

# The PLAYPIPE

The newsletter of Pomper, Pump and Playpipe Society of Indiana, the Indiana chapter of SPAAMFAA.  
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## SNOWBOUND IN RICHMOND

by Rodger Birchfield

RICHMOND, Va. – The Old Dominion Chapter of SPAAMFAA advertised their winter convention was for fire truck lovers a sort of play on words since a line used to say that “Virginia was for lovers” and since the event was scheduled around Valentine’s Day.

Nothing was mentioned in the program about the large amount of snow that eventually dropped on Richmond, leaving a large number of folks stranded for an additional day.

Despite the snow, Tommy Herman and the Virginia Chapter conducted a fine convention. The Indiana delegation were given opportunities to participate in several excursions including a shopping trip to Williamsburg Mall.

Others toured the local airport museum, which displayed a replica of the Wright Brothers first aircraft along with a number of interesting planes. Buses also transported members to the Richmond Training Academy and the Aerialscope plant in Richmond. The firm, owned by Seagrave, manufactures aerial towers, primarily for the Fire Department of New York. Several units were being assembled in the plant. The firm also is the local dealer for Seagrave. A new pumper for Washington, D.C., was in the shop being prepared for delivery. (Since the tour, it has been learned the Aerialscope division is being moved to the main Seagrave plant in Clintonville, Wis.)

Back at the motel, about a dozen apparatus were displayed inside the parking garage. At least three Maxims were in the garage along with a mid-60s Seagrave tillered aerial, a Crosley and an Oren squad.

During the Friday evening seminar Tommy Herman gave a Powerpoint photo presentation on the history of Oren. A firematic flea market was held in the parking garage Saturday.

Before the evening banquet concluded, snow began to fall outside. When it came time to leave

Sunday morning, all those traveling west were warned not to venture out.

Scott Rollins advised he had contacted the West Virginia State police and was told we were not wanted in the state and to stay out due to the snow. A number of roads including the interstates were impassable. Several alternative routes were discussed, but it was decided to wait out the snow.

Those who did not fly to the convention, but drove, spent Sunday night at the motel. Several round table discussions were held in the conference room attended by a number of SPAAMFAA members including “Engine, Engine” editor Steve Hagy, and “Silver Trumpet” editor Tim Elder, as well as immediate past president Ed Peterson and new President Ray Pitts.

A good time was had by all, considering the weather conditions. At 11:30 a.m. Monday, Rollins announced he was “outa of here,” snow or no snow. Once the Indiana group got through the one lane of the interstate near Waynesboro, Va., it was a mad rush for Indianapolis.

In northern Kentucky near Cincinnati, (home of Hagy) trees and bushes were covered by ice, but the roads had been cleared. There was about 150 miles of ice covered trees and signs in Kentucky, at times it was like driving through an ice tunnel.



Old Dominion's 1921 REO

more pictures on page 3

The meeting for April 6th will be at Jeff Rider's house in Seymour. There is a map on page 4.



Greetings again! Well, many of you are probably glad to see the signs of spring and though I could have stood a couple more weeks of winter, the sunshine is nice, especially since there is no annoying glare from the snow. Let me do some club business here;

**The meeting for April 6th will be at Jeff Rider's house in Seymour. There is a map on page 4.**

**The meeting for May 4th will be at the Carmel Fire Buffs' Station, there will be a map next month. Both meetings are set for 2:00 p.m.**

Rodger wrote a nice article about our trip to the SPAAMFAA Winter National in Richmond, Virginia in February. I'll add to it here.

The Headquarters hotel was a Sheraton. It was huge and the rooms were spread out over four buildings, this was kind of an inconvenience when trying to find somebody. Though many of us had unfortunate encounters with the hotel restaurant, the stay overall was nice and the staff went out of their way to accommodate us when we ended up stranded there. Rosemary Lambert took a nasty fall in the entrance on Sunday night due to slick conditions and a marble floor, but she was fine though sore the next morning.

Dan Bernth and I attended the Chapter meeting Thursday night. The meeting was called to order and the chapters that attended each had a delegate stand and introduce themselves. When it was my turn to stand, I was proud to be able to announce that PPSI had nearly doubled the membership and that we now have 5 musters to attend.

After the chapters reported, President Peterson brought up the subject of safety and the new safety rules that SPAAMFAA has drawn up. These rules are to be made a part of all SPAAMFAA chapters' muster safety rules in addition to any chapter rules already in place. After the chapter meeting, Wayne Kidd of the Old Dominion Chapter gave a seminar on vintage rigs and their electrical maladies. There was a lot of good information in the program and I have permission to reprint it here over the next couple of months.

A big thing to report (I'm surprised Rodger forgot), we were awarded the 2009 SPAAMFAA National Muster!!

The snow/ice storm Rodger mentions wasn't bad for us Hoosiers, we managed to go out, though there were not many places open to visit. The area around Richmond is called the low country (it's only an hour from the Atlantic Ocean) and rarely gets snow. Most of the area was paralyzed. The state's largest mall was 10 miles from where we were and was closed Sunday and Monday.

Arlinda and I visited Colonial Williamsburg as our own little field trip on Friday. This is a town set in 1774 and has actors much like Conner Prairie does. This village is a mile long and half a mile wide. There are all the trades represented from that period of time. It was nice because the actors would step out of character to compare 1774 to 2003 if needed. In all we enjoyed the Convention and the Richmond area, Old Dominion did a great job the whole time and really bent over backwards when many of us were stuck because of the snow.



Colonial Williamsburg's reproduction of pumper used in the village in 1756.

# Richmond 2003 pictures.



Though not a "true" fire truck this old Crosley drew attention all day.



This Ford left early in the muster, due to weather coming in. Nice rig though!



The Mack pumper left on the back of a wrecker. Arlinda and I chased it down a ramp to the interstate because it was running and I thought maybe it had been left in gear. Turns out the wrecker driver hauls all old rigs with the engine running to keep the air pressure up. Boy did I feel like a dufus. In the background is an open cab Seagrave tractor for the only tiller at the muster.



This Jeep also drew a lot of admirers.



A very nice 1952 Oren Rescue Squad.

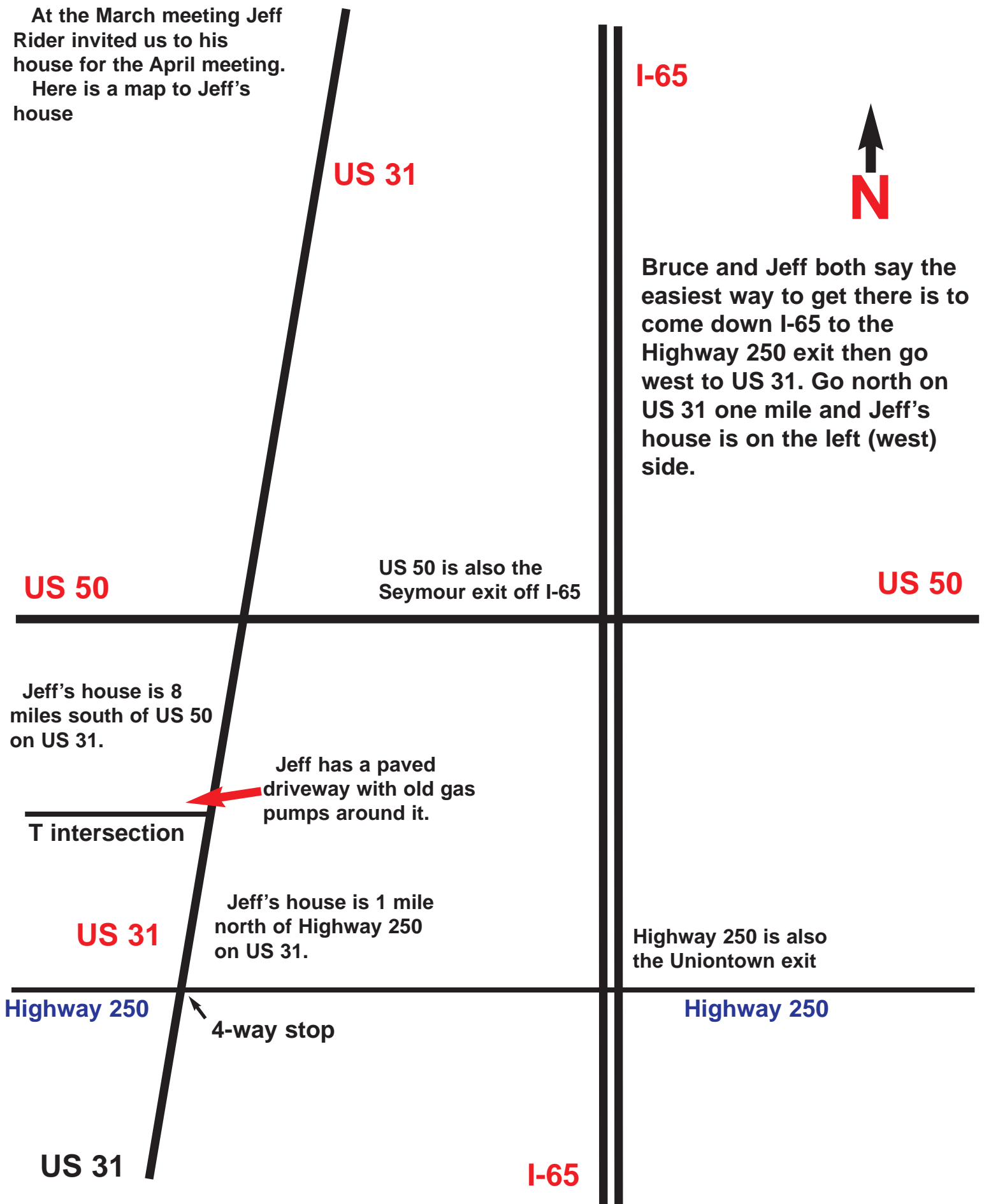


A Maxim pumper.



I think this is called "trouble on the hoof"!

At the March meeting Jeff Rider invited us to his house for the April meeting. Here is a map to Jeff's house



**US 31**

**I-65**



Bruce and Jeff both say the easiest way to get there is to come down I-65 to the Highway 250 exit then go west to US 31. Go north on US 31 one mile and Jeff's house is on the left (west) side.

**US 50**

US 50 is also the Seymour exit off I-65

**US 50**

Jeff's house is 8 miles south of US 50 on US 31.

Jeff has a paved driveway with old gas pumps around it.

T intersection

**US 31**

Jeff's house is 1 mile north of Highway 250 on US 31.

Highway 250 is also the Uniontown exit

**Highway 250**

4-way stop

**Highway 250**

**US 31**

**I-65**

# March Meeting Minutes

submitted by Secretary Rodger Birchfield

Meeting called to order at 2:08 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report was read and accepted. Treasurer Russ Lambert urged those who have not yet paid their dues to do so.

**Old business:** The SPAAMFAA National Winter Convention was discussed and a report would be forthcoming. Mark Storey reported a trip he and his wife made to London. He noted the Fire Museum of London was 10 times bigger than the Conway Museum in southern Indiana. He brought back museum booklets. The Storeys also visited the Edinborough, Scotland, museum.

The membership agreed to keep the mailbox. The renewal was due.

**New business:** Jeff Rider said Old Cars Weekly would provide placards for our use if we filled in a form.

**Muster Committee:** Muster committee member Clyde Pfisterer reported had the muster patches and 80 plaques. He inquired about t-shirts and had talked to vendors. He proposed sending flyers and had received a spread sheet from the State Fire Marshal on the departments in Indiana.

The safety committee had discussed aerials and implementing safety rules.

**Good of the Order:** Bruce Neal, southern chapter director, suggested the next meeting be held at member's Jeff Rider's home the first Sunday in April. Rider's home is located along-side U.S. 31 about eight miles south of U.S. 50. Meeting will be at the usual time - 2 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

# CLASSIFIEDS

MX 7000 Lightbar  
Twinsonic Lightbar  
5" and 6" steamer caps  
Fire hose, 2 1/2" and 1 1/2" available.  
Fire Hydrants \$75.00  
Federal Q Siren \$650.00 For more info contact Dave Burton @ 317-826-4894 or e-mail burton49@iquest.net

1946 ALF 100 foot ladder truck. Original owner was Gary, IN F.D. I am the 3rd owner. Purchased truck 2 years ago with over 90 percent original equipment still on truck. All ground ladders, tools, hoses, nozzles, all stay with truck. Ladder extends to 100 feet. Truck runs well. Have invested \$7,000. Will sell for \$6,000.



Losing storage. Contact: Mark Storey 765-674-8936 or E-mail: mstorey303@aol.com

1962 ALF 900 series closed cab pumper. 1250 gpm pump, 1000 gallon tank. 603 Continental gas V-8, manual trans. runs and pumps good. Very nicely equipped and in nice shape. Minor rust, good tires and 2 year old batteries. \$4000 or best offer. Contact Dan Bernth at 574-340-5882 or e-mail stonegates@netnitco.net Pictures available by request.



1951 Maxim pumper missing engine and radiator, lots of good parts. Has Indiana title. Asking \$375. Contact Jeff Rider 812-523-3305.

10 ton floor jack formerly used for aircraft work at McDonnell Douglas. Asking \$450. Contact Louis at 317-247-4722.

Dave Richards needs suction hose trays for a 700 series ALF. Contact Dave at 765-552-1469 or e-mail him drichards@kingsystems.com

## CORRECTION

Alan Homsher's Ford is a 1929 Ford/Boyer.  
Sorry Alan.

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**Upcoming meetings and events**

**April 6th** Meeting 2:00 Jeff Rider's house  
in Seymour. See page 4 for details.

**May 4th** Meeting 2:00 p.m. at Carmel Fire  
Buffs Fire Station.

**May 10th** Muster at Edinburgh Outlet Mall

**Dues for 2003 are now DUE!!**  
**Dues are \$15 yearly**

**Rig of the Month**



Pictured is Justin Birchfield's 1963 Seagrave pumper.

Originally from Dix Hills, New York and then sold to WHM Fire Department in Gosport, Indiana.

This pumper is powered by a Detroit diesel mated to an automatic transmission. The pump is a 1000 gpm.

Note the 'subway hangers' above the tail-board, a east coast thing. Justin is trying to find the windshield that mounts above the tailboard also.