



Sidelights

JUNE– JULY 2025



Volume 68 Issue 5 <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>



(go to page 6)

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SIDELIGHTS**JUNE—JULY 2025****Volume 68 Issue 4****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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WAYS TO CONNECT WITH OUR HOBBY:aaca.org**AACA South Florida Region**

<https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>
aacasouthfloridaregion@gmail.com

Facebook**Instagram from Meta**



Hi all,

I want to start by saying thank you to all the members who came out to our 70th year anniversary of our car club. It was awesome that over 80 members showed up. I want to say thanks to Miriam Padilla, Millie Garcia, Yovanna Hernandez, and Gina Medina for putting together the goodie bags and decorating the day of the event. Also, Jean Hawa was helpful by getting former presidents to remind us of their accomplishments during their presidency. A special thanks goes to Williamson Cadillac for being our sponsor and donating the goodie bags, Benjamin Cardonne for the coffee mugs, and Tony Hernandez at the Miami Outboard Yacht Club. We all had a great time. On June 21st we will be displaying our cars at The Palace Suites and help the residents reminisce about Father's Day. Let's go and have a great time. Memory Lane registration is open, so go to the club's calendar for further information on all our activities.

I want to say thanks to all our board members; they all do a great job and we're always looking for activities for the members to enjoy. If anyone has a suggestion for any other activities please share it with us.

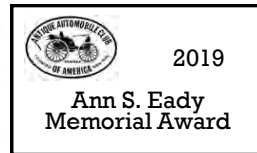
We're looking forward to seeing you guys soon and remember, stay cool because it's getting hot.

Tomás Hernández, President
AACA South Florida Region

Happy Father's Day to all of



our AACA Classic Car Owners



If you haven't noticed, this year our traditional general membership meetings on the 3rd Thursday evenings have been transplanted with meetings on a Saturday connected with a car related event. On Saturday, February 22nd we met at a southwest Miami-Dade warehouse with Manny Garcia and Paul Cotner talking about judging for car shows. A Cars 'n coffee and doughnuts at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church's 10th Annual Car Show was held on Saturday, March 22nd, and then on Saturday April 26th we met at a detailing shop. To celebrate our club's 70th Anniversary, we socialized at the Miami Outboard Club on Saturday, May 17th. And finally, at the invitation of The Palace Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Kendall, we will showcase our antique cars to the residents of a well established senior citizens facility on Saturday June 21st for a Father's Day celebration on the Saturday following Father's Day. Except for the 70th anniversary celebration, attendance at the Saturday meetings has been similar to our regular 3rd Thursday evenings. The biggest difference is that we were able to provide opportunities not attainable in a restaurant setting.

Other than the June 21st car show at the Palace, our regular car show season takes a break ONLY because it's too hot and possibly too rainy. If you are not driving your antique regularly, hopefully you are maintaining it or giving it some TLC with prep work to get it ready for our car show season this year with our Memory Lane exhibit in the Miami International Auto Show held in the Miami Beach Convention Center which begins September 25 through October 5. Be assured that Second Vice President and Webmaster Ed Medina will email all members any notifications about car events in the community. Of course you can always go to our club website and click on Automotive Links to see what other local car clubs are doing. If you do participate in another club's event, please write a report and send pictures of the cars to this editor.

Enjoy your summer,

Jean



The A.A.C.A. South Florida Region Board Meeting of Tuesday, May 6, 2025 was called to Order by President Tomás Hernández at 7:32 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 Ed Medina, Secretary Yovanna Hernández, Treasurer Manny Garcia, Immediate Past President Millie Garcia and Board Members Benjamin Cardonne, Chico Goldsmith, George Harvey, Jean Hawa, Thomas Kosky, Mike Penn, Ira Shapiro and Bob Squier.

Establish a Quorum: President Tomás Hernández was able to establish a quorum with 14 members of the board present.

First Order of Business - Acceptance of Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Meeting: President Tomás Hernández asked if everyone present had read the minutes of the April 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; Chico Goldsmith 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 April from the club's bank account. Manny added that with membership renewals, 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 are back to 214 active families.

General Membership Meeting (June 21, 2025): Ed Medina informed us that the next membership meeting will be held at The Palace Nursing and Rehabilitation Center prior to the car show. Ed also shared with us that last month's meeting at Auto Detailing Supplies was very successful. The members enjoyed the shop and were able to purchase items at a discount.

River Cities Report- Al Padilla reported that there were over 100 cars. He added that not only was it a phenomenal show but once the special lights at the venue were turned on, it became a beautiful site. Manny Garcia added that the food was very good.

70th Club Anniversary Celebration (May 17, 2025)- Ed Medina said that everything is set for the party. He mentioned that we have 87 confirmed reservations. He also added that a photo booth with our logo in the picture was being donated by Tony Hernandez, Auto Detailing Supplies offered a discount to our members, Williamson Cadillac donated pens and a bag, Benjamin Cardonne donated coffee mugs with our 70th year anniversary logo. The club was adding a couple of more surprises to the goodie bag given to everyone attending the celebration.

Memory Lane (September 26 – October 5, 2025)- Registration is open.

Holiday Party (December 13, 2025)- Ed Medina reminded us that the holiday party will be at the Miami Outboard Club.

Other Club Business:

- The Palace Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (June 21, 2025)-a 20-30 car event, food will be provided.
- Jean Hawa reported that the price to print *Sidelights* has increased, together with the higher cost of envelopes and stamps.
- Jay Mullinex will be having a garage sale to sell his tools and inventory.
 - Manny and Millie Garcia were approached by National Board members asking for the AACA South Florida Region to host a National and a Grand National show in the future, as well as a Zenith Show. Manny mentioned that he had gone to Doral Central Park and checked the space available to have these types of shows and Millie Garcia will contact the park for availability. He mentioned that Eddie Dauer offered to be a sponsor, and that he will inquire if Rick Case would also be interested. Ira Shapiro added that Steve Moskowitz mentioned that National prefers to have the Zenith shows to be centrally located for the eighteen nominees from across the country and at the same time as a Grand National.
 - Ed Medina suggested planning a car drive to Everglades National Park sometime in November.
 - Ira Shapiro informed us that in reference to the Art Deco car show weekend of January 17-18, 2026, Daniel Ciraldo is no longer in charge of the Miami Preservation League.
 - Since Jean Hawa was unable to attend the Celebration of Life of Norman Kassoff, she deferred the event to George Harvey who expressed how inspirational it was to hear about Norm's history of his long and wonderful life that

(continued on page 5)



(continued from page 4)

his friends and former colleagues shared that afternoon.

Sunshine Report: George Harvey reported that James McCrory has pancreatic cancer and reported that his wife Cathy's niece was killed in a tragic car accident.

Adjournment: With no further club business to discuss, President Tomás Hernández made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.. It was unanimously seconded and approved.

Legislative Corner: Visit With SEMA at the Annual Convention

By Fred Trusty, AACA National VP Legislation
bearcamp1988@gmail.com

The Legislation Committee has been working with the folks at SEMA to develop close cooperation on legislative issues that impact the enjoyment of our antique vehicles. We are pleased to announce that SEMA's Senior VP of Government Relations, Karen Bailey-Chapman, will be presenting a seminar at the AACA Annual Convention. In addition, SEMA will have a booth at the trade show so please stop by, say hello, and find out what you can do to get involved to help preserve our hobby. Separately, we are carefully looking at the potential that the EPA will allow for E15 use year round in some parts of our country. This could have a significant impact on our ability to purchase fuel suitable for our vehicles, especially if this fuel expands into states that do not permit the sale of ethanol free gasoline. Please feel free to express your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns including any topics of interest, to Fred Trusty, Chairman, at bearcamp1988@gmail.com.

Information from SEMA is reprinted with permission
from the AACA Speedster, January 2025,
volume 193
Which led to
SEMA.ORG/ADVOCACY

2025 ADVOCACY AGENDA

SEMA ACTION NETWORK (Specialty Equipment Market Association)

The SEMA Action Network (SAN) is a nationwide partnership between vehicle clubs, enthusiasts and members of the specialty auto parts industry who want to protect their hobby. Visit www.semasan.com to get involved.

PRI is the Performance Racing Industry

300 MILLION Passenger vehicles on the road. Approximately 20% of drivers accessorize or customize their vehicles.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO REPAIR AND MODIFY VEHICLES

We remain focused on protecting enthusiasts' rights to modify vehicles legally and is working to ensure that its members have access to the information, tools, and tolerances for motor vehicles with advanced technology, including advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), to ensure they can be safely modified. Similarly, with the federal highway bill up for reauthorization in 2026, which historically includes vehicle safety mandates from Congress, SEMA and PRI advocate for why the federal government should not mandate a maximum ride height for motor vehicles, among other potential mandates. In 2025, we will also push for more state level reforms to ensure transparent and objective standards while highlighting the aftermarket industry's ability to innovate and offer products that enhance performance, customization, and safety.

SEMA and PRI estimate there are approximately 12 million pre-1990 classic vehicles on the road.

DEFENSE OF CLASSIC VEHICLES AND COLLECTOR RIGHTS

SEMA and PRI defend the rights of classic car owners and enthusiasts against state-level policies that impose unreasonable restrictions on older and modified vehicles. In 2025, we will prioritize efforts to combat restrictive titling and registration laws that target imported vehicles, including those that impose unnecessary hurdles for vehicles more than 25 years old. We also will work to protect vehicle owners from overly harsh exhaust noise laws, which unfairly penalize car enthusiasts and undermine the automotive hobby.



A.A.C.A. – South Florida Region History

The creation of the A.A.C.A. – South Florida Region was a natural evolution from years of work by dedicated enthusiasts. In May of 1955 Charles Sebastian called a meeting of local car owners for the purpose of establishing a local antique car club. Approximately twenty people attended this meeting held at Frankie Watts' Waco Motors. From this session came the Miami Old Car Club with sixteen charter members. The club elected Charles Sebastian as its first president, a post that he held for three years. The first big display of cars came at the 1957 Dinner Key Auto Show. Ten thousand people paid twenty-five cents admission to see the thirty-six cars on display. About this time the membership decided to change the club's name to the Vintage Car Club of Miami. It was felt that this was more descriptive of the club's intent.

With a membership of 140, the club was incorporated as a non-profit corporation during the latter part of 1957. In May 1958 the club began publication of *Sidelights*, a name coined by charter member Bob Gegen. *Sidelights* is the official publication of the club and is published nine times a year. The first annual show was held at Crandon Park, followed by West Flagler Dog track and the Miami Springs Villas. Then, for the next eight years the show was held at Villa Vizcaya, the former winter residence of industrialist James Deering on the shores of Biscayne Bay. In early 1965 a move was started by Charles Sebastian to affiliate the club with the Antique Car Club of America. In September 1965 the club sent a petition to the national headquarters for the formation of the South Florida Region. The Region was approved in October, and at the November meeting the "Vintage Car Club of Miami" officially became the "South Florida Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America".

After many years of being the South Florida Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America, another change was needed. Following an eighteen-month process, we had been approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a not-for-profit hobbyist organization as recognized under I.R.S. code section 501 (C) (7). The entity was reorganized as the Miami Collector Vehicle Association, Inc. doing business as A.A.C.A.-South Florida Region. With a bylaws amendment, this went into effect on September 19, 2013.

In 1971 the club created the Most Valuable Member Award. This award is given to the member who by vote of the membership has contributed the most to the club over the past year. The award is presented at the annual year-end Holiday

Party. To honor his memory and his many contributions, the award was renamed the **Darcy O'Meara Award** after his untimely death in 1979.

In 1980 we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the club's founding. The occasion was marked with a banquet honoring the club's founder, Charles Sebastian, and all the past presidents. It was time to look back at the first quarter-century of the club and make plans for the second quarter-century. Early in 1983 the South Florida Region absorbed the Vintage Car Club of Miami, which had been founded in 1963. By combining the two organizations, everyone benefited. A single club provided more automobiles for our shows and more manpower to run them. Organization and management were more easily carried out, and the treasury responded in kind. Our growth expanded, and in 1986 we joined with the City of Homestead to take part in the annual Frontier Days celebration. This provided sponsorship and a fine location for our winter show. The excellent show field and support from the city led to our first National Meet in 1991. The success of the national event has continued with top-quality shows in Homestead each January. Despite the catastrophic events caused by Hurricane Andrew in August 1992 (including the destruction of many classic and antique cars in the club), the club managed to maintain its membership and grew nicely in the mid 1990's.

The growth of the club over the years has been steady and strong. The year 1995 ushered in the era of new leadership with Bob Mayer as president for a record seven terms. Membership meetings moved to a new location in the heart of Kendall and were well attended every month.

In 1996, the club was engaged to present the prestigious *Memory Lane* exhibit as part of the South Florida International Auto Show at Miami Beach Convention Hall. Memory Lane has established itself as the most heavily attended classic car display in south Florida with well over a half million spectators yearly. This event has provided the cornerstone of our annual budget and earned our club a stellar reputation as the premiere antique car club in South Florida. Sadly, in 1997, our club founder Charles Sebastian passed away. The prestigious Memory Lane Best of Show Award is dedicated to his memory each year. (continued on page 7)

The below panoramic photo was taken at the AACA Winter National Meet on March 1, 1991 at Harris Field, Homestead, Florida





One of the highlights of the club has been the steady enhancement of our *Sidelights* newsletter. Al Roscoe was the first South Florida Region Editor to receive the National Master Editor Award in 1982. In addition to his duties as president, Bob Mayer became the editor of *Sidelights* and our annual roster in 1998, incorporating the transformation to color printing and graphics. These improvements were recognized by AACA by awarding him the **National Master Editor Award** in 1999. In 2003, Ernesto Romero, improved *Sidelights* with enhanced artwork and graphics and was awarded the AACA Award of Excellence. Starting in October 2007, Jean Hawa took over the helm at *Sidelights*, to continue the terrific job of former editors Al Roscoe, George W. Duvall III, Maurice Hawa, Ben Harris, Bob Mayer, Ernesto Romero, and Bob Squier. The 2008, 2009, 2012, and 2013 **Award of Excellence** for regional publications and **National Master Editor Award** in 2010, 2011, 2014–2024 were presented to Editor Hawa. The **Ann S. Eady Memorial Award**, the highest national award for editors was presented to Jean Hawa at the 2020 Annual Convention.

In 2001, our first website was launched on the Internet. Due to the diligent efforts of our webmaster Bob Squier, the Southfloridaregion.aaca.com became the up-to-date source for everything about our club, more enjoyable and easier to navigate. Within hours after a car show, the event pictures are posted to our website for viewing pleasure. This has created a public journal to attract sponsors and members. Bob Squier has earned the **AACA Webmaster Award of Excellence** eleven times as one of the finest in the country. Since then, Bob has earned the **Award of Master Webmaster** in 2012–2021. The **Sparkplug Award**, the highest national award for webmasters was presented to Bob Squier at the 2020 Annual Convention. In 2022 Bob Squier handed over the reins of the website to Ed Medina, who has maintained the foundation that Bob had created, Ed earned the 2023 **Award of Excellence** for regional websites.

Chaired by Norman Kassoff, the South Florida Region hosted the 2010 Southeastern Winter Nationals Meet at the Homestead Speedway after a nineteen-year hiatus. Over 250 cars came from the eastern part of the United States. Show day was a beautiful sunny, picture-perfect day. One year later, co-chaired by Ira Shapiro and Mel Mann, we hosted the successful 2011 Southeastern Winter Meet. Held at the Magic City Casino on Leap Day, the 2020 AACA Nationals Southeastern Winter Meet was smoothly executed by Co-chairs Manny and Millie Garcia. In March, the entire country was shut down due to COVID-19, cancelling all car events until the Spring of 2021. In January of 2023 the South Florida Region headed by Millie Garcia again hosted the 2023 Winter Nationals at the Gold Coast Railroad Museum.

In addition to Memory Lane, several car shows are presented each year for the public enjoyment of our hobby, which have provided a financial basis for improved membership benefits. Our current shows include venues of Art Deco

Weekend on Ocean Drive on South Beach, along Biltmore Way in Coral Gables, Vintage Auto Show at the Historic Deering Estate, and the most current, the Vizcaya Farm Village Car Show. Due to our commitment to the community, the Dade Heritage Trust presented our club with the 2008 **Outstanding Community Service Award** and the Deering Estate Foundation deemed us their **2017 Marketing and Engagement Partner**.

As a result of our successes, the **AACA National Corvette Award** was established in 2011 by the South Florida Region AACA in recognition of Mel Mann's years of dedication and service to the hobby. We salute our leaders for their diligent efforts of maintaining the highest standards and for sharing our great hobby with the community at events located throughout Miami-Dade County. Now, in our 70th year, the club has grown to 214 and is regaining its strength, meetings are increasing and the future is bright for continued growth and success.



YOU ARE INVITED TO

70TH

ANNIVERSARY

Celebration

MAY 17, 2025
5PM - 9PM

Join Us to Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the South Florida Region AACA Club. We cordially invite you to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the South Florida Region AACA Club at the very location where the club's original meetings were held in 1955. This milestone celebration promises an enjoyable evening in a beautiful setting, where we will showcase a collection of memorabilia spanning the club's remarkable history. Relish the opportunity to reconnect with fellow club members, relax, and celebrate the rich legacy of our community.

The evening will feature a selection of small plates (Tapas style), live music, drinks, and other special festivities designed to enhance the celebration.

We look forward to your presence at this special event.

MIAMI OUTBOARD CLUB

1099 MacArthur Cswy, Miami, FL 33132

RSVP registration required on the AACA South Florida Region Website



A.A.C.A. SOUTH FLORIDA REGION 70TH ANNIVERSARY

By Jean Hawa

Questions about the where, when and how to celebrate our club's upcoming 70-year history were quickly changed to a "this is what we're going to do" thanks to a lot of team work. Plans for the May 3rd Thursday evening general meeting and summer picnic were scuddled for a return to a former meeting place. Tony Hernandez obtained the venue, the Miami Outdoor Club where our club met many years ago, and did the DJing for us as well as provided the camera for our self portraits; Yovanna Hernández, Myriam Padilla and Millie Garcia handled the decorations and catering details for the tapas buffet; Ed and Gina Medina handled the emails, gift bag items, and registrations; George Harvey brought his late father's 1934 Plymouth 4 door sedan and obtained photos from his father's memorabilia (Lanzo Harvey, member 1960-2003) for a slide presentation created by Ed Medina; Ben Cardonne provided the souvenir mugs; Mike Penn obtained the gift bags from Williamson Cadillac; and former editor Bob Mayer brought several vintage issues of *Sidelights* from the mid-late 90's.



George Harvey's 1934 Plymouth 4 door sedan



The casual dress code was noted by Angel Aulet, George Zima, and Ira

Shapiro. (See the enlargement of George's tie on the left.)



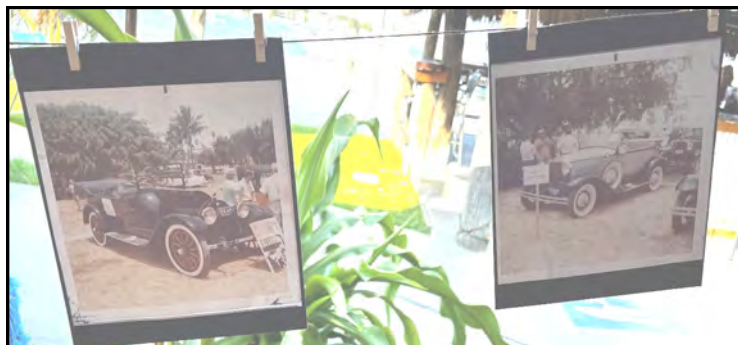
Ed and Gina Medina



Philip Williams, Bob Squier and Maurice Hawa peruse through vintage car material.

Note the repurposed license plate, now a raffled off plant centerpiece.

Below:
The cake

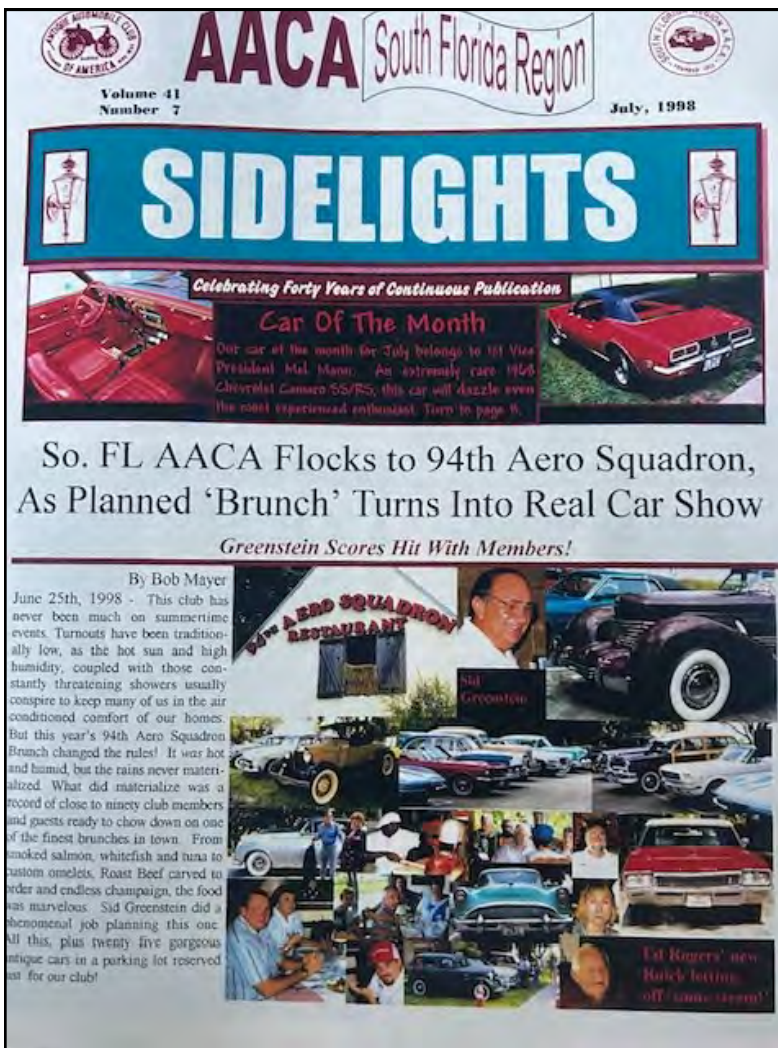


Lanzo Harvey's black and white photos were hung from string and were given to those who wanted a souvenir. Slides of the photos were shown on Television screens on the undersides of the chickee bar roof.



PHOTO CREDITS:
Tony Gonzalez,
Jean Hawa, Al Padilla
(continued on page 9)





This 1998 issue of *Sidelights* hit a 40-year milestone of the publication



Current board members:
L-R: Al, Ben, Mike, Tom,
Yovanna, Tomás, Ed, Jean,
George, Bob, Millie, Manny,
Ira

Immediate Past President
Millie Garcia presented
President Tomás
Hernández with a
certificate sent from
National AACA.



George and Cathy Harvey by
their 1934 Plymouth



Manny Garcia talks with Ross Battaglia as Oscar
and Marcia Castro listen.



Prior to this celebration former club presidents sent their
comments/highlights about their tenure to Jean Hawa who
shared their information with everyone: L-R: Jean Hawa,
Millie and Manny Garcia, Ira Shapiro, Maurice Hawa, Oscar
Castro, George Zima, Bob Mayer.



10TH ANNUAL GOOD SHEPHERD CLASSIC CAR SHOW & CARNIVAL

By Jean Hawa

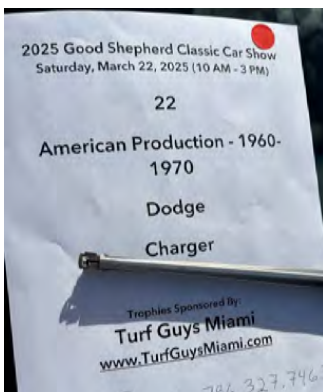
Even though this car show was not an AACA South Florida Region event, several of our club members attended the show for different reasons. Besides wanting to support the church's fundraiser, it provided a fun-filled family activity, and it was another attempt for us to get members together on a day time activity instead of a night event. President Hernandez was given permission to stake our club tent and provide coffee and doughnuts to our club members on Saturday, March 22, 2025. It also was an opportunity for the non-club members to learn about our club when they passed by the tent where a few board members hung all day.

There were close to 100 hundred cars at the open car show. Two things this attendee noted were that no owners' names nor year (only the era) were put on the windshield cards and fire extinguishers were not required. There were a variety of trophies placed on a table under a covered loggia.



Pastor's Choice Award

American Production
1950-1959
Award



(continued on page 11)





CAR CARNIVAL
CLASSIC CAR SHOW & CARNIVAL
SAT. MARCH 22
GSCARSHOW.COM

10TH ANNUAL GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY EVENT

- ★ BOUNCE HOUSES
- ★ GAMES & PRIZES
- ★ FACE PAINTING
- ★ DELICIOUS FOOD



BEST IN
CLASS

- ★ BAZAAR
- ★ 3x3 BASKETBALL
- ★ 50/50 RAFFLE
- ★ GREAT MUSIC



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Below:
1940 Oldsmobile
convertible



1955 Buick



1991 Nissan



The VWs



Corvette

Ford

Buick



1930 Ford



1957 Buick



BMW



1956 Chevrolet



The Annual Chili Cook Off and Car Show Veterans American Legion, Lake City, Florida

Submitted by Alex Fardales

Each year, The Veterans American Legion in Lake City, Florida holds its annual Chili Cook Off, and Classic Car show. This year it was held on Saturday, March 1st. The weather was spectacular. A little "chili" in the morning, but warming up to the mid 70's by noon time.

By 10 a.m. the car show field was filled by classic, antique, and street rods of all kinds in immaculate condition. But, as well as the car show, there were many chefs cooking different types of chilies. For only \$5, you were able to taste each vendor's chili, and vote for your favorite chili. As well as voting for your favorite chili, the car show was a judged event, along with a "People's Choice" voting. Throughout the day, we were entertained by live music, and plenty of "chili" to eat.

All in all, about 75 cars were on display, and some, are pictured here. Billy Aldrich of Lake City brought out his original restored "Bombino" roadster (below), which was an early '50s Ferrari Formula.



As far as our AACA members, Ralph Towner, former President and Editor of the Suwannee River Region A.A.C.A. brought out his beautiful 1967 Pontiac Lemans Convertible, which is an A.A.C.A. Junior.

By 3 p.m., awards in both the Best Chili and of the car show were given. Yours truly, won a 2nd Place and a "People's Choice Best of Show" award for displaying a 1955 Chevy Bel Air 2 door.



Below: 1968 Pontiac Firebird

Below: 1967 Chevelle SS





FEBRUARY 22, 2025 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

By Jean Hawa

The purpose of the February meeting was to discuss how to prepare your vehicle for an AACAA judged show. Certified AACAA Judges Manny Garcia and Paul Cotner were on hand to cover important factors, detailed tips and tricks. The timing was right because our only AACAA judged show was almost a month away. They discussed the rules of AACAA judging utilizing the Official Judging Guidelines which had possible items that could cause point deductions. They followed a sample judging sheet which was followed by many questions and examination of Manny's SUV and Paul's Ford Model A. Manny also had samples of the AACAA awards and trophies in his trunk.

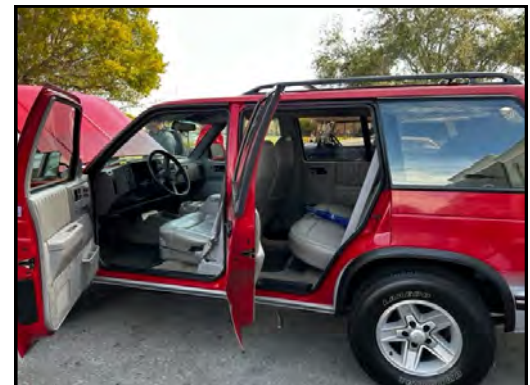
A couple of members asked to have the judges look at their antique to do a simple evaluation of their vehicle. Everyone left feeling a little more comfortable and knowledgeable about what to expect when a car is being judged, especially at a National AACAA Show.



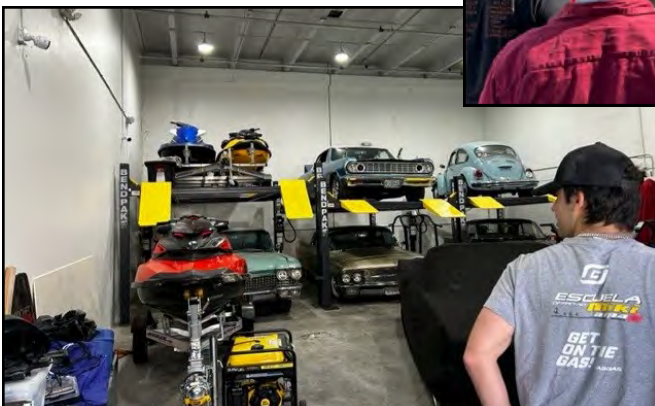
Paul Cotner's original 1931 Ford Model A 6-wheel Deluxe roadster has a 2nd Junior badge mounted on the grill.



Today was the inauguration of our new tent.



Doors, hoods and trunks must be made accessible to the judges.



Attendees explored contents of Ed Medina's warehouse.

R: Samples of AACAA trophies, badges, and board which holds the chips.





APRIL 26 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

By Jean Hawa

The email to our members started off with "Next meeting – Saturday April 26– Something New– Come and join us for our April Members Meeting– Cars, Coffee & Donuts. We will be meeting Saturday morning April 26th at Detail Garage-Miami"... "Even though you may not be a member yet, or even own an antique car, you are welcome to come to our Membership Meeting to find out more about our club". The time, location and other information followed.



Members and newcomers started arriving at 9 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts awaiting us. We socialized, looked at the antiques, did the usual car talk, and had a brief business meeting. Once we entered the building, owner Eddie Lopez welcomed us and gave everyone a tour of the facility with a thorough explanation of the how and why detailing is important for one's vehicle.



There was a great emphasis on cleaning because it enhances a car's appearance. Mr. Lopez walked us around the shop stopping at the well-identified sections where he showed us different products and manufacturers based on a customer's needs. They include: (1) Washing with soap and water should be the main objective to maintain all vehicles. One should remove the dirt and use a PH balanced soap with ceramics. One should wash in one direction, not in circles because it is easier to remove the dirt lines; have a rinse bucket that will trap the dirt at the bottom of the bucket. (2) Dry with towels. Wheels and trim need attention, too. (3) The interior seats should be cleaned with a horse hair brush and then conditioned. The carpet and upholstery cleaning process has three steps: soap, elimination and finish. (4) There are certain compounds for glass and paint. Scratches and swirl marks need to be eliminated. When one gets a new car, the car dealers usually don't do a good job giving you a clean car.

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One should have a professional cleaning to have the car look great. There are compounds to remove scratches and swirls which could have been from over spraying at the factory which prevented a good shine on the vehicle. There are a variety of ceramic waxes and sealants. (6) There are “quick detail sprays and “waterless” washes. When dusting, one should use a lot of rags, folding the towels each time with every swipe. (7) There are blower kits to clean engine parts. (8) Towels are needed for washing, drying and buffing. Many people use microfiber cloths and others prefer chamois which come in different sizes, colors, quality and prices. They are easily cleaned with soap and water. Be advised that cheap microfiber towels can scratch the paint. (9) Dirt trap buckets can help prevent scratches. (10) Polishing cloths come in many different grades and package sizes.

Suppliers for Detail-Garage–Miami are from Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy and China. Each company offers products unique to meet car manufacturers or car owners needs.

When asked about clay bars, Lopez said that they have come a long way. They are used to remove contaminants from the paint. A car is washed and dried, a lubricant is applied and then the clay bar is rubbed with back and forth movements, never circles, and when it feels smooth, wipe off the residue and apply wax or a sealant. It comes in different grades (mild, medium, heavy).

Two-day detailing classes are offered to those who are interested in learning how to do their own detailing.

After visiting the area used for detailing client’s vehicles, several members shopped for supplies to do their own cleaning and/or detailing. Everyone left with a greater understanding and appreciation for detailing.

Manny Garcia presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Eddie Lopez,





[NOTE: (1) The article below was published in the June 2022 issue Volume 67 NO. 06 of "The Road Map", pp.18-19 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 it can be forwarded to Rich.

Modern tools have spoiled us, mostly for the better. Before the invention of the electric drill, holes were bored in wood with an offset hand crank. Imagine a carpenter in 1850, drilling holes by hand in 4x4 beams all day long when building a house! Today, tools with digital readouts have become the norm. Yet there are times when a simpler way still works, some might argue for the better.

When I restored my BMW Isetta in the 1990s, I owned precision measuring tools including a micrometer and vernier calipers, but calibrated in inches. Everything on the Isetta was metric, and I needed a tool able to measure to tenths of a millimeter. At the time, I was purchasing new metric hardware from a company near my office, and they also sold metric vernier calipers, for which I recall paying under \$20, including a protective case. The calipers were plastic, but seemed to be well-made.



Above: my metric calipers in their plastic case, a bargain at under \$20 [1990s pricing]

(Fun fact: "vernier" is defined in the dictionary a movable, auxiliary graduated scale attached to a main graduated scale, calibrated to indicate subdivisions of the larger scale. The word comes from the surname of its inventor, Pierre Vernier, who died in 1637. Little could he have imagined his invention still used 385 years later.)

Both a micrometer and vernier calipers can precisely measure the outside diameter of an object; the additional advantages of vernier calipers is their ability to also measure inside diameter as well as depth of an opening. My new tool was a joy to use, and came in handy for all kinds of measurements when rebuilding the engine, transmission, and chassis. More recently, I used the calipers to measure the pistons in my Alfa Romeo's brake calipers ("calipers" defined as something with two moveable arms).

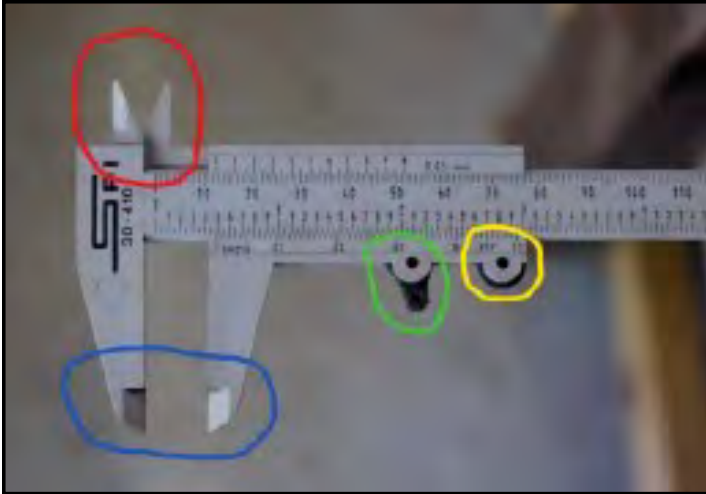


Above: using outside diameter jaws, vernier calipers confirm brake caliper piston diameter is 30mm

(continued on page 17)

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In the photo below, the inside diameter jaws are circled in red, the outside diameter jaws in blue, the locking tab which prevents the sliding portion of the tool from moving to preserve a measurement in green, and a thumb wheel for ease in making precise movements of the scale in yellow.



To read the scale, first, locate the “zero” on the sliding portion of the scale; if it lines up exactly with a line on the fixed portion of the scale, you have your measurement in a whole millimeter (as seen in the photo of the brake piston: the “0” on the top, or sliding, scale, lines up exactly with the “30” on the bottom, or fixed, scale). However, if the zero mark is between two lines, your first number is the lower of the two (if the mark is between “3” and “4”, your first number is “3”). Next, find the line on the sliding scale which lines up most precisely with a line on the main scale. Remember that this number represents TENTHS of a millimeter. To obtain your final result, add the two numbers together.

In the photo below, I am measuring the brake pad material thickness on a brand-new pad. Using the inside jaws, I see that the zero mark on the sliding scale is between the 9 and the 10 on the fixed scale, so our initial number is “9”. Next, I look for the mark on the sliding scale which most closely lines up with a mark on the fixed scale. The closest number on the sliding scale which does that is the 5. This represents “0.5mm”. Adding our two numbers together, $9 + .5$ equals 9.5. The brake pad material is 9.5mm thick.

Not shown in the photos is the metal tang which protrudes from the end of the vernier calipers as the sliding scale is moved. The tang is used to measure depth, for example, into a blind hole. This is very convenient, for example, when determining what length bolt might best fit into a threaded opening.



Above: our vernier calipers can quickly tell us brake pad thickness, in this case, 9.5mm

My vernier calipers are very handy to use: they are light, easy to adjust, and quickly provide a readout. Even when I might otherwise grab a ruler for measurements which do not need to be so precise, I find myself reaching for these vernier calipers. As an example, if I’m sorting through metric hardware and need to sort bolts by length, it’s easier to measure the bolts with vernier calipers than it is with a ruler.

Sometimes I rank my tools based on a price range, such as “that’s the best X dollars I’ve ever spent on a tool!” I would say that my plastic vernier calipers, which have held up beautifully for 30 years, would rank as “the best \$20 I’ve ever spent on a tool!”. If you don’t own one and you need to do precise measuring of any kind, I and Pierre Vernier both highly recommend it.

(Next month: a third and final “favorite tool” selection to share with you)

CHECK OUT A STORY ABOUT THE FIRST WORKING SELF-PROPELLED VEHICLE

Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot (26 February 1725 – 2 October 1804) was a French inventor who built the first working self-propelled land-based mechanical vehicle, in 1769, the world's first "automobile."

In 2010, a copy of the "fardier de Cugnot" was built by pupils at the Arts et Métiers ParisTech, a French Grande école, and the city of Void-Vacon. This replica worked perfectly, proving that the concept was viable and verifying the truth and results of the 1769 vehicle.

<https://www.autoblog.com/2006/10/19/the-very-first-car-1769-cugnot-steamer/>
<https://www.supercars.net/blog/1769-cugnot-steam-tractor/>



LOOKING AHEAD

By Jeffrey Broadus 2025 Asst. VP Public Relations, Asst. VP Marketing / 2024 Membership



To paraphrase a famous quote, *"Ask not what the AACA is doing for you. Ask what you can do for the AACA."*

Membership is the key reason AACA exists. With all the confusion surrounding social media and a digital marketing effort, please know it's only an aspect of building a solid organization. The real effort is a ground roots effort to supported by our regions, chapters, who participate in marque events and continually these network channels promoting the benefits of AACA. At headquarters we're investing in our future and have our sights set on the collectors of tomorrow. It takes a small platoon to build an army.

We need YOU, the collectors of tomorrow. It takes a small platoon to build an army. We need YOU.

Your Board of Directors are committed and investing in building awareness and promoting club benefits in an all-out effort to build membership. We've launched a social media campaign; we're building our email list and our resources as well as reaching out to other industry partners asking for their support. With all that said, the key to our success truly lies with member input, new ideas and a commitment beyond just AACA events.

Many of us belong to multiple clubs for a variety of reasons and we need to explain why they need to join AACA. Did you know if your car is judged by AACA and received a Junior, Senior or Grand National award, collector car insurance providers are more willing to value your car above online value guides. Just one of the many benefits of membership.

If you haven't visited our newly designed club and

Library websites recently, I encourage you to do so.

www.aaca.org

www.aacalibrary.org

AACA is America's Car Club. We offer incredible benefits at a very low cost to our members such as:

- a. America's Automotive Library
- b. National Tours
- c. Award-Winning Magazine
- d. Forums covering thousands of topics
- e. A list of local Regions and Chapters
- f. Calendar Filled with Conventions, Shows & Events
- g. Monthly Newsletter — The Speedster
- h. AACA Judging & Guidelines

With unparalleled benefits, AACA membership complements other memberships one may have within our industry. Act today and add America's Car Club to your social media communications, marque club experience and industry contacts. Help us in letting the world know why the AACA is the #1 club in America.

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2nd Annual South County Car Show & Craft Market

SATURDAY, JUNE 28th 9am-2pm
The General Stanton Inn Fairgrounds
Route 1, Charlestown, RI



Peoples Choice Awards for Top Ten & Best of Show
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Sun. Closed

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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

FROM:
A.A.C.A. South Florida Region
c/o Jean Hawa
9999 SW 71 Avenue
Pinecrest, FL 33156-3063



TO:

2025 SOUTH FLORIDA REGION EVENTS

Website: <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>

JUNE 2025

- 03- Board Meeting– 7:30 p.m.** at Rinconcito Latino Café,
9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 21- General Membership Meeting and Car Display at The
Palace Suites Senior Living Center (In Celebration of
Father's Day) 11 a.m.– 2 p.m.** You must pre-register.
check emails and club website)

July 2025

- 01- Board Meeting– 7:30 p.m.** at Rinconcito Latino Café,
9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 17- General Membership Meeting—TBD**

August 2025

- 05- Board Meeting– 7:30 p.m.** at Rinconcito Latino Café,
9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 21- General Membership Meeting—TBD**

SEPTEMBER 2025

- 02- Board Meeting– 7:30 p.m.** at Rinconcito Latino
Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 21- General Membership Meeting—TBD**
- 26– 30, October 1-5– Memory Lane; Miami International
Auto Show at Miami Beach Convention Center;
Registration on club website**

OCTOBER 2025

- 01-05– Memory Lane; Miami International Auto Show at
Miami Beach Convention Center; Registration on club
website**
- 07- Board Meeting– 7:30 p.m.** at Rinconcito Latino Café,
9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 16– General Membership Meeting- TBD**

NOVEMBER 2025

- 04- Board Meeting– 7:30 p.m.** at Rinconcito Latino Café,
9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 20– General Membership Meeting– 7:30 p.m.** at
Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami
33173; **ELECTION NIGHT!** If you're planning to dine-in.
be there by 6:30 p.m.



2025 AACA NATIONAL/ REGION EVENTS

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



**June 1-7, 2025 – Vintage Tour (Pre-1932) – Southern/
Eastern Pennsylvania – hosted by Buzzard's
Breath Touring Region**

June 1- Mystery Tour– Ft. Lauderdale Region, TBA

**June 19-21, 2025 – Eastern Spring National – hosted
by Whitewater Region AACA**

July 2-5, 2025 Central Springs Nationals– Auburn , IN

**July 12– Car Appreciation Day– Ft. Lauderdale Region-
at Galuppi's, 1103 N. Federal Hwy, Pompano, FL–
10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**September 7-12, 2025– Revival AAA Glidden Tour
(Pre-1943)-Owensboro, KY (VMCCA Hosted)**

**September 18-20 Southeastern Fall Nationals–
Corydon, IN**

**October 7-10, 2025 – Eastern Fall Meet – Hershey, PA
hosted by Hershey Region AACA – 717-566-7720**

OTHER EVENTS

**Every Other Friday- Cruise in Generation Old School-
Olive Garden Kendall; 8925 SW 162 Ave, Miami,
FL 33196 (by Baptist Hospital)**

**October 17-19, 2025– 26th Annual Lake Mirror Classic
Lakeland, FL; Registration is now open.**

SUNSHINE REPORT



Get well wishes have been sent to
James McCrory. Condolences have been
sent to Cathy Harvey.