lo! we could see THE Mountain (although now renamed, still Denali in our hearts), wisps of clouds crowning its peaks. As we drove further into the park, we glimpsed views of it now and then, playing peekaboo as the ascending road curved and curled.

At Savage River, the paved road ended. The gravel road was plowed and graded. By June, I suspect it will be in poor shape, but it was easily drivable this late April day. The clouds continued to break, blue skies and sunshine warming our faces as well as our hearts.

The accessible part of the road ended at Teklanika River. We basked in the sunshine for a few minutes, spoke with tourists, then headed out of the park. On that part of the trip, we saw some ptarmigan, their white winter plumage just beginning to become speckled with the darker feathers of their summer coat.

By the time we were back on pavement, the clouds had descended, and snow flurries began. Visibility decreased, and we could no longer discern the mountain peaks. We had been in the right place at the right time. The window of good weather had shut.

The long road home was difficult. High winds and rain dogged us nearly the entire way. At Summit Lake, snow accumulated on the windshield. The wipers had to work hard to keep up. The rain lasted, unabated, to Willow.

In twenty-four hours, we had experienced all four Alaskan seasons. But even with the wind and rain, I, especially, was elated. I certainly had not expected the mountain sightings and felt that Nature had given us a rare gift for our tenacity.

On the other hand, Richard, who had driven the entire 500+ miles, went to bed at 9:30pm, and slept thirteen hours!



Art and Tamea Isham enjoy an uncrowded, 2CV road.

Merrill Field Centennial Celebration

by Richard Golding

2030 will mark the one hundredth anniversary of Merrill Field. The Anchorage municipally owned private airport's centennial celebrations marking this important event will commence five years in advance. Their organizing committee have requested that the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska participate in the celebrations. Accordingly, we will be exhibiting our vehicles on Saturday May 31 from 9 am to 3 pm, on the tarmac by Stoddard's Aircraft Parts Center, near Airport Heights Drive and Fifth Avenues.

It is recommended that those wishing to arrive with their vehicles, should show up early (between 7:00 am and 8:30 am) for set-up.

This is a family friendly event, so bring your kids and/or grandchildren. For those arriving as spectators only, there will be free shuttle services provided by the Municipality from the UAA Aviation

... And From a Cabin Somewhere in Seldovia ...

Gentlemen,

I thought you might enjoy seeing a few additional points of interest for those doing the Seldovia tour after Homer. We had a nice visit with Walt Sonen; I told him folks are hoping for a shop tour...

—Ken Morton



*The owner plans to restore. Someday.
Would consider selling: \$500K*

Technology Center, located at 2811 Merrill Field Dr.

More specific information can be found on the Muni's own website at:

https://www.muni.org/Departments/merrill_field/MerrillAviationCelebration/Pages/default.aspx

This promises to be a fun event. The Alaska Motorized Cavalry should be in attendance, as well as local motorcycles and hot rods. There will be food trucks, exhibits and airport as well as aircraft tours provided. And, of course, airplanes and flybys.

Help start off Anchorage's summer season by attending with your antique/classic car!

Feel free to contact AAMA President Richard Golding at 907-227-2595 for further information.



April Minutes

(Continued from p.3)

Treasurer's Report

Louis Mestier provided the treasurer's report.

Old Business

****The Board voted to change** three of the AAMA bylaws at their February meeting. All three bylaw changes were printed in the March Tinkering Times to be voted on by the general membership at the April business meeting. President Richard Golding gave a review of the proposed bylaw changes to the membership. The bylaw changes were voted on by the AAMA members present and they were all approved.

****There was a lengthy discussion** about non-club members showing up at AAMA events regarding insurance coverage with AACA. President Richard Golding has been in contact with AACA and will continue to get clarification.

****Volunteers are still needed** for drive arounds and planning restaurant locations after the monthly business meetings.

The first Wednesday drive around will be on May 21, 2025.

New Business

****Louis Mestier will be moving out of Alaska in June**, so the club is looking for someone interested in being the AAMA treasurer. If any members are interested in filling this position, contact Richard Golding.

****There was a discussion to reexamine** the Hope Retreat event that happens during July. Participation in this event has

dwindled over the years and the question brought up was if the \$350.00 expense would be worth it for this event. A motion was made to rescind the upcoming \$350.00 payment for this year's event even though the club has already paid the \$50.00 non-refundable deposit. After additional discussion there was an amendment to the original motion. The amendment was to keep the Hope Retreat event as planned for this year and change it next year. The motion passed.

****Marcy Cresap gave an update** on the Adopt Road cleanup. It will take place on Saturday May 24 at 9:00 am at the Carr's on Muldoon Road.

****Mike Wiedmer gave an update** on the upcoming shake down cruise on Saturday May 10. The group will meet at 10:00 am in the Tikahtnu Commons parking lot between Costco and Olive Garden then drive to Wasilla and tour the Engine 557 locomotive restoration shop. Following the tour the group will cruise to Chickaloon for a potluck at the Overly's house.

B.D.'s & Anniversaries

President Richard Golding announced birthdays and anniversaries for the month.

Split the Pot

Split the pot winner Allyson Michener-Melin

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. Dinner at Fire Tap restaurant

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Carpenter, Secretary

Spotlight on New Members: Dan and Patti Billman

By Linda Mattes Golding

Dan and Patti Billman, AAMA members since last summer, did not start out as “car people.” In fact, they were avid “airplane people.”

They arrived in Alaska with their respective families in the mid-1960’s. Dan spent his high school years taking Aviation Science classes and Ground School, and received his pilot’s license in 1969, the year he graduated from West High.

Patti had graduated from West High in 1968, but went to college in Bellingham Washington before transferring to ACC/UAA in 1970. She was taking Ground School courses and skydiving out of Birchwood airport in 1970, when she and Dan met at a party. I guess you could say “she fell for him?” (Sorry, bad pun)

They married in 1971, started a family, and began Alaska Airventure in 1977, flying PA-12 and Cessna 185 year-round, and a DeHavilland Beaver with floats, wheels and skis. Dan was the pilot and Patti was the business manager. By 1984, Alaska Airventures became a summer-only operation.

They moved with their children Lisa and Jason to the big island of Hawaii, where they operated an air taxi. Dan even started an Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter there. By 1985, they were flying inter-island charters and volcano tours. It was a multi-pilot operation.

Although they sold Alaskan Airventures in 1989, they kept their Alaska wings by purchasing The Point Lodge at Lake Louise. They divested themselves of the Hawaii operation in 1994, and Dan began work with the FAA as a Safety Inspector, a job he kept until 2017.

I think all of us would have liked to have flown with Dan. He was given the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award (50 years with no accidents), and the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award (50 years with no violations)

Whenever they travelled, they would find car shows, so it was not surprising that after some medical issues, which prompted the sale of their last airplane, they turned their sights to an old car. Their



Golding

Dan and Pattie Billman pose with their 1931 Model A Victoria, which is their first step from a life of flying to the wonderful hobby of antique autos.

neighbors, Blackie and Marty Black, brought them to a Thirst-Day Model A meeting, and the hunt was on!

They found their 1931 Model A Victoria in Washington State and showed it for the first time at the September

Dimond Car Show. In the few short months they have been members, they have actively attended meetings and are looking forward to our summer car show season. They may even be looking for a good road-tripping car.

Mark and Susan Move to Iowa

by Richard Golding

On Monday, April 21st a small, rather intimate soiree was held at the home of Art and Tam Isham to bid a fond farewell

to our longtime Antique Auto Musher friends, Mark Graber and his wife, Susan Garrett. The Graber-Garretts are moving (See p, 7,” Mark and Susan Move”)



Six-year-old Dracir Gnidlog's drawing of the going away party.

From the Editor's Desk

This is sad month for AAMA. Long-time members, Mark and Susan Graber are leaving the state. They have been at the center of AAMA's annual Alaska State Fair event for many years, where they led our participation in the parade and car show: Mark with his connections and his expert organizational skills and Susan with her smile and her cookies. We are losing some wonderful members, but Iowa and Grabers' family roots will benefit.

On another note, the weather has been on our mind constantly this year. We have had uncommonly warm temperatures. According to the records I've kept over the last 28 years, May 1st has seen about a 10° rise in the low temps and—except for a few really bizarre occasions (81.3° in 2005) not a great variation in the highs.

Notwithstanding the seemingly modest changes, this year's birch trees are an entire month ahead of the very same trees in 1972, when the leaves popped out about the last day of May, only to be nipped completely on June 5th by a hard frost. This is a vivid memory, because it coincided with the opening day of construction of our first Alaska home. My parents had driven up to help in the building process and arrived on June 5th, just in time to see all the leaves fall off the trees.

As Bob Dylan sang, "The times they are a-changing."

Whatever this might mean for our climate, it has been a gift for us antique car people, who drove to Turnagain Arm for an early, March 11th, bratwurst at Brown Bear Saloon, into Denali Park April 28th and did the Eagle River garage tour May 3rd. We'll see how it treats us for our Shake Down Cruise and our Homer trip.

It looks like we're back on the road again. So, see you there!

—Tom

Destinations of AAMA/Alaskan Model A's Early Spring/Summer Shop Tour



Art and Tamea Isham's carriage house with part of Art's managerie



Richard and Linda Golding's shop, complete with stored Buick and VW under restoration.



Tom and Marcy Cresap's wood shop and car repair bay.



Gary Klecka, Michael Packard and Jim Fredenhagen remove Model A engine from crate in Gary's beautiful and well-organized Eagle River shop

Mark and Susan Move

(Continued from p. 6)
to Iowa. In attendance were the Ishams, Cresaps, Andersons, Wiedmers and Goldings, as well as Dutch Overly, Michael Packard and Laura Walter.

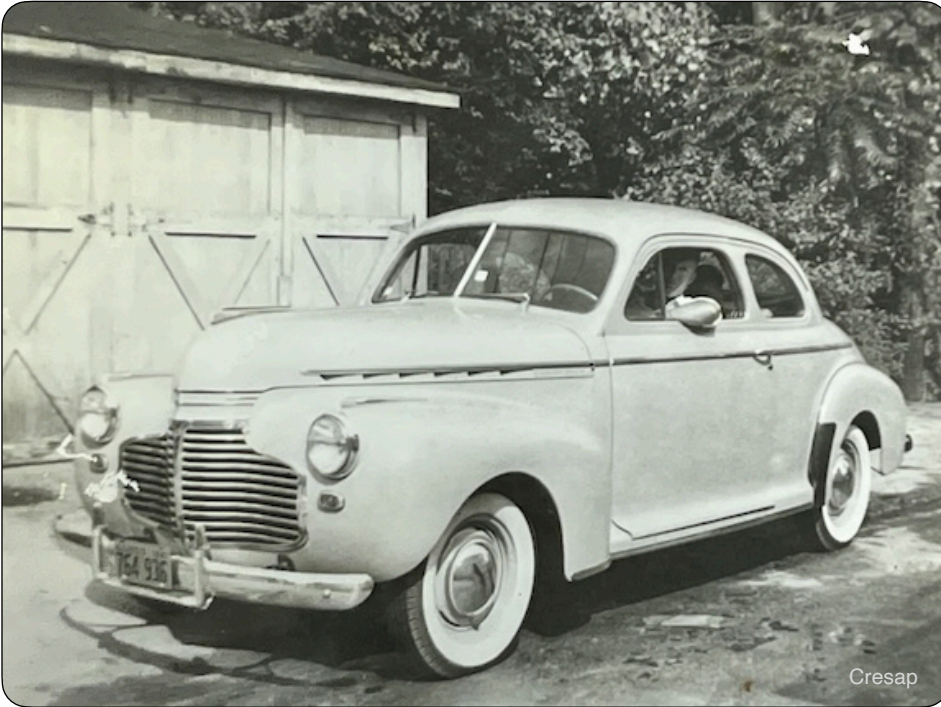
While our friends will be relocating far from Alaska, they remain Antique Auto Musers and will be dearly missed at our local events—many of which Mark and Susan helped coordinate.

Mark will be remembered for his incredible cat-herding skills in wrangling our members and their cars in association with the Alaska State Fair's parades and car shows. Susan's baking talents shall be missed by any and all that had the pleasure of sampling her incredible cookies, which were ever-present at our annual Christmas parties.

Unfortunately for the Graber/Gerretts, the garage at their new home in Iowa was too tight a fit for Mark's 1947 Packard. Fortunately for the Isham's and AAMA, Art and Tam were able to purchase the green, mile-long vehicle, and so we shall continue to see it showing up at many of our yearly events.

All in attendance had a good time eating pies and other various desserts, and sipping coffee and tea while exchanging stories.

However, no pictures were taken during the party. Apparently, Susan does not like to be photographed. Luckily, also in attendance, little Drachir Gnidlog (age 6) was able to draw a lovely reenactment of the festivities.



Your editor found this August 25th, 1941 photo while rummaging. Tom's dad, Joe Cresap, is at the wheel, showing off his "Brand new [Chevy] in Chicago alley outside of garage @ 7138 Indiana Ave" as per the note mom, Marie, wrote on the photo's reverse side. Editor Tom was eight-months old, and the family—including brother, Dick, and sister, Clare, would soon move to new Mexico, where Tom grew up.

May

Birthdays

Linda Grundy—6th

Ken Evans—6th

Niki DeSanto—9th

Gary Klecka—10th

Carol Jensen—13th

Eli Powell—13th

David Jensen—20th

Oscar Hernandez—22nd

Barry Fowler—26th

Janice Czerwinski—31st

Anniversaries

Dolly Larkin &

Ken Morton—16th

Shannon & Jason

A recipient of AACA Awards of Excellence, Master Editor and the Ann S. Eady Memorial Award

AAMA
P.O. Box 770703
Eagle River AK 99577-0703

