



Sidelights



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

Volume 67 Issue 8 <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>



OFFICERS—2024 (e-mail us at aacasouthfloridaregion@gmail.com)

President Safety Officer, Sergeant at Arms	Tomás Hernández
1 st Vice-President,	Al Padilla
2 nd Vice-President, Program Chair	Jorge (George) Fera
Secretary	Yovanna Hernández
Treasurer	Manny Garcia
Immediate Past President	Millie Garcia

BOARD of DIRECTORS—2024 (aacasouthfloridaregion@gmail.com)

Benjamin Cardonne	Mike Penn
Chico Goldsmith	Paula Valentina Perez
George Harvey	Jorge Salazar
Jean Hawa- Editor <i>Sidelights</i> , Sunshine Report	Ira Shapiro, Parliamentarian
Tom Kosky	Bob Squier
Guy Lewis - Of Counsel	
Eduardo Medina- Membership Chair, Webmaster	

Due to continuous hacking of board members' personal email addresses, the above generic address was created. As a reminder to members, you were emailed a copy of the roster or given one at our general meetings or events.

**Editors Emeritus:**

Bob Squier
Ernesto Romero
Bob Mayer
Ben Harris
Maurice Hawa
Steve Wolf*
Steven Steele
Al Roscoe*
George Duvall *
Don King*
Bob Lewin*
Phil Johnson*
John Anderson*
Charles Sebastian*
*deceased

SIDELIGHTS**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024****Volume 67 Issue 8****Jean Hawa, Editor**aacasouthfloridaregion@gmail.com

Sidelights is the official publication of the South Florida Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America. It has been published continuously since June 1958. The paper informs members of local and state activities, club functions, meeting dates and has articles of general interest for the car enthusiast. All articles and stories may be reproduced if proper credit is given.

The views and opinions expressed in the articles in *Sidelights* are those of the named author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor, the Board of Directors of the A.A.C.A. South Florida Region or members of the club.

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IT'S TIME FOR YOUR 2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership for the A.A.C.A. South Florida Region is from January 1 to December 31. Dues paid after October 1 are good for the following year. AACA South Florida annual dues are \$45.00. If you haven't already responded to the club's email to renew, it is easy to do. Simply go online to <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>, click on MEMBERSHIP, click on CLICK TO RENEW NOW and fill in the appropriate information. **Important items to complete are addresses, phone numbers, email address, and, most importantly, your car(s). PLEASE TYPE ACCURATELY. Payment can be done online, too. Just follow the instructions on the screen.**

To be a member of the A.A.C.A. South Florida Region, you must be a member of AACA National. The application is available at www.aaca.org. You should have received the information in the latest issue of *Antique Automobile*. **DO NOT SEND** the National application to the local office.

IF YOU ARE NOT RENEWING kindly let Membership Chair Ed Medina know. For those of you who have renewed on time, thank you.



Hi members of the AACA South Florida Region,

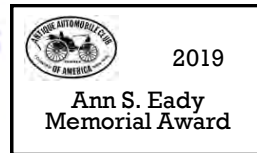
I want to start by saying thanks to the members that came out for the progressive lunch last month. The weather was terrible, but we had a great time with great food. A Special Thanks go to the Aguayo family and the Mullinix family for letting us use their homes. I want to also say thanks to the members that went out to support the Peterson's Harley Davidson Show on Saturday October 12th. Also, I want to say thanks to the members that went out to support the Lake Mirror Concours and Car Show from the 18th through 20th of October in Lakeland, Florida, and on the 23rd through 26th of October, the Southeastern Fall Nationals hosted by the North Alabama Region which takes place in Huntsville, Alabama.

November 3rd is the Deering Estate Vintage Auto Show for antiques up to 1965. I want to remind all the members that the November 21st General Membership Meeting is Election Night. Do come out and vote for your officers and directors. Happy Thanksgiving to all the members and your families.

Saturday, December 7th is the annual Holiday party which replaces the third Thursday general meeting. Please do not forget to sign up. Keep an eye out for emails and the club's website regarding the Neva King Cooper Educational Center Toy Run. I wish everybody a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year.

Remember that if there is anything you guys need, please you know how to contact me.

Your President,
Tomás Hernández



Two hurricanes this Fall within a couple of weeks brought so much devastation to too many people in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Hopefully with time and the proper resources, those affected will be able to regain some sense of normalcy in the near future. Even though this editor only saw one account of an antique car pushed over another vehicle, it is probable that more antiques were affected by the wind and flooding. It was reassuring to learn of how neighbors were helping one another to cope and provide assistance.

Speaking of assistance, this editor is so very appreciative of several club members who provided articles, ideas, photos, proofreading, critiques and suggestions for the publication of your club newsletter in 2024. A heartfelt thank you goes to Diane Ash, Jeff and Stella Ashen, Nancy Bahn, Alex Fardales, Cliff Gibson, Maurice Hawa, Tomás and Yovanna Hernández, David Hicks, Mel Mann, Ed Medina, Ed Nieves, Al Padilla, Mike Penn, Joe Pinson, Volker Ribinger, Jorge Salazar, Ira Shapiro, Bob Squier, Bill Thiele, Caroline Thiele, and Philip Williams. Outside of our club, Rich Reina from the AACA New Jersey Region provided the technical articles and Victor Hawa, (brother-in-law) provided a museum tour article. This list is longer than last year's list on contributors; a good thing!

As we approach two months of the holiday season, let's continue to be supportive of our fellow man and those who are ailing or healing, remember those who we have lost, create new memories, and look forward to keeping our hobby a meaningful experience.

Happy motoring,

Jean



SENDING YOU LOTS OF HOLIDAY CHEER



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



The A.A.C.A. South Florida Region Board Meeting of Tuesday, October 1, 2024, was called to Order by President Tomás Hernández at 7:30 p.m., at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72nd Street, Miami, FL 33173.

In Attendance: President Tomás Hernández, 1st Vice-President Al Padilla, 2nd Vice-President Jorge Feria, Secretary Yovanna Hernández, Board Members Manny Garcia, George Harvey, Jean Hawa, Thomas Kosky, Ed Medina, Mike Penn, Paula Valentina Perez, Ira Shapiro, and Bob Squier.

Establish a Quorum: President Tomás Hernández was able to establish a quorum with 13 members of the board present.

First Order of Business - Acceptance of Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Month: President Tomás Hernández asked if everyone present had read the minutes of the September board meeting; if so, and if there were no questions, comments, or corrections, would someone move to accept the minutes as posted. Jean Hawa made a motion to accept the minutes, Ed Medina seconded it. Having no other discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.

Second Order of Business – Treasurer's Report: Manny Garcia presented a reconciliation statement for September from the club's bank account. Manny added that with new memberships, monthly expenses such as coffee and dessert at the board and general meetings, storage rental fee and the printing and mailing of *Sidelights*, our treasury is sound

Third Order of Business – Membership Report: Ed Medina reported that as of now we have 208 active families. He informed us that 60 percent of members have renewed already.

General Membership Meeting (October 17, 2024): Ed Medina offered to look for a guest speaker for October's membership meeting. At this moment he does not have anyone, but he will keep us informed if this changes.

Progressive Lunch (October 5, 2024): President Tomás Hernández said that everything is set up for this event and informed us that we have 36 members signed up already. He confirmed that there will be two stops; the first stop will be at Fernando Aguayo and Soledad Maldonado's residence for appetizers, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the second stop will be at Jay and Cheryl Mullinix's residence for lunch and dessert, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Deering Estate Vintage Auto Show (November 3, 2024): Jean Hawa informed us that there are 36 cars registered with an amazing arrangement of cars dating back to 1911 through 1965 and that anyone after the 30th car will have to be on a waiting list. Jean mentioned that everything is in order, but warned us that the Deering Estate staff will let us know if the weather permits this event or not.

Holiday Party (December 7, 2024): President Tomás Hernández stated that 16 tickets have been claimed from the Memory Lane event and 33 tickets have been purchased, making a total of 49 confirmed tickets.

Art Deco Weekend Classic Auto Show (January 18-19, 2025): Ira Shapiro reminded us that this weekend coincides with Martin Luther King Day. Ira said he has not reached out to the Art Deco District yet but he will be sending an email to Daniel Giraldo with an invoice. He added that depending on the registration he will be picking up coffee and doughnuts for Saturday and coffee and bagels for Sunday.

Other Club Business:

- AACA South Florida Region Elections- Manny Garcia thanked Tomás Hernández, Thomas Kosky and Ed Medina, and a special thanks to Ira Shapiro for providing information and advice pertaining to the elections. Manny said that he had a chance to speak to all Board members. All officers will be re-elected except for Second Vice-President Jorge Feria, in his place will be Ed Medina. Board Elections will be held on November 21st at the General Membership Meeting. The Nomination Committee proposed the following:

Officers - 2025

Tomás Hernández	President
Al Padilla	First Vice-President
Ed Medina	Second Vice-President, Program Chair, Membership Chair, Webmaster
Yovanna Hernández	Secretary
Manny Garcia	Treasurer

Board of Directors - 2025

Three board members (*) are up for election at the November General Meeting to serve a two-year term commencing January 2025. One position remains open.

- *Jorge Feria
- *Mike Penn
- *Bob Squier
- *Open

(continued on page 5)



Eight current board members are not subject to election. They will be serving their second year of a two-year term

- Benjamin Cardonne
- Chico Goldsmith
- George Harvey
- Jean Hawa Editor *Sidelights*, Sunshine Report
- Tom Kosky
- Paula Valentina Perez
- Jorge Salazar
- Ira Shapiro Parliamentarian

The following two board members are automatic positions, therefore no election:

- Millie Garcia Immediate Past President
- Guy Lewis Of Counsel

- AACA & Peterson’s Harley Davidson South Cruise-In (October 12, 2024) - Ed Medina informed us that there are 28 registered. He added that there are going to be food truck vendors, music and free washing for those with motorcycles.
- Trunk or Treat – Texas Roadhouse (October 29, 2024)- Ed Medina mentioned that this could be a fun event and sign up if you will want to go.
- Cruise In – Ed Medina informed us that Eddie Dauer proposed a cruise-in to his museum on a Saturday from 9 to 3 sometime between February and March 2025 with free admission for AACA members to the museum. Ed said we need to figure out what will be the best day. Tomás Hernández suggested having a plaque for him as a token of appreciation.
- Biltmore Way Classic (March 2, 2025)- Ed Medina said that he has been looking for a major sponsorship for the Coral Gables Show and that he and Manny Garcia will be asking different people/organizations to be our sponsor. Meanwhile we should start pulling the permits. Both Manny and Ed will keep us informed.
- Scholarship Program- Ed Medina has been in contact with David Anspach, Steve Moskowitz and Greg Johnson regarding a scholarship program open to any educational or vocational institute within our region in the state of Florida but individuals will need to have a family member in AACA.
- Vizcaya Village- Ira Shapiro would like to wait until we have a cooler weather to set a date, maybe between

January and February of 2025.

- The Winston Park Car Show- Ed Medina wants to remind us that this event is coming in March 2025 (date to be determined).
- River Cities Festival Car Show (April 12 & 13, 2025)- Ed Medina suggested changing the car show to later hours to be able to participate and enjoy the festival.
- The Elegance at Palm Beach- Ira Shapiro informed us that it replaces Boca Nova in a greener venue with the dates of January 4-12, 2025. There will be 20 AACA and 20 CCCA vehicles for a resurrected concours on January 12th. He added that it will have a People’s Choice and VIP tent. When asked about the Delray Beach Concours Ira reported that several people told him that they gave up applying because the application process was too difficult.
- Tent and table cover- Ed Medina informed us that those items should be arriving in about two weeks. All four sides have our website, our club logo is on two sides, and the top has our Instagram page. The table cover also has our logo. The total cost for both items was \$1,400. We did business with a club member.

Sunshine Report: Jean Hawa reported that Tom Taylor fell and broke his neck. Gary Shanock had heart surgery. Millie Garcia’s 99-year mother fell, broke her hip and had surgery.

Adjournment: With no further club business to discuss, President Tomás Hernández made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. It was unanimously seconded and approved.





PROGRESSIVE LUNCHEON

Submitted by Jean Hawa

The annual South Florida Region Progressive Luncheon took place on a very soggy Saturday afternoon. Ed Medina summed it up with “ but, with great company, great hosts and great food, it was a successful event! “ Due to the intermittent rains only three antique cars made it to the first stop of two homes.

- #1- 1968 Jeep Land Rover
- #2- 1979 Austin Mini Cooper
- #3- 1987 Porsche 924

After an hour of chatting, eating, and admiring the antique cars, we traveled a short distance to Stop 2, the home of Jay and Cheryl Mullinix home for the entrée and dessert. Upon our arrival we saw one antique and one future antique close to the front door.



They were the inaugural of Ira Shapiro's new acquisition, a 1958 Jaguar XK150 FHC and



Philip Williams' daily driver, a 2007 Ford Mustang convertible.

(continued on page 7)



PHOTO CREDITS: Jean Hawa



1st stop, APPETIZERS at the home of Fernando and Maria Aguayo



Top L to R, and

bottom L: Table decorations and some of the delicious appetizers and desserts



Left, L-R, Front: Bob S, Bob M Rear: Jay, helper, Ira, Philip

Manny's selfie: L-R: Manny, Tomás, Yovanna, Ed, Bonnie, Gary, Millie



Mike and Cliff



Tomás and Manny with hosts #1 Jay & Cheryl, raffle winners: #2 Richard, #3 Philip, #4 Cathy, #5 raffle winners of gift cards.





Zenith: The High Point.

It describes the highest point in a celestial arc.

Submitted by Bill Thiele

They say that, "The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From The Tree". That is certainly the case with myself and my Dad/ Pops, Ralph Thiele. As I grew up, I was thrust into learning about automobiles and appreciating fine fit and finish. I also was exposed to GM Muscle Cars at the age of five. My first bicycle was brought home in the trunk of a Red 1966 GTO. I also vividly remember riding in a 1969 Hurst Olds, Red 1968 GTO and my grandmother's 1967 Firebird convertible (it had a loud Dearborn 3 speed tranny that sounded just like an M-22 Rock Crusher). My first car was a black 1968 GTO. I learned to do minor body work and mechanicals on that. As I grew up, I had the pleasure of watching my pop acquire his first "collector car" in about 1975. It was a bright yellow 1931 Chevy coupe. He still has it. Along the way, we both enjoyed acquiring various classics, fixing them up and towing them. AACA has been a fantastic venue for that outlet and the thrill of competition. The AACA has elevated their game along the way also.

Starting in 2017, the Zenith awards have represented the pinnacle of the finest restorations as chosen during the year by AACA Master Judges at various AACA National Events. Each year, no more than 20 are chosen to compete amongst themselves during the annual Grand National Event. Typically, only the winner and runner-up are announced. As they say leading up to the "Oscars/ Academy Awards", "It is an honor just to be nominated". Dad and Carolyn's 1967 Red Chevrolet Chevelle SS Convertible was nominated that first year (2017 Independence, Missouri). Independence is the home of Harry Truman and his Presidential Library (we visited both). Dad and Carolyn drove there in the motorhome and trailered the car. I flew out to join them. Because of the thrill of that event, I was motivated as well. I had just come back from my first Grand National Event in 2016 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. My 1969 Azure Blue Camaro SS had achieved GN status there. I pondered if I wanted to restore, yet another car as I studied my most recent acquisition. That was a 1969 Midnight Green Pontiac GTO Ram Air III. I told myself, "I'll just make it a real nice, fast, driver". Well, the "Thiele Perfectionist" handed down to me by blood took over. My friends and I have a term for this.... "Scope Creep".

In 2018, I stripped the car, took it to a new friend in Littlestown, Pennsylvania and asked for a "simple frame-

off". Keep in mind, that the car was a super clean California car all of its life, before I acquired it in 2013. While I was waiting for the car to come back, I started acquiring parts. Most everything reproduction wasn't good enough. So, I learned how to either hunt for NOS parts, refurbish parts, or send them out to be refurbished/replated, etc. I took particular pride in the engine rebuild and detailing. I delivered the engine in the back of my pick-up to Pennsylvania for installation in 2019. I finally got the base car back in early 2021. With help from many friends, we "thrashed" to get it ready for a July 2021 show. I learned so much that first show. I finally achieved my 1st Junior with the car at Greenville, South Carolina in September 2021. Then, my Senior at Melbourne, Florida in February 2022. I was then nominated for one of the AACA National Awards, but came up short. I decided to continue to improve the car and achieved a Grand National at Virginia Beach, Virginia in May 2022. Apparently, I had improved the car enough to catch the eyes of the National and Master Judges at that event. In late 2022, as I contemplated selling the car, I received that letter. Oh, that letter!!! My wife thought I was in pain, as she heard me scream from the other end of the house. She ran into the kitchen and asked if I was OK. I said, "OK, Ok?.. I'm on top of the World!!". I couldn't elaborate, I just handed her the letter to read. I said, "do you know what that means?". She said, "Yeah, we are going to Bettendorf, Iowa and you're not selling yet another car". She really was happy for us. We worked on the car even more and made our trek to Bettendorf in August 2023.

My wife, Rosemarie, goes to most every AACA event and really enjoys the people and the venues. She has now grown to appreciate the cars even more. She always says, "I knew what I was getting into, when we got married...it's in your blood, you can't help it". While we were there, and as usual, we met great folks, made new friends. We even had an epiphany when we were unknowingly introduced to the family of my son's godson to be (long story). We had a great ride on the riverboat with dinner show and even made a quick trip to Dyersville, Iowa to see "The Field of Dreams" movie set. You see our two sons (Ralph's grandsons) are baseball nuts. It was a fun site-visit and we have video of us disappearing into the corn. I have never seen so much corn and soybean as we saw in Iowa and Southern Illinois.

So, now, of the eight years the Zenith Awards have been held (2017-2024), the Thiele Boys have had the honor of being nominated on two occasions. *(continued on page 9)*



Therefore, the friendly argument of who has the best car in the Thiele collection, goes on...and on.

For those of you that have the privilege to visit a Zenith event, you will see "The Best of the Best". Each year it gets better and improves in stature and legend. Along the way, the number of Master Judges on the team/panel increased and have grown to two separate teams viewing each car at different times during the event. This year, leadership has decided to bestow a very nice Zenith grille badge for all who have participated since 2017. As Steve Moskowitz said in Iowa, "While this event has always been about the finest restoration of the year, we now have independent restorers that have shown their ability to stand up against the best professional shops".

Sometimes, we all get caught up in judging criterion, subjective eye perspective and personal favorite brands, etc. However, as with so many life events, it's always about the people and the overall experience. We spend so much time and money fixing, shining, traveling, that sometimes we are questioned as to our motive and general fiscal sense. For me and my family, we wouldn't trade our AACA friends and experiences for the world. We share the cars, we share laughs, we share meals, we share the knowledge, we share the ones we "missed", we share common craftsmen. As another one of my mentors said once.... "Quality Time Left, My Friend". We call it, QTL. Pass it on and "Share the Library". I, for one, am glad that my "Apple Did Not Fall Far from The Tree". "Old Cars are like Babies...There is not an ugly one out there". "We are but Stewards, save the ones that you can".

[Back story: On September 30, 2024, Carolyn Thiele emailed this editor a picture of the Zenith badge that Ralph had just received. Immediately the idea for a story about father and son both finalizing a Zenith Award came to mind. Within a week additional pictures and a story were sent to this editor by Bill Thiele.]



From a safe distance Ralph observes the judging of his 1967 Chevrolet Chevelle SS convertible in Independence, Missouri in 2017.



(cont. on page 10)



Carolyn and Ralph being awarded their trophy in front of the AACA officials.





The 2023 Award Ceremony and Finalist trophy. Below: the badge recently received by Bill Thiele for his 1969 Pontiac GTO Ram Air III coupe



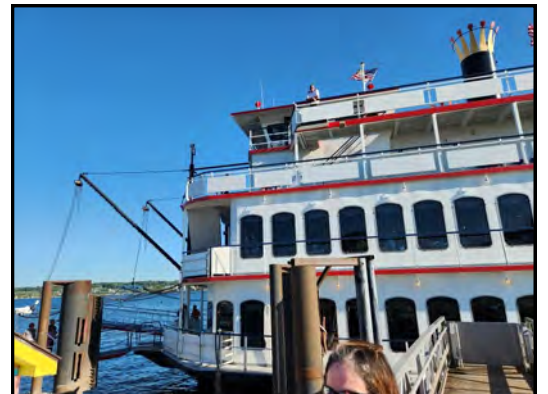
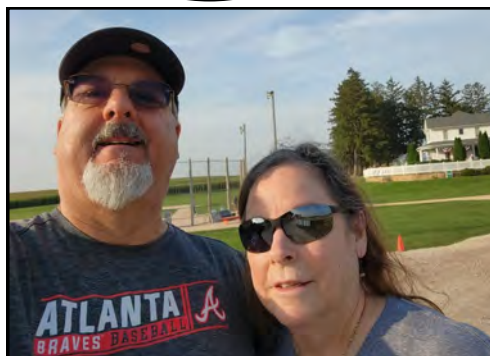
Top right: Bill's car at home.



Right: A very thorough judging process



Bottom: Bill and Rosemarie went sight seeing in Iowa.





ARTICLE FOUR – ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION III: The nominating committee shall present a recommendation of candidates for Officers and the Board of Directors at the October general membership meeting. The floor will be open for nominations from the floor at the October general membership meeting and closed prior to the election at the November general membership meeting. The Nominating Committee’s slate and the candidates’ names nominated, during the October meeting, will be published in the November issue of Sidelights.

SECTION IV: Members in good standing with the Region will be given proper notice of the election by means of Sidelights or Region’s website. The election for officers and the Board of Directors shall take place at the November general membership meeting and members must be present to vote; there shall be no proxies or absentee ballots allowed. There shall be a secret written ballot, which will be collected and tallied by the Regional Secretary or designee.

SECTION V: All officers and members of the Board of Directors may succeed themselves with the exception of the President who may serve a maximum of two consecutive years.

SECTION VI: In the event of a resignation of an officer or Board member or vacancy on the Board of Directors, the President may choose to appoint a replacement to fill the vacancy until the next election.

ARTICLE FIVE – TERMS OF OFFICE

SECTION I: The elected officers of this Region shall be a Regional President, First Regional Vice President, Second Regional Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers are elected for terms of one year. The Office of President is restricted to a maximum of two consecutive years. The Board of Directors will consist of up to fourteen (14)

members including the Immediate Past President and Club Counsel (if applicable). The Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of two years on a staggered basis – one-half of the Board shall be elected each year. The Officers and Directors shall be sworn into their office at the annual year-end holiday party, typically held in December.

Thursday, November 21, 2024
ELECTION NIGHT! 7:30 P.M.



Save the Date!

Rinconcito Latino Café,
 9606 SW 72 Street,
 Miami 33173



If you are planning to dine-in, be there by 6:30.

NOMINEES

Officers - 2025

Tomás Hernández	President
Al Padilla	First Vice-President
Ed Medina	Second Vice-President, Program Chair, Membership Chair, Webmaster
Yovanna Hernández	Secretary
Manny Garcia	Treasurer

Board of Directors - 2025

Three board members (*) are up for election at the November General Meeting to serve a two-year term commencing January 2025. One position remains open.

*Jorge Feria	*Bob Squier
*Mike Penn	*Open

Eight current board members are not subject to election. They will be serving their second year of a two-year term:
 Benjamin Cardonne, Chico Goldsmith, George Harvey, Jean Hawa, Tom Kosky, Paula Valentina Perez, Jorge Salazar, Ira Shapiro

The following two board members are automatic positions, therefore no election:

Millie Garcia	Immediate Past President
Guy Lewis	Of Counsel



[NOTE: (1) The article below was published in the December 2021 issue Volume 66 NO. 12 of "The Road Map", pp.8-9 the newsletter of the New Jersey Region of AACA, edited by Jay DeBoey. The article is written by Rich Reina, who is published here, with Rich's, Jay's and new editor Dick Bettles permission.] (2) If anyone has a comment or questions about Rich's technical articles, please let Editor Hawa know [jmhawa@comcast.net], so they can be forwarded to Rich.

We mentioned in the most recent ramblings that regarding antifreeze service, one needs to be mindful of both the replacement interval and the correct antifreeze formulation. Let's tackle the frequency question first.

Like so many other vehicle maintenance items, ask 10 "experts" how often the radiator coolant should be serviced (flushed and replaced) and you're likely to get 10 different answers. As always, you should start with your vehicle manufacturer's recommendations. Given that, your jalopy may be of such an age that you don't have access to that info, or in your humble opinion it's outdated. Consider this: a 50/50 mix of antifreeze and water, presuming that's what's in your cooling system now, has gone through innumerable cycles of sitting, then circulating, through a radiator, engine, and hoses made of various metallic and rubber materials. The coolant has sat outside in sub-freezing temperatures, and it's likely been heated to 240 degrees F or beyond on hot summer days. In essence, it's lived a rough life over a period of years while accomplishing an important task for the health and well-being of your motor.

My personal rule of thumb is that no matter how much or how little a collector car is driven (coolant which sits in an undriven car may still be causing corrosion), a

system service should be performed about once every 3 to 4 years. At a minimum, such a service should consist of draining the old antifreeze (and disposing of it in an environmentally proper way); flushing the system with water (cold water from a garden hose is acceptable); and refilling the system with the proper antifreeze, mixed 50/50 with distilled water. Distilled bottled water, available in most supermarkets and many department stores, avoids the chemicals which can be found in tap water.

Regarding flushing: I recall as a 20-year-old, purchasing a "flushing kit" in an auto parts store consisting of a plastic T-fixture. Installation was a snap: cut a heater hose, remove about two inches of hose, and insert the 'top' of the T inline with the heater hose. The 'bottom' of the T was threaded to allow attachment of a garden hose. The concept was that one could attach the hose and quickly fill the empty system with fresh water, then drain that out (onto the ground which is what I did circa 1975) before refilling with antifreeze. The owner's manual for my 1967 Alfa Romeo recommends a coolant system flushing be performed "periodically" (no mileage interval stated) by this method: drain the system, then fill it with water mixed with 10 oz. of sodium bicarbonate; run the engine for 10-15 minutes; drain this; circulate fresh water through the system while leaving the drain cock open; refill with fresh water and run the engine again for a few minutes; drain it again, then add the antifreeze mixture. I will admit I have yet to do this.

A final comment about the flush and refill: the empty system is an excellent time to check and replace radiator and heater hoses. Eyeball them for cracks and soft spots, and squeeze them as a test for rubber that may be too soft or too hard. Better to replace a hose that's on its way out now than to deal with one that bursts while driving.



They look alike, but the bottle on the left is pre-mixed 50/50, while the bottle on the right is "concentrate" and states "must add water."

(continued on page 13)

Walking into an auto parts store (or doing an online search) will cause you to come face-to-face with a plethora of antifreeze choices. You will find green, yellow, pink, and orange, plus “concentrate” and “pre-mixed”. The latter is easier to explain so we’ll take that first. “Concentrate” is 100% antifreeze and it requires that you mix it 50/50, again, ideally with distilled water. If you would rather not bother with that step, then purchase the pre-mixed stuff, but be aware that you’re paying for water. On a price-per-ounce basis, the concentrate is the better value, but the pre-mixed is more convenient.

Should your system run low on coolant and require topping up, it’s best to avoid mixing these different types of antifreeze. In an emergency, plain water is not only acceptable, it’s your best bet. You shouldn’t be losing coolant anyway, so have the system checked for leaks, and once any leaks are rectified, drain and fill it with the proper 50/50 mixture.

(Rich is taking a hiatus from the Repair Ramblings column for a short while, and will return soon. In the meantime, enjoy working on your cars and stay safe!)

If your GM vehicle requires DexCool, this is the stuff to buy.



Most of us who have been around cars for a few decades are probably most familiar with the green antifreeze, which was the only antifreeze available for much of the 20th century. If your AACA-eligible automobile is of domestic manufacture, chances are the green anti-freeze is perfectly acceptable for it (keeping in mind that GM began specifying DexCool in the late 1990s). My biggest personal issue with the green stuff is finding it; the last time I purchased some, none of the 3 brick-and-mortar stores near me had it and I resorted to ordering it online.

For European and Asian vehicles built before around 1980, green antifreeze should work. However, once you get into the ‘80s and onward, many European brands began specifying antifreeze with a different chemical make-up, dyed yellow not green; and the Asian makes switched to yet a different formulation dyed red or pink. One more time: for these newer cars, check your owner’s manual or service literature, as the variations by make are too complex to cover within the scope of this article. For the majority of you in older domestic iron, “it’s good to be green”.



Driving Miss “WHO”?

By Wayne Tuck

Vice President - National Activities

A few years back as New Jersey Region President I received quite a few interesting phone inquiries; looking for cars to use in a wedding, to display at a party, or to do a photo shoot.

This one got my attention. Looking for a 1950 Oldsmobile to use as a photo opportunity depicting the car used in the movie “Driving Miss Daisy”. What?!!, I couldn’t let this one go unanswered! As a died in the wool Hudson fan everyone has to know the car used in that movie was a 1948 Hudson Commodore! It would be sacrilegious to use an Olds to depict a Hudson. I was insulted. Had to get this misguided fellow on the right track. After indignantly informing the gentleman of his sins, he questioned if I knew anyone with a Hudson? Of course, I know many Hudson owners, in fact, I own one myself. How about meeting us for some photos? Well, maybe but where? Drive all the way to the northern part of the state for you to take a couple of photos? After a bit of conversation back and forth it was evident that we were not going to come to an agreement. I just dropped the conversation and left it up to him to find a car.

Fast forward a few years. I was recently on the internet and saw a photo depicting “Driving Miss Daisy” riding in a Packard! Why not change the name from “Daisy” to “Matilda”? Driving Who? I wonder to this day if that was the same person looking to find the car for the photo opportunity. If it was, I guess he just wasn’t a car guy. If I had to explain it, he just wouldn’t understand.

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SOUTH FLORIDA REGION AT PETERSON'S HARLEY-DAVIDSON SOUTH

Submitted by Jorge Salazar

Today, October 12th, at the Peterson's Harley-Davidson Cruise-In, despite some bad weather we had a great turnout and participants and spectators had a great time! There were about 40 cars even though the weather was a bit cloudy and had some rain at one point, other than that it was an excellent event with lots of people, music, and some vendors as well as food vendors.

Thanks to Jennifer Molina, the representative from Peterson who set this up with us.



Mustang



BMW



1942 Willys



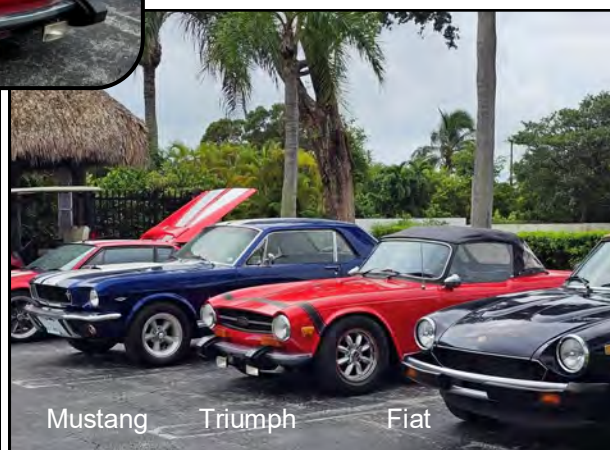
Fiat



Chevelle



Mustang



Mustang Triumph Fiat



1964 1964



1988 Pontiac Safari



The antique Volkswagens came out in full force.



Jorge,
Atömik
Hector
Philip



1964 VW Type 2



26th ANNUAL LAKE MIRROR CLASSIC CONCOURS & CAR SHOW
October 18-20, 2024

Chief Judge Mel Mann reported: "Despite a hurricane a week earlier, the Lake Mirror show was a success. Ira Shapiro and I served as chief judges, accompanied by many South Florida Region AACA members as judges including Jeff and Stella Ashen, Ed Padron, Mike Penn, Bob Squier, and Philip Williams.

Philip Williams stated: "The city of Lakeland and the event organizers did an amazing job of getting the venue and all the surrounding streets cleaned up after the flooding and debris from Hurricane Milton struck the week before. Other than a few tree stumps on the Promenade around Lake Mirror, you could not tell that there had been flooding or that the lake itself had risen to the point that the wall itself was nearly submerged. It was amazing seeing some of the before/after pictures.

Bob Squier stated: "As Philip said there were few signs of the aftermath of hurricane Milton. The layout of the cars was just like it has been for years. As always, the selection of cars was terrific with some that were very rare. The Cadillac exhibit was impressive with a wildly styled concept car and one that made it into production. The weather was spectacular, and perfect for viewing the cars. It was cool, breezy, and sunny. The crowds were huge with lots of talk about the beauties they were viewing.



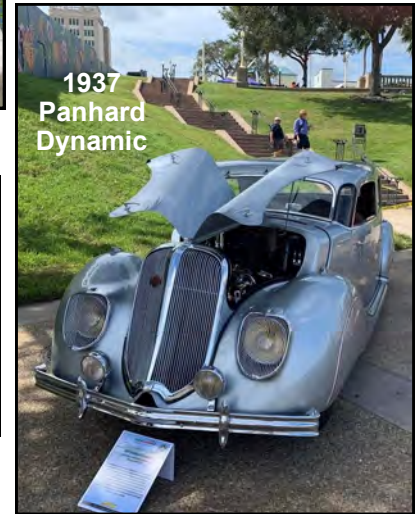
1936 Mercedes-Benz 540 K Special



Above are Ira and Mel with Grand Marshal KIP WASENKO, former chief designer for Cadillac division of GM. – Automotive Designer, Race Car Designer, Racer and an amazing, lifelong auto enthusiast.



Lake Mirror



1937 Panhard Dynamic



1932 Packard 903 Deluxe Victoria



PHOTO CREDITS:
Bob Squier and Philip Williams



Array of American production cars of the 1950's



1959 Cadillac Cyclone Concept

The 1959 Cadillac Cyclone Concept was the last “dream car” during Harley Earl’s tenure at GM. The Cyclone concept futuristic features that were untested, untried, and in some ways unattainable, because technology had not yet caught up. The twin cones house proximity sensing units warn the driver, by an audible signal and flashing light, that a vehicle or object is ahead. A laminated one-piece clear plastic canopy can be retracted into the trunk when not in use. A fully automatic climatic control system handles heating and air conditioning requirements.



1961 Chrysler 300-G



1957 Chevrolet Belair Nomad



L: 1957 AC Bristol



1950 Chrysler Royal station wagon



Vintage boats in Lake Mirror

R: 1960 Austin-Healey 3000 MKI



Two bottom cars
L: 1957 Ford Thunderbird
R: 1959 Ford Retractable



1932 Helicon propeller car
(continued on page 18)



Stella and Jeff Ashen, who judged cars again at this year's Lake Mirror Concours d'Elegance, said it was "another great turnout." The two photos below were taken at the Friday night Hot-Rod Rendezvous: 1959 Cadillac Cyclone Concept.



1986 Porsche 911 Carrera (turbo)



Photos on the right half of this page were taken on the street show.



R: 1969 Oldsmobile Cutlass S Convertible



Below: Indianapolis 500 Official Pace Car



PHOTOS BY Jeff Ashen

Below: Official Pace Car

The below photos were in the concours:



1974 Chevrolet Corvette L82 Coupe
Stella beside a 1964 Peel P50



Mercury Cougars





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Sat. 8am - 5pm
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Our Mission:




Living Donor Project mission is to use nontraditional marketing campaigns along side proprietary data matching technology, to find willing, healthy, living donor candidates and match them to children with end-stage renal disease who are waiting for a kidney transplant.



Nontraditional Marketing

+



Data Matching Technology

Instagram Link: <https://www.instagram.com/living-donorproject/>
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 Website: <https://lucy.livingdonorproject.org/>

If you are going out of town ANYTIME and come across a car show or car museum, please take pictures, write a story and email it to Editor Hawa (jmhawa@comcast.net). Do try to attend the national meets in Saratoga, NY and/or Hampton, VA

WANTED:

Sidelights needs your car stories, car pictures, accident and/or repair experiences, restoration project, childhood memories of you and a car/truck, etc. Do you have a story about a friend or relative regarding an antique? Do you have a "should've, would've, could've" story? Contact Editor Hawa at jmhawa@comcast.net



AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
FLORIDA • GEORGIA





FROM:
A.A.C.A. South Florida Region
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 9999 SW 71 Avenue
 Pinecrest, FL 33156-3063

TO:

2024-2025 SOUTH FLORIDA REGION EVENTS
 Website: <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>

NOVEMBER 2024

- 03– Deering Estate Vintage Auto Show– 10 a.m.-3 p.m.;** for vehicles 1965 or earlier, or any year International Harvester; **MUST be pre-registered (see website: <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>)**
- 05- Board Meeting– 7:30 p.m.** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 21– General Membership Meeting– 7:30 p.m.: ELECTION NIGHT** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami; if you are planning to dine-in, be there by 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 2024

- 03- Board Meeting– 7:30 p.m.** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 07– Holiday Party** at the Big 5, 6 p.m.-10 p.m.; to register, go to club website: <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>

JANUARY 2025

- 07- Board Meeting– 7:30 pm** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 16– General Membership Meeting– 7:30 pm** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami; if you are planning to dine-in, be there by 6:30 pm.
- 18-19– Art Deco-** Saturday (open show), Sunday (AACA guidelines); register on club website



FEBRUARY 2025

- 04- Board Meeting– 7:30 pm** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 20– General Membership Meeting– 7:30 pm** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami; if you are planning to dine-in, be there by 6:30 pm.



SUNSHINE REPORT: Get well cards were sent to Bob Mayer, Jay Mullinix, and Tom Taylor. Condolences were sent to Stella Ashen.



**2024-2025 AACA NATIONAL/
 REGION EVENTS**

(check *Antique Automobile* or www.aaca.org for more information)



- November 9, 2024- Ft. Lauderdale Region/St. Coleman Church Car Show– 10 a.m.— 2 p.m.- Honor Flight, South Florida serves WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Veterans; Open to all cars, trucks, original, custom, all years, makes and models; 2250 SE 12 Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33062; info: flauderdaleaaca@gmail.com or 954-531-4367; early car registration \$20., After Nov. 1st or day of show \$25**
- February 6–8, 2025 - 2025 Annual Convention,** Charlotte, NC
- April 3-5, 2025 - 2025 Southeastern Spring Nationals** Charlotte, NC
- May 1, 2025 Western Spring Nationals/Grand National-Tucson, AZ**

OTHER EVENTS

- Every Other Friday- Cruise in Generation Old School-Olive Garden Kendall;** 8925 SW 162 Ave, Miami, FL 33196 (by Baptist Hospital);
- November 26, 2024—Hutchinson Island Car Show and Swap Meet– 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m.-** Causeway Cove Marina, 601 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34949 Pre-register at www.flcarswapmeets.co
- December 1, 2024—Dream Car Classics-** 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Monthly on the first Sunday; 2000 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood, FL 33020; Open Car Show- <https://flacarshows.com/events/event/25329/>
- December 14, 2024– GASPARILLA Cars in the Park** in the heart of Tampa at Carrollwood Village Park– 10 a.m.-3 p.m.—Pre-register and save/Day of Show \$25 GASPARILLACONCOURS.COM/CARS-IN-THE-PARK