Antique Auto Mushers of Alaska

Tinkering Times

Volume 66, Number 9 www.antiqueautomushersak.org September 2, 2026

Cool Temps Don't Stop Us!

By Linda Mattes-Golding

Alaskans eagerly await the State Fair in Palmer. Every August, we look forward to our annual car show on the Fairgrounds. This year, for several days leading up to the State Fair, the weather forecast was ominous; rain, rain, and more rain was predicted. However, on the morning of Saturday August 22nd, the skies were simply overcast, and the wind blowing through Palmer made the temperatures cool. As Alaskans do, we simply added layers.

Even with sub-optimal conditions, a number of members and their vehicles lined up outside of the fair to show off their cars to the passing crowds. The location we had was excellent. We were on the Yellow Trail itself, with exposure to hundreds of people entering the gate on their way to the exhibits, the barn, and of course, the food vendors.

Michael Wiedmer, the event coordinator, led the way into the space near the tractor exhibit and the grandstand. Gwyn Wiedmer and her mom Shirley Alexander joined Mike in their 1962 Cadillac Deluxe Coupe, while the rest of the convoy followed. Michael Packard and Laura Walter drove their 1968 Dodge Pickup, now lovingly named "Howard." Brian Anderson drove his 1979 Jeep CJ7, while Scott and Sheryl Hulse showed off their 1958 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud. Dan and Patti Billman drove their 1947 Plymouth Club Coupe; Christoper Dennis and fiancé Skyy Bay drove the Isham's 1963 Imperial, with Art and Tam as passengers.

Ken Evans arrived in his 1955 Cadillac Eldorado, while Jennifer Isham and Brian Fay introduced us to Jennifer's 2000 Mercedes SLK 230 Kompressor. This car hasn't been seen for several years. Dutch Overly drove from Chickaloon in his 1960 MG Magnette, while the Goldings drove their 1986 Citroën 2cv.

Member Mike Kerr did not bring a classic car but did have his tractor at the tractor exhibit next door, so he spent time with us, bringing mini donuts as a treat. New member Jay Skaggs, whose vehicle is not running, brought a friend, Charlotte Hanson, who drove her turquoise 1974 Beetle adorned with daisies. This vehicle, new to our eyes, was a real hit!

Hundreds of people stopped by to take photos, discuss cars, and reminisce. We even had a few people take applications; maybe we will see a new member or two from this show.



Jay Skaggs and friend, Charlotte Hanson, showed up in Charlotte's 1974 VW Because his car was out of commission. Their car was a hit with the fairgoers. The fair brought lots of fun and smiles from everyone, including our club members.

September Meeting

Our September 9th meeting will take place at 6:30 PM in the Hope Community Resources Building, 570 W. 53rd Avenue, Anchorage.

Things have been busy, cold and wet, and we will report on our many successes and discuss the events–including voting–coming up.

As usual, we will eat out after the meeting.

We hope to see you there.

Running Board Reflections



Our president was mugged? At our August 12th meeting, Mike Wiedmer captures the moment as Marlies Plaggengorg, of the Arizona Model A Club, presents Richard with a comemorative tea cup.

With the Show and Shine, as well as the State Fair show now under our belt, the 2026 summer season is slowly winding down. But what a season this has been! Along with the kind weather cooperation of Mother Nature, the Antique Auto Mushers have been kept very busy. Numerous drives (both local and long distance), car shows, Senior Center pop-up shows, Adopt-A-Road cleanups and parades have kept us and our cars hopping. Apparently, the Anchorage community enjoys and appreciates our consistent presence. I constantly receive emails, texts and telephone calls thanking and congratulating our club, all year long.

Our 65 year old organization added several new members to its ranks in 2026, but unfortunately we also lost several of our member friends. There have been several (too many) funerals, as well as celebrations of life throughout this year. But then there are also many birthdays and anniversaries to bolster our spirits, as we continue to drive-on.

But this season is not quite over yet. Two of our favorite yearly activities are right around the corner and coming up. I am referring to the AAMA Dimond Center Car Show and the Fall Colors Tour. Information on both are in this Tinkering Times issue's Schedule of Events, and an email reminding you of their particulars will be sent out a couple or three days before each occur. Why not polish-up, then hop into your ride and take advantage of each? Both promise to be a lot of fun.

Then, before you know it the holiday season will be upon us, with everyone looking forward to our annual Christmas party.

It's never a dull year as long as you are an Antique Auto Musher, eh?

–Richard

2026 Officers
President: Richard Golding
(907)227-2595
Vice President: Michael Packard
(907)382-1221
Secretary: Greg Carpenter
(907)891-4988
Treasurer: Gwyn Wiedmer
(907)244-4904
Sergeant-at-Arms: Dutch Overly
(907)338-1789
Members at Large:
Tamea Isham-907-688-3671
Scott Hulse (907)240-4028
Darrell Krolick (907) 229-9456
Past Presidents (11 years)
Richard Golding (2025)
Linda Mattes Golding (2021-2024)
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
Tinkering Times is published monthly by Alaska's really neat classic
and antique automobile club, Antique Auto Mushers of Alaska
P.O. Box 232086
Anchorage AK 99523-2086.
Opinions expressed by authors of Tinkering Times--including references
about how wonderful we are--are their
own and do not necessarily reflect the
official policy of the Antique Auto Mushers 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.

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

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



For Sale: 1926 Model T; in Fairbanks; $10K; drive it home or bring a trailer! Patty Meritt (907) 978-6626 or (907) 474-0841

Schedule of events

- September 5–Dimond Center Show
- September 9–6:30 pm Meeting
- September 12–Adopt-A-Road (Marcy Cresap, (907)947-7509)
- September 19–Hatcher Pass Fall Colors Tour
- October 14–6:30 pm Meeting
- November 11–6:30 pm, Meeting
- December 6–Christmas Party at Ishams' 2-6 (or whenever)

Available: 1959 Triumph TR3 Project car; restoration started by a family member who passed away; rolling chassis and all parts located near Big Lake. Parts from three cars, including the original car, are in baskets. Most are bagged and labeled. Titles for all three cars are included. Obviously, some assembly is required. Call Jayna for information, 907-414-4545.



For Sale: 1955 Chevy pick-up; converted to 4-wheel drive; very nice body and paint. Anne Hobson 907-240-1525 luckyz_ak@yahoo.com



For Sale: 1929 Model A Tudor; new battery last year; owned by my grandpa and driven daily in Fairbanks for years; my uncle had professional, full frame off restoration with new roof and flooring, paint and interior in Missouri roughly 25 years ago; kept in storage and hardly driven since; in Anchorage; $16,000; Stephen Olendorf, 907-252-3288.



For Sale: 1996 Monte Carlo; late wife's car; sitting unused in the garage for past several years. In excellent condition. 36,110 miles. $7,000 OBO. Gordon Severson (907) 277-5875



For Sale: 1930 Model A; paint good; runs smoothly; 6 16-inch wheels with nylon tires; gas leak at steering column; gas gauge not working. $9500 OBO. For more info or to make an appointment to see: Jim Fredenhagen (907)351-3115



For Sale or Rent: 28'x20' tent with plywood floor. Contact Howard, (907) 440-1002.

More on p.5

Attention: Fall Colors Tour Changes to Hatcher Pass

By David Jensen

This year's Fall Colors Tour will focus on a drive through Hatcher Pass, Saturday, September 19, 2026. Some plans will firm up following our next club meeting. However, here's what we know so far.

Meet at the home of Art and Tam Isham; 10 a.m. Depart for Hatcher Pass by 10:30 a.m. We'll stop at Turner's Corner for a final top-off of fuel at approximately 11:30 and then drive up to Independence Mine. A brief stop at the rest area across from what used to be Motherload Lodge will give all a chance to stretch our legs. We will have the option of having a tour of the mine or continue with our travels which will take us to Summit Lake and then to Willow and the Park's Highway. Those who join on this beautiful drive will decide if we eat at Homestead Kitchen near Talkeetna or Chepos Mexican restaurant in Wasilla. Our feasting will happen sometime around 3-4 p.m.

We've traveled to and from Hatcher Pass many times in the past. This trip will not include manifold cooking.

More to be decided at our September 9 club meeting . This trip promises incredible fall scenery and photo opportunities throughout.

Contact David Jensen or Tam Isham for more information.

One Man's Treasures

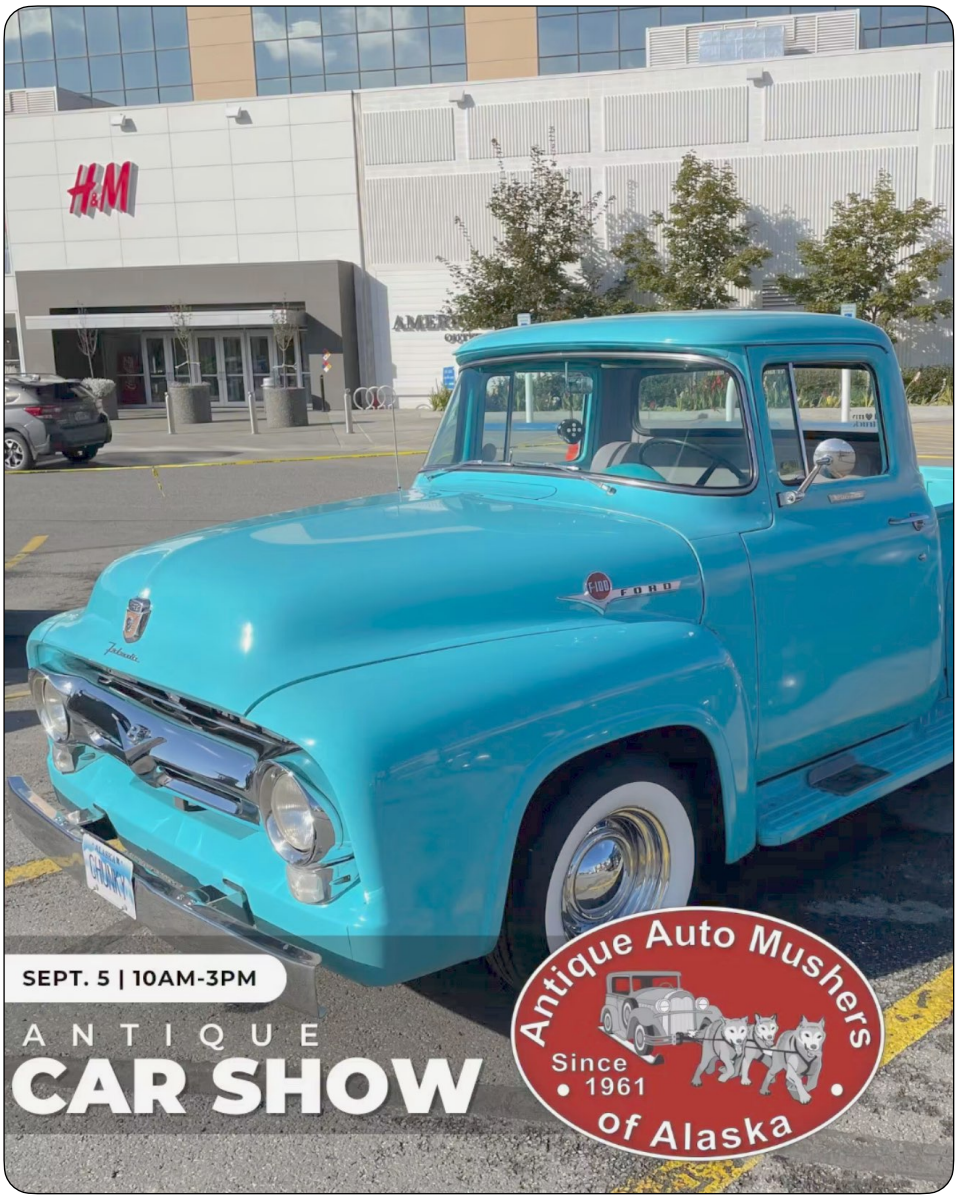
(Continued from p.3)



Stuff to Take: I used to run an automobile preventative maintenance business back in the 80's. I've sold my house and am moving out of state. I've a collection of miscellaneous parts and supplies from that era which I would like to "re-home." Thinking that it might be worth someone's time to pick these up. Two pictures attached. Jim Vermillion, concrete@magictogether.org



For Sale: 1950 Chevrolet Fleetline Deluxe; 235.5, six-cylinder engine; 3-speed manual transmission; 4-door, 6-place seating; tubeless all-season tires; 51,383 miles. $22,000. Dan, (907)250-3117



Saturday, September 5th, we will be at the Dimond Center for the annual car show. Word has it that our liaison there, John Martin, will supply pizza for us. See you there!

Final Senior Visits Bring Smiles to All

By Linda Mattes-Golding

On August 5th Terri Young and Michael Campbell arranged for our cars to meet at the parking lot of Horizon House in Anchorage. The staff had requested that we park our vehicles to leave room on all sides for wheelchairs.

Although the weather was drizzly, seven stalwart members of the AAMA happily parked in the lot for the enjoyment of the residents and staff. European and British cars were represented by Michael Campbell's 1986 Alfa Romeo, the Golding's 1986 Citroën 2cv, and Scott Hulse's 1958 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud.

Two Model A's made an appearance: Jim Fredenhagen's 1929 Tudor, and Tom and Marcy Cresap's 1931 Fordor. Laura Walter and Michael Packard drove their 1968 Dodge Cabover Pickup, while Brian Anderson drove his 1983 Jeep J10.

Our cars were joined by a 1937 Chevy Pickup, owned by Peewee Protzman, whose wife works at the facility. He drives this car every day in the summer. It was a treat for our members to meet another car enthusiast, and to see a vehicle new to them.

The staff at Horizon House treated all of us to root beer floats, while the residents braved the drizzle that began. Raincoats and umbrellas were brought out. Scott Hulse sported an umbrella (or should we call it a "bumpershoot"?) bedecked with happy kittens.

Marlow Manor

Our final visit was to Marlow Manor



on August 7th. Event coordinator Terri Young was concerned about rain, especially since we had had to cancel an earlier show at that facility due to bad weather.



Horizon House

In the morning, Julie, the facility's activity director, said it as a "Go."

Lots of residents were out waiting for us as we arrived. The skies kept clearing as the show went on. The staff treated all of us to hot dogs, while Atlas Medical (a health provider group) dished up root beer floats.

Of course, Michael Campbell and Terri Young brought their 1986 Alfa Romeo Spider. Long-time friend of the Goldings, Brian McClaskey, drove from midtown in his own Alfa, a 1988 model which is a younger sibling to Mike Campbell's.

Brian Anderson drove his 1979 Jeep CJ7, while the Goldings arrived in their 1986 Citroën 2cv. Rounding out the cars were three Model A's: Jim Fredenhagen in his 1929 Tudor, Tom and Marcy Cresap in their 1931 Fordor, and David Jensen with Iris in his 1931 Pickup.

As the day cleared, more residents came out of their rooms to spend a few hours not only with our cars, but to enjoy the sunshine and warm temperatures. For some of them, this is one of the few times in the summer that they actually leave their rooms.

Haley from Atlas Medical, who was pouring the root beer into our floats, loves cars. She was excited to not only take a ride in Jim's Model A but was grinning ear-to-ear when Jim allowed her to get behind the wheel! As usual, Iris received lots of pets and hugs. David was busy taking photos of her with residents and staff.

As we left the parking lot, two residents waved goodbye. Just like us, they were reluctant for the show to end.



Marlow Mannor

AAMA Business Meeting August 12, 2026 Location: Hope Community Resources Learning Center at 570 W. 53rd Ave. Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm by President Richard Golding
There were 38 members present.
Guest were Marlies and Joop Plaggenborg with the Arizona Model A Club.

July Minutes

The minutes of the July business meeting were approved as published in the Tinkering Times.

Treasure's Report

Gwyn Wiedmer provided the Treasurers Report.

Old Business

**July 10 was the Bear Paw car show.
**July 11 was the Bear Paw Parade.
**Several club members cars carried the Bear Paw royalty.
**July 12 was a Memorial for Ken Holland in Talkeetna.
**July 14 Baxter Senior Living pop-up car show.
**July 16- 20, the Ford Model A Club took a trip to Fairbanks. The group visited the Fountain Head Museum, Discovery gold dredge tour, Chena Hot Springs and Vernon Nash club garage tour.
**Hope Retreat weekend was July 18-19. Many members drove up to the end of Palmer Creek Road. Laura Walter provided some fun entertainment with a Jeopardy Game based on Alaska history.
**July 21 Richard Golding stayed in Fairbanks to attend Ed Mclaughlin's 100th birthday party.
**July 23 Centennial Post Acute Center pop-up car show.
**July 30 Anchorage Pioneer Home pop-up car show.
**Saturday August 1 was a celebration of life for longtime AAMA club member Donn Reese at the Hope Learning Center.
**Sunday August 2, the Show and Shine car show took place at the downtown park strip. Dick Anderson won the MSSRA's "Mr. Ed's Pick" award for his 1961 Ford Galaxie Starliner and Ed Dillon received the Jay Ofsthun award for his 1926 Dodge. Linda Golding talked about the costs and planning for next year's Show and Shine event. The rental for the park space is $500 along with a non-refundable fee of $200 for the application. A motion was made that the club pay for the $200 application fee to guarantee the reservation for next year. The motion passed.
**August 5 Horizon House pop-up car show.
**August 7 Marlow Manor pop-up car show.
**August 8 Hot summer nights car show in Palmer.
**President Richard Golding read an email he received from Bernard Livinston from the Ford Model A Club in Australia. Bernard was at a club meeting last fall and talked about his car projects.
**Drive arounds continue to be on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm meeting at the REI parking lot.

New Business

**August 22 will be a cruise down to the Soldotna Senior Center for a chili feed. Depart from Carr's Huffman at 9:00 am. Jim Fredenhagen is the coordinator.
**August 22 is the Alaska State Fair car show. Staging will begin at 9:45 am at the yellow gate. Participants will receive passes to the fair. Mike Wiedmer is the coordinator for this event.
**Saturday September 5 is the Dimond Center car show from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be door prizes for participants.
**Saturday September 12 is the last adopt a road clean-up for the year. Meet at Carr's on Muldoon at 9:00 am.
**Saturday September 19 is the annual fall colors tour to Seward. David Jensen suggested changing this year's trip to Hatcher Pass followed by dinner at the Homestead restaurant.
**Since President Richard Golding will be gone for the September 9th general business meeting, vice president, Michael Packard, will lead the meeting.
**President Richard Golding received a request from Meagan Meals with the Service High School Homecoming committee. She would like some club vehicles to carrying homecoming royalty on October 2. Then on October 3 have some cars on display at the school dance for photos.
**President Richard Golding read an entertaining article from the Anchorage Daily News on "How to Start Your Car in the Far North."
**Art Isham with the nomination committee talked about the upcoming election of AAMA Club officers to serve next year.
**Marlies Plaggenborg presented President Richard Golding with a coffee (tea?) mug from the Arizona Model A Club.
BD's and Anniversaries
President Richard Golding announced birthdays and anniversaries for the month.

Split the Pot

Split the pot winner Darrell Krolick

Door prizes

**Sonny Boyd with Caffé D'arte supplied packages of coffee to winners: Howard Hansen, Dan Billman, David Jensen and Scott Hulse. Martie Black won a Model A patch.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.
Dinner at Seward's Folly restaurant

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Carpenter, Secretary

Soldotna Chili Feed Rained Out

By Jim Fredenhagen

The Antique Auto Mushers, the Alaskan Model A's and the Soldotna Kaknu Kruzers clubs were invited to the Soldotna Senior Center's August 22 Chili Feed.

Numerous chili recipes and cornbread were featured, and we were to help judge the winner.

Unfortunately, this unique event–another visit with seniors–was cancelled due to very rainy conditions.

The Mother Road: Route 66

by Tom Cresap

For obvious reasons, Alaska is not an intrinsic part of the Route 66 lore, but since we all grew up imbued in the car culture–many of us in the Lower 48, maybe not far from the fabled path–we have it in our blood. With that in mind, it seems appropriate that we celebrate its centennial this year.

Route 66 officially opened on November 11, 1926. Marilyn Monroe would have been a little over five months old, and my 1925 Model T Ford would have been about a year-and-three-months out the factory door. The roaring twenties were in full swing, and adventurous Americans were ready to get in their cars and drive across the country.

The "new" highway, connecting Chicago and Los Angeles, consisted of about 2,448 miles of largely already-existing unpaved roads. Contrary to what that would suggest today–the thought of dirt, caliche and gravel combined with sometimes questionable-quality bias-ply tires–the road became an inviting, open door. Tourists ventured to it in flocks and droves despite the known driving conditions, as well as the fear of being accosted by outlaw cowboys, Mexican bandidos or wild Indians in New Mexico and Arizona. Too many western movies.

What the tourists found was a sprouting, neon-lit Main Street with roadside diners, motels, curio shops and gas stations catering to their every need. Local businesses were born and thrived in the new euphoric freedom of the road. Home on the range in the land where the buffalo once roamed became a brightly lighted avenue.

Of course, as we know, there were some glitches: the Great Depression and World War II. Then, in 1956 the United States created the Interstate Highway system, which bypassed many of the small towns and unique points of interest, many of which had been created to entice the traveling public.

The new interstates had multiple lanes. They were nicely paved and offered safer, more efficient and faster travel.

For many, it was a sad day in 1985 when Route 66 was officially decommissioned. Only the memories were left. The Mother Road had run its course.



Bill Brown's new 1939 Ford enjoys the Arizona sunshine while he celebrates Highway 66, The Mother Road.

But, almost as soon as the decommissioning happened, a movement of enthusiasts began to grow.

The romanticization really began way before that. All attention turned to the road shortly after World War II, when in 1946, American song writer and musician, Bobby Troup wrote a song that the Nat King Cole trio subsequently recorded and turned into a wildly popular hit: "(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66."

As a six-year-old first grader, I often heard that song playing on the radio when I came home from school. That was in Clovis, New Mexico, 84 miles south of Tucumcari, where the famous roadway passed through our fair, sunny state. It was out of our reach because of the dirt roads, worn tires, 21-cent-per-gallon gasoline and my penny-pinching parents. I loved mom and dad and didn't mind, but the road became iconic even to me, even though I didn't spend any time on it.

Nationwide, the love affair with the road persisted, and in 1994, New Mexico joined other states in declaring Route 66 as a National Scenic Byway, thus guarantying its place in American mythology. Nowadays, it is common to see some reference to the neon-lit motels in Tucumcari or a story of folks with vintage cars who have meticulously researched, then found and followed all the esoteric windings of the famous path.

All along the road from Chicago to Los Angeles, people this year have organized festivities, from parades to classic car shows, and concerts to cruises to keep the Mother Road's heartbeat alive.

Back to Alaska connections, former AAMA member, the late Bob Brown–a name we recognize from the Anchorage company he built, BSI, sponsor and host of our annual February Fur Rendezvous car show–was originally from Pleasant Hill, New Mexico, 15 miles northeast of my hometown, Clovis. His son, Bill, who now owns and operates the business, went down to celebrate the Route 66 Centennial with some friends in Arizona. We have included some of his photos from that trip.

Long live the memory of the Mother Road!

Hot Summer Nights

by Jim Fredenhagen

The annual Hot Summer Nights car show, August 8 in Palmer, was cramped to say the least. Construction of a new library across from the downtown took up much of the traditional car show parking.

We all parked wherever a car could fit, including the grassy areas.

The beautiful weather made up for any cramped conditions, however, and a record crowd came out.

This show brings together three clubs in a homecoming atmosphere in downtown Palmer that makes it unique.

AAMA members who participated were Jim Fredenhagen (’29 Model A), Rich Golding (’28 Model A), Sonny Byrd, Jr. (’58 Chev), Michael and Laura Packard (60’s Dodge PU).



Tucked away on the grass in Palmer: Jim Fredenhagen’s Model A, Michael Packard’s Dodge A-100 and Sonny Byrd’s 1968 Chevy.

Wednesday, August 26th Driveabout



Enjoying lots of Alaska sunshine in the REI parking lot in Anchorage on Wednesday, August 26th: 1949 Ford (Wiedmers) 1947 Plymouth (Billmans) 1966 Mustang (Carpeters) 1954 Cadillac (Evans) 1952 Hudson (Anderson) 1986 Alfa Romeo (Campbell) 1986 Citroën 2CV (Goldings) 1958 Rolls Royce (Hulses) and 1958 Chevy (Byrd). The group cruised to Sushi Garden for dinner.



A Celebration of Life For Donn Reese



By Linda Mattes-Golding

"How we deal with death is at least as important as how we deal with life."-Captain James T. Kirk

We in the AAMA, of course, knew Donn and David through our love of old cars. When many of us arrived in our antique and classic cars at the Hope Community Resources building for Donn's Celebration of Life on August 1st, the vehicles became part of the tribute, as well as objects of fascination to Donn's relatives and co-workers.

Inside, tables were arranged with Reese's peanut butter cups, and a slide show highlighted photos of his life. It was wonderful to hear stories from Donn's family. A lifelong Alaskan, Donn had kept strong ties with them, making sure to visit often.

We heard from co-workers and friends who gave us insights into Donn's life apart from his old car habit. Art and Tam Isham spoke about their own long-time friendship with Donn and reminded us how much of a stickler he was for Robert's Rules of Order.

And we heard from Donn's loving husband David Nolta. Donn was a nerd, and a history buff, and a collector. He loved Star Trek and Steel Magnolias; The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and Auntie Mame. Donn was multi-faceted, complicated, funny, and dedicated. He will be missed by all.

"42: The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything"-Douglas Adams



Bill Brown (unfortunately blocked) and friends celebrate the Mother Road, Route 66, while standing on the corner in Winslow Arizona.

September

Birthdays

Louis Finch–3rd
Tom Gallagher–8th
Liam Crotty–29th

Anniversaries

Judy and Eli Powell–7th
Yvette and Ed Dillon–11th
Linda and Richard Golding–11th

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