



Sidelights

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

Volume 66 Issue 8 <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>



LAKELAND AUTO SHOW AND LAKE MIRROR CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE



(Story begins
on page 6)

OFFICERS—2023 (e-mail us at aacasouthfloridaregion@gmail.com)

President	Millie Garcia
1 st Vice-President, Safety Officer, Sergeant at Arms	Tomás Hernández
2 nd Vice-President, Program Chair	Al Padilla
Secretary	Yovanna Hernández
Treasurer	Manny Garcia
Immediate Past President, Parliamentarian	Ira Shapiro

BOARD of DIRECTORS—2023 (aacasouthfloridaregion@gmail.com)

Jorge (George) Feria	
Chico Goldsmith	Mike Penn
Jean Hawa- Editor <i>Sidelights</i> , Sunshine Report	Bob Squier
Norman Kassoff	Conrado Vazquez
Guy Lewis - Of Counsel	Richard Whittington
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 2023****Volume 66 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**2024 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. Please complete the enclosed/attached blank form or download the form from our club website under membership. **Important items to complete are addresses, phone numbers, birth month of you and/or spouse, email address, and, of course, your car(s). PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.**

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. **DO NOT SEND** the National application to the local office.

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



Dear member,

Wow! How time flies! November has rolled around faster than expected. It will be a very busy month with both the Deering Estate and Cars in the Garden shows. Plan to come out and spend the day in the beautiful venues with great friends! We also have our last membership meeting of this year and I ask you to join us as we will be conducting our yearly elections. As we close out November, I wish you and your family many blessings! Hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving!

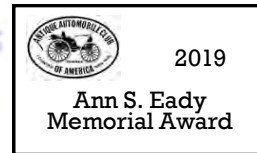
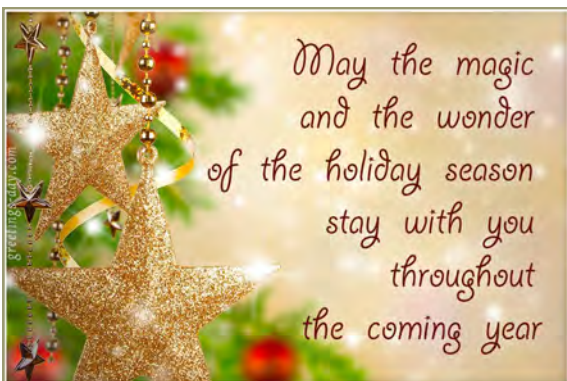
As we approach the end of the year, it is a time to look back and see all that we have accomplished. I thank all of you that have worked tirelessly to ensure that every event that we have done was seamless and enjoyed by all. You are the heart of this club! Join us at our Holiday Party on December 16th as we celebrate together and welcome our new Board. I wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

It has been a wonderful "Ride" the past two years. As my time as president comes to a close, I want to say that it's been my honor to serve you. I know I leave you in the very capable hands of your next president, Tomas!

May God bless you!

All my best,

Millie Garcia, President
A.A.C.A. South Florida Region



November is certainly the month for all of us to be thankful for all that we have, our health, families, friends, enjoyable hobby, and the end of a hot rainy summer season. It is also a time to cherish the special memories of those who have passed away.

This editor is extremely thankful to all those who have contributed to the success of *Sidelights* in 2023. The car story/events contributors and photographs of our members include the following:

Jeff and Stella Ashen, Nancy Bahn, Alex Fardales, Manny Garcia, Tomás Hernández, Yovanna Hernández, G. David Hicks, Mel Mann, Ed Medina, Ed Nieves, Al Padilla, Bob Squier, Ralph and Carolyn Thiele, Rex and Maryanne Turner, Philip Williams, and Rich Reina of the New Jersey Region provided the "heart and soul" of the newsletter. An equal amount of gratitude goes to Maurice Hawa, Ira Shapiro, Bob Squier and Philip Williams who proofed every issue. Let's not forget the monthly President's Message sent by President Millie Garcia and the monthly minutes recorded by Yovanna Hernández. This editor APPLAUDS EACH OF YOU.

December brings the culmination of a year filled with many accolades. To re-cap 2023, we begin with the two-day Art Deco car show on Miami Beach, hosting the AACA National Meet in January, the vintage car show at the Vizcaya Farm in February, the annual March judged car show on Biltmore Way in Coral Gables, a fun Members Cruise to Key Largo in April, the tasty annual picnic in June, executing an impressive Memory Lane display for ten days at the Miami International Auto Show in September, the upcoming November car shows at the Deering Estate and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, and finally to the installation of officers and board of directors at the December Holiday Party. We accomplished a lot!

This editor wishes you a holiday filled with expectations of good tidings and joy.

Happy Motoring, *Jean*

OOPS REPORT

Al Padilla should have been given credit for all the photos used in the Memory Lane display seen in the *Sidelights* October 2023 issue.



The A.A.C.A. South Florida Region Board Meeting of Tuesday, October 3, 2023, was called to Order by President Millie Garcia at 7:18 P.M., at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72nd Street, Miami, FL 33173.

In Attendance: President Millie Garcia, 1st Vice President Tomás Hernández, 2nd Vice President Al Padilla, Secretary Yovanna Hernández, Treasurer Manny Garcia, and Board Members, Jorge Feria, Chico Goldsmith, Jean Hawa, Ed Medina, Mike Penn, and Bob Squier.

Establish a Quorum: President Millie Garcia established a quorum with 11 members present.

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

Second Order of Business – Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Manny Garcia presented a reconciliation statement for September from the club's bank account; Manny also reported that with membership, new members, monthly expenses such as board meeting meals, coffee and dessert at the general meeting, storage rental fee and the printing and mailing of *Sidelights*, our treasury is sound. Manny also informed us that he has deposited the second installment from Memory Lane. Jean Hawa and Bob Squier had concerns about the cost of meals for board meetings. Millie Garcia suggested going back to doing meetings at the members' houses or setting up a maximum amount the club will cover per each member's dinner.

Third Order of Business – Membership Report: Ed Medina informed us that we now have 210 families. Ed also added that the renewal of membership is going accordingly, with 72 renewed memberships. Jean Hawa asked Ed if there was a cost to renew online, Ed explained there is a \$1.45 processing fee when paying online which the club incurs.

General Membership Meeting (August 17, 2023): We will be meeting at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72nd Street, Miami, FL 33173. Al Padilla informed that

currently he has no guest speaker, but is working on it.

Memory Lane Auto Show Report: Ed Medina reported that it was a great show and mentioned that he was pleased to see how members stepped up to serve as volunteers. He added that next year he would love to have a different set up for displaying the antique cars. He would like to have the Corvette, Mustang and British clubs added to our cars display and added that the Miami Beach Auto Show used Memory Lane as part of their advertising.

Manny Garcia mentioned that Memory Lane is still one of the most important shows we have and that we need to plan for a better and bigger show next year, especially if we need to improvise if the display area changes like it did this year. Debra Koebel, President of the South Florida Automobile Dealers Association replaced long time Auto Show Coordinator Cliff Ray who has retired.

Deering Estate Vintage Auto Show (November 5, 2023): Jean Hawa said that she is still waiting for a response about the cut-off year for antique cars. She mentioned that 47 cars have registered already, and that we might need to have a cutoff amount. Ed Medina will be printing the windshield cards. Manny Garcia mentioned that October 14th is Deering Estate Day, and asked Jean if they might want to have cars display at the venue. Jean responded that no one had made a request for a car.

Cars in the Garden (November 19, 2023): Jean Hawa informed us that she still needs to meet with her contact at Fairchild about where the antique cars will be placed. She mentioned that the garden personnel are very protective of the grass, especially when it is rainy. Jean proposed a budget of \$291 to carry the cost of the windshield cards, judging sheets, trophy name plates, and refreshments. Bob Squier made a motion, Manny Garcia seconded it, and the proposed budget passed unanimously. Ed Medina mentioned that the date of the show is just around the corner, and we need to open the registration.

Progressive Dinner: Since the next few months are full of activities, it was decided unanimously that the Progressive Dinner be omitted this year. Manny Garcia suggested that we should consider a less busy month and maybe, instead of doing the dinners at a member's house, we can consider choosing three different places like a restaurant, other business or place of interest to meet. *(continued on page 5)*



(continued from page 4)

Holiday Party (December 16, 2023): Al Padilla said that by majority of votes, the venue for our Holiday Party venue is the Cadillac Hotel. The only available date for our event is December 16th. He presented a copy of the menu and talked about some of the hotel Art Deco details. Ed Medina added that he was going to open registration online.

Other Club Business:

- Board Elections will be held on November 16th at the General Membership Meeting. The Nomination Committee proposed the following:

Officers

Tomás Hernández	President
Al Padilla	First Vice-President
Jorge Feria	Second Vice-President
Yovanna Hernández	Secretary
Manny Garcia	Treasurer

Board of Directors

Three Board Members and three new nominees (*) are up for election at the November General Meeting to serve a two-year term commencing January 2024.

Chico Goldsmith
Jean Hawa (Editor *Sidelights*/Sunshine Report)
Ira Shapiro
Jorge Salazar*
Paula Valentina Perez*
Tom Koski*

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

Ed Medina (Webmaster/Membership)
Mike Penn
Bob Squier

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

Millie Garcia- Immediate Past President
Guy Lewis- Of Counsel

**** NOTE:** Three Board of Directors positions are still open

- Name Tags: Tomás Hernández mentioned that we still need to order name tags for all members. Ed Medina presented the cost to have these made. Jean Hawa believes we should wait until next year. Ed

made a motion to ask all new and renewing members if they would like to have a name tag, whoever does not respond will have to wait until the next renewal period. Bob Squier seconded the motion. The motions were approved.

Sunshine Report: Jean Hawa informed us that Norman Kassoﬀ is recuperating from a broken hip.

Adjournment: With no further club business to discuss, President Millie Garcia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 P.M. It was unanimously seconded and approved.

Submitted by Yovanna Hernández, Secretary





Lake Mirror Auto Show and Concours d' Elegance

October 20-21, 2023

By Stella Ashen

So, you may ask: What was the **best** part of the 2023 Lake Mirror automotive weekend extravaganza? Unfortunately, I can't tell you. Well, to be more precise, I can't *decide*, because there are far too many good answers to that question.

Chief Judge Mel Mann and marketing whiz Robert D'Angelo combined their amazing talents to create a truly epic weekend experience. Friday night was the Hot Rod Rendezvous, where my husband Jeff (aka PacecarJeff) and I enjoyed a VIP Judges reception with delicious hors d' oeuvres and libations. Outside, we strolled amongst all sorts of interesting vehicles parked around the huge lake -- including the featured gem, an iconic Futurliner from the GM Parade of Progress. It was really cool and very impressive to see that gorgeous behemoth running and moving! On Friday night, I also got to meet the illustrious Bill Warner, a racer, journalist, photographer, and founder of The Amelia Island Concours (now The Amelia). He was very charming, and told such great car stories (wish I had taken notes).

On Saturday, Jeff and I both judged (separate) Concours categories. I judged racecars from 1967 to 2010, which included some cars with fascinating histories. One was a 1990 Shelby Can-Am, which was designed by Carroll Shelby and was ALL original, including the tires. Another of the racecars in my class was a 1970 Plymouth Superbird, formerly driven (and signed) by Richard Petty. When the current owner found that car, it had been converted to a Charger! Through extensive research and help from the Petty family, the car's origin was ultimately determined. After that, the current owner fully restored the car to its original racing form, though they kept the welds from prior repairs (like after Petty hit the wall while testing the car before racing at Darlington). Fascinating!

So, I loved experiencing all of that, plus seeing as many of the approximately 170 Concours cars AND the 600 additional show cars outside the Concours in the charming surrounding town. There were also lots of great vendors exhibiting and adjacent shops to explore. Then, Saturday afternoon, vintage wooden boats and Amphicars were running on the lake! OMG; this show has so much to offer! Hope you all consider attending next year; it's a car-lover's dream weekend!

Friday Evening Hot Rod Rendezvous

The top picture on the cover page shows a small portion of the display of hot rods.



1972 Ford Galaxie 500 restored to a period-correct version of a 1972 Polk County Sheriff's Office patrol car. The build date was July 1972, which is the same month and date Sheriff Judd started with the agency. It has the original 351 Cleveland engine and transmission.

Many of the Corvettes spent the night at the Hyatt Place



1990 Shelby Can-Am

R: 1970
Plymouth
Superbird



(continued on
page 7)



The Futurliner from the GM Parade of Progress

The following information is reprinted from Wikipedia:

The **GM Futurliners** were a group of custom vehicles, styled in the 1940s by Harley Earl for General Motors, and integral to the company's Parade of Progress—a North American traveling exhibition promoting future cars and technologies.

Manufacturer: GMC Truck and Fisher Coach & Body.

Production: 1936–1941, 1953–1956

Transmission: Manual (1940–1946), 4-speed hydramatic and 2-speed manual gearbox (1953–1956)

Wheelbase: 20 feet 8 inches (6.3 meters)



The Futurliner #10 was trailered from Indiana and drove through historic downtown Lakeland, Florida for the Lake Mirror Classic. This is where the Parade of Progress made its debut on February 11, 1936.

(continued on page 8)



PHOTO CREDITS:
Jeff and Stella Ashen
Al Padilla
Patricia Watts

R:
1967 Amphicar 770
on dry land





1964 Ford Country Squire



1951 Nash Rambler Country Club station wagon

Right: This editor's friend from junior high school (Pat Watts) was allowed to sit in this 1948 Oldsmobile 66 convertible. The car plaque claims "I am red and shoot 6 foot flames of FIRE out of my butt!... Kid Friendly! Get in for a picture."



Poster

Right: 1963 Chevrolet Corvette owned by Jay and Cheryl Mullinix (seated in the back). Jay says: "This Corvette truly holds part of my soul. I have owned the car since 1983 and it has been restored to original specs. She is a driver and not a trailer queen".



1904 Oldsmobile Curved Dash 6C

First mass produced car in the world. 5,508 produced in 1904. Sold for a dollar a pound, 650 lbs \$650 118cc, 1 cylinder, 7 hp, two-speed transmission, center tiller steering. The first transcontinental auto race negotiating the Oregon trail from New York City to Portland was May 8, 1905. Dwight Russ collected the \$1000 prize. It took 44 days and was won in an Oldsmobile. Second place 8 days later was also an Oldsmobile.



1962 Jaguar



1919 Ford Model T Touring



1953 Chevrolet Corvette

R: 1933 Rolls-Royce Shooting Brake





Al Padilla's 1955 Buick Century convertible Model 66C

5,588 Buick Century Convertible Model 66C cars were produced by Buick in 1955. The 1955 Buick slogan was "Thrill of the Year is Buick" and the Century was nicknamed the "Bankers Hot Rod" due to the lighter chassis and the 322 cui Fireball V8 capable of producing 236 maximum horsepower and 330 ft-lbs of torque with the Dynaflo auto transmission. This car is equipped with power steering, windows, seats and top. Car weighs 3,950 lbs. and the original base price was \$2991.00



Trophies and Awards



Frank Rubino's
1935 Georges Irat CV6

Georges Irat was a small car company in France who made a very limited amount of elegant sports cars. Each car was special - the owner selected the paint scheme and the interior. Like a baby Bugatti. It had a RUBY 1100cc Motor, 4 cyl. 3 speed transmission with 37 HP which was turned 180 degrees and drove the front wheels. This car is a national show winner having been restored to the highest standards. Enjoy it as you may never see another.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

GUY LEWIS - Best of Show
1950 Rolls Royce

FRANK RUBINO - Best in Class
1935 Georges Irat CV6

EDUARDO PADRON - Best in Class
1972 Corvette Stingray LT-1

THANK YOU TO THE AACA SOUTH FLORIDA REGION JUDGES:

Mel Mann- Chief Judge
Jeff and Stella Ashen
Ed Nieves
Mike Penn
Ira Shapiro
Bob Squier
Philip Williams

OTHER CAR PARTICIPANTS:

Jay and Cheryl Mullinix
Nivardo Mora
John Layzell
Andrew Leavy
Al Padilla



Guy Lewis proudly displays his Best of Show crystal trophy, beside Show Chairman Robert D'Angelo, Chief Judge Mel Mann.

This is an ultra-rare 1950 Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn drop head coupe. The first of a mere five left hand drive Park Ward custom-bodied, hand-built examples. Delivered new to the Post family, it sports a single repaint circa 1975, original interior, original chrome and original wood trim. It is an amazing 16,500 original mile timepiece, having won multiple Best in Show and Class in multiple national concours.





COBBLE BEACH CONCOURS SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2023

Submitted by Mel Mann

I was privileged to serve as a team leader for judging Corvettes at the annual Cobble Beach Concours in northern Ontario. The venue is a magnificent resort and golf course along the Georgian Bay of Lake Huron. Started in 2015, it is the finest car show in Canada featuring classics from brass era through the mid 1970s. This year, the featured marques were celebrating the 120 years of BUICK, and the 75 years of PORSCHE. The event founder and chairman is Mr. Rob McCleese, who has been a distinguished judge with us down here at the Boca Raton Concours for many years. The chief judges were John Carlson and Paul Sable – known to many of us from the Boca Raton Concours.

The event kicks off with a fabulous road tour of the peninsula on Friday. On Saturday morning, they had a *Cars & Coffee* open car show along the historic downtown streets of Owen Sound, the nearby city in the area, followed by a *Concours D'Lemons* featuring anything on four wheels. One of the interesting things to see were cars and trucks from American companies that were built for the Canadian market. As example was seeing a 1958 Canadian MERCURY pickup truck never produced for the USA market. (see photo below).



R: Top Car:
Outstanding
Post-war
1958 Buick
Roadmaster
Limited
Convertible



Adele Mann accompanied Mel to Canada

A charity auction was held during a gala dinner on the eve of the concours, raising funds for worthy causes in the area. The food was excellent, and the people very welcoming and friendly.

The concours was held on Sunday morning, with chilly temperatures in the 50s. On the show field were over 150 vehicles of concours caliber from all over Canada and some northern states of the USA. Regrettably, at 10:30am, a severe weather warning was issued and everyone had to clear the show field for a few hours of intense rain and lightning. When the show resumed, judging continued and the afternoon was beautiful.

You will see from a few photos of the spectacular cars at this event. One of the best of show vehicles, a 1935 SS Swallow "Airline Saloon" is also a recent AACA Zenith award winner. (see silver car below)



Bottom Car: Outstanding Pre-war 1935 SS Cars
Limited SS One Airline Saloon

(continued on page 11)



Where else would Mel want to be photographed other than with the Corvettes?





1964 Buick Riviera



3/4 and side view of a 1935 Rolls-Royce Phantom II Fixed Head Coupé



L: 1955 Porsche 356



R: 1936 Cord 810 Phaeton



L: 1935 Buick 46C Roadster



R: 1940 Packard Darrin One-Twenty convertible Victoria. Only twelve exist.



1908 Buick McLaughlin



Bottom Right:
1951 GM LaSabre
Concept Design
Prototype





ARTICLE FOUR – ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION I: The Board of Directors shall consist of no more than nineteen (19) members to include a maximum of fourteen (14) Directors to include the immediate Past President and Club Counsel (if applicable) and five (5) Officers of the Region elected by the membership. The officers of the Region shall be a Regional President, First Regional Vice President, Second Regional Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. To be eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors he or she shall be a member in good standing for two (2) consecutive years with proven contributions to the operation of the club activities.

SECTION II: The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members. The Regional President shall select the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The remaining four (4) members shall be selected at the September general membership meeting by the membership.

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 16, 2023

ELECTION NIGHT!

7:30 P.M.

Rinconcito Latino Café,

9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173;

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





Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors for 2024 for election on November 16, 2023

President– Tomás Hernández
 1st VP– Al Padilla
 2nd VP– Jorge Feria
 Secretary– Yovanna Hernández
 Treasurer– Manny Garcia

Proposed Slate of Directors

Three Board Members and three new nominees (*) are up for election at the November General Meeting to serve a two-year term commencing January 2024.

Chico Goldsmith
 Jean Hawa (Editor *Sidelights*/Sunshine Report)
 Ira Shapiro
 Jorge Salazar*
 Paula Valentina Perez*
 Tom Koski*
 OPEN POSITION
 OPEN POSITION
 OPEN POSITION

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

Guy Lewis- Of Counsel
 Millie Garcia- Immediate Past President

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

Ed Medina (Webmaster/Membership)
 Mike Penn
 Bob Squier

GENERAL MEMEBERSHIP MEETING

Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606
 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
 If you are planning to dine-in,
 be there by 6:30 pm.





Program of General Membership Meeting

Reported by Jean Hawa

Serving as guest speaker at the General Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 15th was our own 2nd Vice-President Al Padilla. His topic: Personalized License Plates, Period and Year Correct License Plates for Antiques along with the process and information, and tips.

He brought several samples of the required forms needed for car owners to properly register an older or used license plate for your current vehicle: Request for Authentication of a License Plate, Request for Authentication of Florida License Plate, Application for Personalized License Plate, and Application for Registration of a Street Rod, Custom Vehicle, Horseless Carriage or Antique (Permanent), all needed by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. This editor had to chuckle at one notation on one of the forms: "PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, LICENSE PLATE AGENT OR REFER TO THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM FOR FEE INFORMATION". At least the department was up front about the fees, rather than, "Oh, by the way..."

For those of us who have lived in Florida for several decades, Al took us down memory lane as he began showing samples of the license plates with various numbers, the prefix to the counties. For example :



1 meant Dade County

2 was Duval County

10 was Broward Co.

67 was Liberty Co.

The letters were codes for weight of vehicle

D-Passenger < 2500 lbs.

W-Passenger 3500-4500 lbs

WW- Passenger > 4500 lbs

GH Commercial 2051-3050 lbs.



Then, Florida and other states developed plates for antiques, collectible, and historic vehicles .

The plate was safe driving (aka, vs. Drunk driving)



Types of Vehicles



Departmental



Vanity

Florida has 35 types of vehicle plates



Al Padilla accepts a Certificate of Appreciation from 1st Vice-President Tomás Hernández



Program of General Membership Meeting

Reported by Jean Hawa

Being a satisfied customer, Second Vice-President Al Padilla, was very pleased to introduce our guest speakers Javier and Ana Hernández of Elena Custom Interiors at our General Membership Meeting on Thursday, October 19th. Both are avid car hobby enthusiasts who operate a family-owned business. Even though Ana was unable to attend, Javier proudly admitted that his wife is a whiz on her sewing machine while doing the lion's share of the reupholstery work. His basic talk was about doing classic car period correct interiors and how they disassemble, reupholster and install the vehicle interior components.

A brief history included Javier talking about being born in Cuba and being raised around classic cars. Their first job was restoring their own car's seats, later expanding to headliners, dash, trunks, and steering wheels. Having little overhead, this endeavor became a side business in a rented warehouse in the Redlands with many rolls of cloth and vinyl fabric. Only wanting to work on classic cars (NO hotrods), they would research the cars' specific histories and documents (if possible) and the appropriate materials needed. Although they try to keep the vehicle "original," if a customer wants a custom job, they will do that, too. However, they do not work on convertible tops.

Javier says this a hobby, not a job. They work on two cars a day. Most cars need a minimum four yards of fabric or three yards of vinyl, each being 60" wide. The wind lace has to be purchased.

Using his laptop, Javier showed the before and after pictures of several cars. The following shows a small sample of his and Ana's craftsmanship. Everyone was impressed with his presentation.



Car arrived with parts of the Ford Thunderbird placed inside the cab of the car.



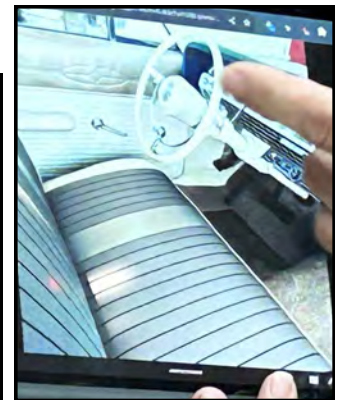
Top right and right: before and after pictures of the trunk.



Below: finished side door panel



Below and right: the front seat



L: The interior of the late member Tony Valera's 1941 Chrysler Royal that was done by the Hernández couple.

R: Javier accepts a Certificate of Appreciation from President Millie Garcia





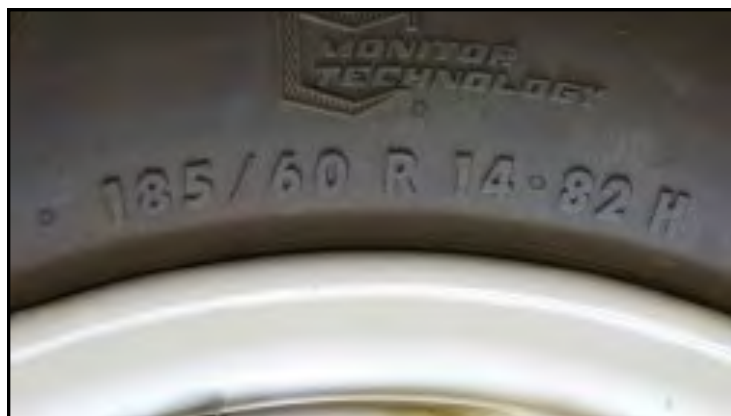
[NOTE: The article below was published in the April 2021 issue Volume 65 NO. 04 of "The Road Map", pp.17-18, the newsletter of the New Jersey Region of AACA, edited by Jay DeBoey. The article is written by Rich Reina, who is published here, with Rich's, Jay's and new editor Dick Bettel's permission.]

Proper tire size, as determined by the factory for a given vehicle, is important for many reasons: safety, handling, braking, and road comfort among other reasons. An undersized tire may not stand up to the friction and heat of high-way driving and could prematurely fail. It is just as bad to install an oversized tire which could interfere with suspension and steering components, and could rub against a fender, also causing tire failure. For those of us with vehicles judged to AACA standards, incorrect tire types or sizes will result in point deductions! We will get back to judging a little later.

It used to be simpler 'back in the good old days'. Up until the 1960s or so, if you needed tires for your American car, you looked up the size (perhaps 700-15 or 650-16) and that's what you got. The first number was the nominal tire width in inches (at first, written as 7.00 or 6.50 and later with the decimal dropped), and the second number was the wheel diameter. All tires were bias-ply, not radial, and there was no need to measure 'sidewall height', the distance from the edge of the wheel to the edge of the tread. If you were economical, you got blackwalls. If you wanted to splurge, you went for whitewalls.

As wheel sizes shrunk from 16" to 15" and down to 14" and even 13" (partly as a desire to make cars lower), tire sizes changed somewhat. We began to see sizes like 6.94-14 and 7.75-15, but still, the first number indicated width, and the second number wheel diameter, both in inches.

Around 1970, American tire manufacturers introduced the first major change seen in decades in tire size designations. "Letter series" tires, like F70-14 and G60-15, were introduced. The letter indicated the tire's load rating (important for safe carrying capacity). The next number, "70" or "60" in my examples, indicated the "aspect ratio", which we will explain in more detail below. Letter-series tires were not around for very long, as the industry finally embraced radial tires across the board by the early 1970s. Radials brought a final change to global tire size designations still in use today. Since AACA accepts cars 25 years old and older, there's a good chance that your AACA-eligible car is wearing modern radials using a modern size designation. Let's use the 185/60R-14 tire as found on my Miata as an example, and break that down.



Tire size, in this case 185/60R14, is molded into tire sidewall

The first number, expressed in millimeters, is the tread width. Here it is 185 mm (for inches, divide by 25.4, giving you 7.3"). Keep in mind that this is the nominal width; putting a tape measure across a mounted and inflated tire that has several hundred pounds of vehicle weight pushing down on it will give a different result. *(continued on page 17)*



When no aspect ratio is shown, like this 155SR15 tire, it is presumed to be "80". S" is a speed rating.



The next number, 60, is a percentage, officially called the “aspect ratio”, because it is a ratio. The number represents the sidewall height (sidewall measurement from the tire edge to the wheel edge) as a percentage of the width. We know the width is 185 mm. Sixty percent of 185 is 111 mm ($185 \times .6 = 111$). The 111 mm in inches is 4.4” ($111 / 25.4 = 4.4$). The sidewall height is just shy of four and a half inches, and the aspect ratio is 60, meaning the sidewall height is 60% of the tread depth.

The letter “R”, while shown as part of the tire size, has nothing to do with size. “R” stands for “radial”, as found on 100% of the modern vehicles sold today.

The final number in our example, 14, is in inches, and represents the diameter of the wheel. Remember that these are all “nominal” numbers, measured on unmounted and uninflated tires. You will not get the same results measuring tires mounted on wheels and installed on your two-ton toy.

Let’s analyze how some of these numbers impact your tire choices. For the first number, tread width, the larger the number, the wider the tire. Remember that if you want wider tires, you may need to also install wider wheels. Also be sure that wider tires will stay clear of potential suspension and sheet metal interference.

For the second number, the aspect ratio, the smaller this number, the shorter the sidewall height. Comparing two tires which appear similar bears this out. A 185/60-14 tire has a sidewall height of 4.4” [$(185 \times .6)/25.4$]. However, a 185/50-14 tire has a sidewall height of 3.6” [$(185 \times .5)/25.4$], which is a difference of about 13/16”. Moving “down” from a 60 to a 50 in aspect ratio results in a lower profile tire, with the wheel edge closer to the ground, and makes both the wheel and the tire more susceptible to road hazards.

If we know the tire size, we can calculate the overall diameter of the tire. It is the sidewall height times two, plus the wheel diameter. The trickiest issue is to be sure you’re using consistent units of measurement – don’t mix millimeters and inches. To calculate overall diameter for our 185/60R-14 tire, first we calculate the sidewall height: it is $(185 \times .6)$, or 111 mm.

Multiply that by two, to account for sidewall height on both sides of the wheel, and we get 222. Divide that by 25.4 to convert to inches, and the answer is 8.74”. Our wheel is 14 inches in diameter. Adding 8.74” and 14” equals 22.74”, our overall diameter.



Overall diameter equals sidewall height times two, plus wheel diameter

Why is that useful? If you are changing wheel or tire size, let’s say moving from a 14” wheel to a 16” wheel, calculating the overall diameter helps ensure that the tire still fits on the car, and also helps keep the speedometer and odometer accurate. (And unless you can prove those wheels were factory options, AACA judges will ding you for incorrectly sized wheels or tires.) While there are online calculators that can perform that calculation in seconds, it’s a good party trick to know how to do this with pencil, paper, and calculator. From personal experience, this is also handy knowledge should a tire salesperson try to sell you a tire size he has in stock with the line “oh, one size up (or down) doesn’t really make a difference”. Just tell him you read it here!

To close out, let’s quote just some of the tire rules directly from the AACA OFFICIAL JUDGING GUIDELINES:

“Tires on all vehicles must be as specified by the manufacturer. Specific brand is unimportant. They must be nearest the correct size, if the correct size is not available. A tire with an incorrect sidewall is considered an improper tire.”

Next month in Rich’s Repair Ramblings: we will conclude our tire tutorial when we discuss proper tire care and maintenance



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER

Armando Alfonso	Jeff Ashen
Daisy Arbelo	Paola Benitez
Nancy Cardenales	Adriana Campa
Pat Carnevale	Nina Epstein
Wojciech Cymer	Alex Fardales
Joanne Dauer	Julio Gonzalez
Margarita Diaz-Garcia	Rayda Gonzalez
Aaron Driben	Cathy Harvey
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Dania Rodriguez	Ernesto Rodriguez
Jose R Rodriguez	Andres Sanchez
Juan Rodriguez	Jorge Sanchez
Maria Rodriguez	Betty Santana
Yelina Mohammed	Joseph Schwartz
Susan Skor	Michele Talarico
Hank Tester	Diane Tavss
Carolyn Thiele	
Rosemarie Thiele	
Jose Trujillo	
Rex Turner	



Second or Third Place

By Myron Smith

VP - Regions Development & Support
Western Division

So, you received a 2nd or 3rd place AACA trophy for your car. Disappointed? Many are. I've always viewed judging as kind of a report card like when I was in school. It's an evaluation of how I'm doing with my restorations. My view has changed somewhat over the years and I've gravitated more toward showing in HPOF for some time now. However, this year I decided to put a 'car' again in class judging. It got a second. I feel pretty good about it. As a part of my own evaluation of what I take to events I have always taken into account, what is the award worth. If a carpet has a little stain, is it worth a whole new carpet. Or, if there is a scratch somewhere, is it truly worth the expense and time to repaint a whole panel? Now if it's some high dollar value vehicle, the answer may be yes, but I don't show real high dollar cars. I like to call it common sense restoration.

While I rarely sell anything, I don't like to be too upside down on what money I put into a car. And, I don't take judging too seriously. It can lead to ulcers. Our judging system is if not the best, close to it. It's impossible to be an expert on everything and occasionally a judge may make a mistake, but this is not my subject of interest in this column.

I do try to bring vehicles to be judged in what I think is up to their greatest potential per dollar spent. This year we showed a 1997 Suburban. (not exactly a high buck show car). It came out of a salvage yard in 2017. It had 170,000 miles and had a bad intake manifold gasket. I intended to use it as a winter driver in the snow and salt. After we fixed the engine, I got to looking at it in more detail. There was one small spot of rust that needed to be repaired and a few scratches and door dings. Other than that, it was very clean inside and out especially for something with so many miles and its age. Somebody had cared for it for a lot of its life. It was just too nice to abuse in Nebraska winter weather. It had come out of Montana by the dealer sticker on the back which explained the lack of rust. We cleaned and detailed it as much as seemed logical (engine compartments on this new of a vehicle is a nightmare with so many components, nooks and crannies). We also drove it to the show. It got a second. Not too bad in my book considering what I knew of its history and where it had come from. Will it ever get an AACA 1st Junior? Probably not. It might qualify for HPOF. It's nice to drive, comfortable and there are some things more important than a trophy. It is also signed up the AACA MAP award which I think is very worthwhile for additional enjoyment of our vintage vehicles. We've driven it enough to get our first milestone on it. My conclusion is to enjoy your vehicle even if it's an imperfect diamond rather than a freshly polished stone.

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



2023-2024 SOUTH FLORIDA REGION EVENTS
Website: <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>

NOVEMBER 2023

- 05– Vintage Auto Show at the Deering Estate (for pre-1966 vehicles only);** 16701 SW 72 Ave, Palmetto Bay 33157; must be pre-registered.
- 07- Board Meeting– 7:30 pm** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 16– General Membership Meeting– ELECTIONS- 7:30 pm** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173; if you are planning to dine-in, be there by 6:30 p.m.
- 19- Cars in the Garden** at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden; 10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, FL 33156; register on-line on club website.

DECEMBER 2023

- 03- Board Meeting– 7:30 pm** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 16– Holiday Party & Installation-** The Cadillac Hotel & Beach Club, 3925 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33140, 5 pm—9 pm; must be pre-registered; check your email and/or see club website for details.

JANUARY 2024

- 02- Board Meeting– 7:30 pm** at Rinconcito Latino Café, 9606 SW 72 Street, Miami 33173
- 13—14 Art Deco Car Shows–** Saturday (open show) Sunday, AACA guidelines
- 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.

OTHER EVENTS

Gasparilla Concours d'Elegance (GCDE) After thoughtful consideration, the Board of Directors for The Gasparilla Concours d'Elegance Inc. has come to a mutual agreement with Festivals of Speed to end our collaboration. Therefore the combined GCDE/FOS event scheduled for January 21, 2024, at St. Pete's Vinoy Park is cancelled. The next Gasparilla Concours d'Elegance (GCDE) will be scheduled for late 2024/ early 2025. GCDE is in discussion with organizational support from other potential partners and will announce a new date and venue in the coming months.

TO:

**2023/2024 AACA NATIONAL/
REGION EVENTS**



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

November 5, 2023- (Sunday) TCVCC Cars of Our Lives (COOL) Show 2023, Stuart, FL; Host: Treasure Coast Region AACA Location: 301 SE Stypmann Blvd, Stuart, FL 34994 Join us for our 42nd annual COOL Car Show in beautiful downtown Stuart, Florida.

November 11, 2023— Ancient City Auto Club Car Show- Sponsored by Ancient City Auto Club Region AACA Location: Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, 207 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32084 Contact: Joe Greeves, President - 904-347-4602 [...]

November 11– Ft. Lauderdale Region– St. Coleman Church Veteran's Day Car Show– 11 a.m.
1200 South, S. Federal Hwy, Pompano Beach, FL 33062

February 8-10, 2024- AACA Annual Convention–
Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles,
14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151

March 21- 24, 2024- 2024 Special Winter Nationals
Host: Puerto Rico Region AACA Location: Coliseo Mario Quijote Morales, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
Chairman: Mario Guzman



SUNSHINE REPORT

Get well wishes have been sent to Ernie Bernal, Bonnie Mayer and Norman Kassoff. Condolences have been sent to the family of former long time member and supporter Larry Forman who passed away on October 16th.

