



Sidelights

JULY 2026



Volume 69 Issue 5 <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>



**Cars and
Brunch** (page 8)

**We
Have Fun
and
Educational
Events**

**GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

(page 13)





OFFICERS—2026 (e-mail us at aacasouthfloridaregion@gmail.com)

President	Al Padilla
1 st Vice-President, Membership Chair, Webmaster	Eduardo Medina
2 nd Vice-President, Program Chair	Jorge Salazar
Secretary	Yovanna Hernández
Treasurer	Manny Garcia
Immediate Past President, Safety Officer, Sergeant at Arms	Tomás Hernández

BOARD of DIRECTORS—2026 (aacasouthfloridaregion@gmail.com)

Angel Aulet	Guy Lewis— Of Counsel
Alejandro Clay	Thomas Kosky
Benjamin Cardonne	Mike Penn
Milly Garcia	Ira Shapiro, Parliamentarian
Chico Goldsmith	Junior Felix Valdes
Jean Hawa- Editor <i>Sidelights</i> , Sunshine Report	
Tony Hernández	

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

JULY 2026

Volume 69 Issue 5

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



Fellow members,

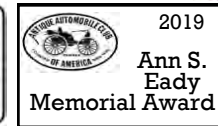
Once again, we are deeply saddened by the recent passing of one of our long time board members, Bob Squier. Besides being a great member, Bob was a great contributor on many aspects of the club and very active within the antique car community. As the saying goes, Bob wore many hats. We have recently lost three long-time and well-known members, Bob, Frank Rubino and George Harvey, and would like to take a minute to reflect on their memories. Unfortunately, we also lost Linda Pinson, someone many of you did not know unless you signed in at the registration table at our National Meet in January 2023 and shared a welcoming smile with her and husband Joe. They became members because of us, the South Florida Region.

As a club, we must go on even when we encounter many event changes as the cancellation of Memory Lane, an excellent event that will be greatly missed. Rest assured that our board is constantly working and looking forward to bringing you new and exciting events that include better venues besides our traditional events such as perhaps Cars in the Garden, more local shows and in the near future, an overnight cruise tour to Naples, Florida. We are also currently working with our Ft. Lauderdale Region counterparts to plan for a possible National Meet in the future.

Good things ahead, just keep in touch and as members, please make suggestions at will in our latest trend of membership meetings. Once again, I encourage you to participate and keep in touch via all media means available to you.

Cheers,

Your President, Al Padilla



Dear members,

Summer certainly has come upon us in full force with heat that appears to be hotter than previous years. As the rest of the country is dealing with floods and tornadoes, we are wishing for rains to cool us off and, of course, replenish our water table. Repeating something stated in a previous editorial, we have to work around the weather by avoiding the rain and extreme heat. Sadly, we acknowledge the weather related devastation done to the Corvette museum and Mid America Motorworks automotive complex on June 17th in Effingham, Illinois.

If you read our club president's message, he indicated how the board of directors is addressing some of your suggestions presented in the recent survey of the membership. With our large membership we are encouraging more participation with more varied venues and activities. With that being said, once again this editor is playing catch-up reporting on our past activities and presenting the newer activities. In fact, an article by Kenny Stowe can be found on page 10 in this issue and another one in a future issue.

As you may or not know, we are not the only car club in Miami. Each organization has its own identity and own followings. We are under the auspices of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) and have certain guidelines to follow. With your national membership you have been receiving and hopefully reading the mailed *Antique Automobile* and the emailed *The Speedster* which are automatically sent to all members from national. This editor encourages each and everyone of you to go to its website (aaca.org) and educate yourself with our evolving organization. From the aforementioned website you will have access to websites of other clubs around the country. You will be amazed at what they are doing.

Just as we are celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary on July 4th, be mindful that the AACA had its beginnings with several car owners talking in January 1935 with a follow-up organizational meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 11, 1935 with 14 founding members. Do go to aaca.org/about and see who the founders of the Antique Automobile Club of America were and what they drove. It's a brief fifteen-minute interesting read of the history of our club.

Stay safe and Happy motoring,

Jean



The A.A.C.A. South Florida Region Board Meeting of Tuesday, May 5, 2026 was called to Order by 1st Vice President Ed Medina at 7:30 p.m., at La Carreta Restaurant, 8650 Bird Road, Miami, FL 33155.

In Attendance: 1st Vice President Ed Medina, Secretary Yovanna Hernández, Past-President Tomás Hernández, and Board Members Angel Aulet, Benjamin Cardonne, Alejandro Clay, Chico Goldsmith, Jean Hawa, Tony Hernandez, Thomas Kosky, Mike Penn, Ira Shapiro.

Establish a Quorum: 1st Vice President Ed Medina was able to establish a quorum with 12 members of the board present.

First Order of Business - Acceptance of Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Meeting: 1st Vice President Ed Medina asked if everyone present had read the minutes of the April's board meeting; if so, and if there were no questions, comments, or corrections, would someone move to accept the minutes as posted. Ira Shapiro 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: 1st Vice President Ed Medina in lieu of Manny Garcia presented a reconciliation statement for the month of April from the club's bank account and 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 have 218 active families. Ed presented a survey he did in reference of the number of members who participated in all the club's activities. With 101 responses the results indicate that only 1/8 percent of the membership actively participate. Ed then asked the board for ideas to encourage member's participation. Ira Shapiro mentioned that for more than 30 years, only approximately 25% participated in some of the activities. Ed suggested having more activities with kids at the shows. Tony Hernandez suggested to change the membership meeting to different locations, time and day of the week. It was noted that a bylaw change would be needed to alter the general meeting dates.

General Membership Meeting (April 16, 2026): Ed Medina informed us that we will be meeting at Florida Hotrods on 12010 SW 114th Place for coffee, orange juice, bagels and doughnuts. Mario Morejon will do a tour of his amazing shop for custom fabrication frame welding and CNC machine.

Downtown Event Report – Ira Shapiro informed us that the Heritage Day Event at the Olympia Theater was a great event and there were six cars from the 1920's-1950's era. He mentioned that if we do it next year, he will try to expand the time period up to the 1960's.

4th of July Classic Car Show-Miami Springs (July 3, 2026)

– Ed Medina informed that this year instead of displaying the antiques at the circle, we will be located at Westwood Drive. The show will be from 6 to 10 p.m. We would have a prize for Best of Show. Since our country will be celebrating its 250th Anniversary, Ed Medina proposed having a good participation of our membership, perhaps coming in as a group.

Other Club Business:

- Ira Shapiro spoke with the president of the Fort Lauderdale Region who said that his club is interested in hosting a Nationals Meet with us. Ira mentioned that we need to create a committee.
- Ed Medina informed us that he will meeting with the Country Walk's Board to propose a car show. Also, the Presbyterian Church across the street has a lot that could accommodate around 120 cars. If all goes accordingly this will take place next year.
- Ed Medina requested to have a club's credit card under his name for all purchases related to his responsibilities, i.e. Sidelights, trophies, warehouse, etc. Tony Hernandez made a motion to approve the credit card; Chico Goldsmith seconded it. All were in favor.

Sunshine Report: Tomás and Yovanna Hernández announced that they will become grandparents.

Adjournment: With no further club business to discuss, 1st Vice President Ed Medina made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. It was unanimously seconded and approved.

Submitted by Yovanna Hernandez,
Secretary



The A.A.C.A. South Florida Region Board Meeting of Tuesday, June 2, 2026 was called to Order by President Al Padilla at 7:37 p.m., at La Carreta Restaurant, 8650 Bird Road, Miami, FL 33155.

In Attendance: President Al Padilla, 1st Vice President Ed Medina, 2nd Vice President Jorge Salazar, Secretary Yovanna Hernández, Past-President Tomás Hernández, and Board Members Angel Aulet, Benjamin Cardonne, Alejandro Clay, Manny Garcia, Millie Garcia, Jean Hawa, Thomas Kosky, Guy Lewis, Mike Penn, Junior Valdes and his wife Judith, Ira Shapiro and guests from the Fort Lauderdale Region- Chris Chambers, Frank Rizzo, Paul Vermon and Lou Tassi.

President Al Padilla opened the meeting welcoming our guests from the AACA Ft. Lauderdale Region. Ira Shapiro also thanked them for having taken the time to come. Ira then moved the conversation towards the possibility of having our club and the Ft. Lauderdale club work together with the Ft. Lauderdale Region being the named host for a 2028 South Florida National Meet. Since the Ft. Lauderdale Region has not hosted a National Meet recently, it would be able to receive a grant from AACA. Ira gave details of the necessary steps needed in order to have a successful show and advised them to go to the AACA website to become familiar with the Organization of a Nationals Meet. He said that we needed to have a Chairman, Co-chair, Field Marshall, and a Chief Judge. At the same time, we need to look for a proper venue with trailer parking, hotels to accommodate our guests, awards banquet facility, and nearby places to entertain them while not at the show. Ira added that we need to decide if we will be incorporating a Grand National. It was noted that 80% of all AACA activities take place east of the Mississippi River. One of our Ft. Lauderdale guests suggested having a National Tour in place of a National Show, maybe by the end of February or March. Once our guests departed, President Al Padilla continued with our monthly board meeting.

Establish a Quorum: President Al Padilla was able to establish a quorum with 16 members of the board present.

First Order of Business - Acceptance of Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Meeting: President Al Padilla asked if everyone present had read the minutes of the May's 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: Treasurer Manny Garcia presented a reconciliation statement for the month of May from the club's bank account and 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 have 222 active families.

General Membership Meeting (April 20, 2026): Ed Medina informed us that we will be meeting at Auto Aces at 10916 SW 188th Street, Miami, a place with a mechanic specialist in classic cars, full body restoration and paint. The time is from 9 a.m.-12 noon with coffee, orange juice, bagels and doughnuts provided by the club. Benjamin Cardonne mentioned that he is working with Stoner Brothers Body Shop for the July 18th General Meeting. Jorge Salazar suggested trying a destination membership meeting. Since some of our membership meetings are now being held on the weekend instead of the 3rd Thursday of the month, Ira mentioned that as long as the membership is notified, we do not need to change the bylaws.

4th of July Classic Car Show-Miami Springs (July 3, 2026): Ed Medina informed us that people can sign-up online. The show will be from 6 to 10 p.m., will be located at Westwood Drive and we will have our own parking area. Ed will continue updating details.

Memory Lane: Manny Garcia informed us that sadly the Memory Lane Car Show has been permanently canceled. Most members of the board agreed that this is was a big sponsor to our club and that now we need to start finding other sponsors to help our club's revenue.

Other Club Business:

- **Country Walk Car Show:** Ed Medina informed us that March 13, 2027 is the tentative date for this show; this will replace the Winston Park Show. He suggested having painted T-shirts with the sponsor logo on the back to give to all who registered and to sell the rest. Ed will keep us updated.
- **Presbyterian Church Car Show:** Ed Medina informed us that the SSP & LA6 Car Show has been set for November 14, 2026 and the Presbyterian Church show will be on December 5th.
- **Manny Garcia informed us that the fees of the Coral Gables Car Show have gone up and we need a sponsor to help cover the costs of trophies. He**

(continued on page 6)



(continued from page 5)

mentioned that the lift company hasn't committed yet, but he will try again next year. He reminded us that even though we are a 501c, we are not a charity, charity, we are a hobby club. Therefore, any monies given or in-kind donations can be legally noted as an advertisement expense.

- Ed Medina suggested creating a committee to oversee marketing sponsorship and donations to the club. He also suggested having an experienced person added to our board, one who has ideas and things to offer. Manny Garcia suggested paying him a percentage for every sponsor he gets us. Ira Shapiro said that is unprecedented, especially since we are a club of volunteers. Guy Lewis mentioned that he has a big concern about doing that.
- Jean Hawa will be meeting with personnel from Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden to discuss the possibility of a return of Cars in the Garden.
- Junior Valdes is working in all the details for a cruise tour in October to Naples. He will be informing us as he receives the information.
- Lake Mirror (October 16-18, 2026): Junior Valdes needs logistics for transporters. He has open trailers available for those who want to attend the car show. Tomás Hernández will provide all the details and information to him.
- Picnic: Jorge Salazar is working on the date and venue. It seems that September is a contender month. He will provide more information in the near future.
- Ira Shapiro reported that Art Deco will take place on Ocean Drive on January 16-17, 2027. Street food vendors are no longer going to be present. The restaurants will be the only source for food.

Sunshine Report: Ira Shapiro suggested having a memorial plaque for Bob Squier and present it to his husband Ken Kurtz on June 20th at Bob's Celebration of Life. Millie Garcia offered ordering the plaque. Ira added that Philip Williams suggested everyone bring a potluck dish. Manny Garcia made a motion; Al Padilla seconded it. All were in favor.

Adjournment: With no further club business to discuss, President Al Padilla made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. It was unanimously seconded and approved.

Submitted by Yovanna Hernandez,
Secretary

The following email was sent to all members by webmaster Ed Medina on June 4, 2026. In case you didn't receive it, see below:

Hello Members,

We regret to inform all members that as of this moment the Miami International Auto Show and the Memory Lane Display have been canceled.

This is something we foresaw coming in the past 5 years as we have seen the Auto Shows Nationwide lose traction and become a thing of the past. The Miami International Auto Show was hanging on as other auto shows dropped throughout the years. The car manufacturers are no longer supporting the events and they do not feel the need to put on shows like this to reach customers as they did for many decades. Unfortunately this has become the age of digital marketing and online shopping. The car dealers cannot financially support big show productions without the backing of the manufacturers.

This has an immense impact on our club who has supported the Auto Show and presented the Memory Lane Display for decades. We are all saddened by this news but are hopeful that something else will take its place, as when one door closes another opens, or we go in through the window!

It was a Great Ride!

Memory Lane 2026

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL
Auto Show

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA
FOUNDED 1935
SOUTH FLORIDA REGION

CANCELED

Rev Up Your Memories at the Miami International Auto Show!
Join us for the Memory Lane Exhibit 2026 presented by the South Florida Region of the AACA at the Miami International Auto Show, from August 28 through September 7, 2026
Explore a stunning collection of classic cars that bring the golden era of automotive history to life.
Don't miss this journey through time!
Location: Miami International Auto Show



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Submitted by Jean Hawa

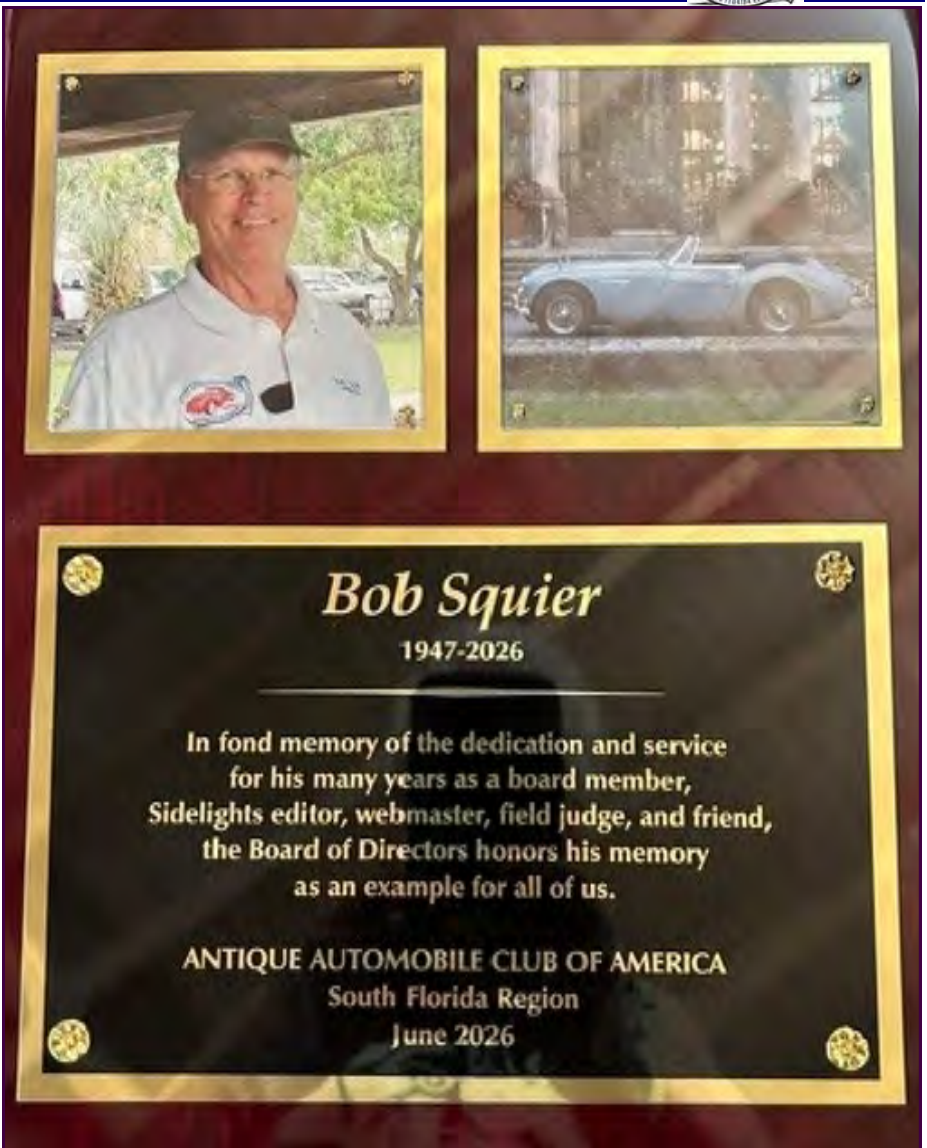
On June 20, 2026, a celebration of life for long-time member Robert (Bob) Squier was held at the Miami Friends Meeting house in Coral Gables, Florida. Bob passed away May 14th, succumbing to complications following a fall while walking his dog.

Briefly, his record of supporting the AACA South Florida is admirable. Bob joined our antique car club in 1998, created the club's website in 1999, establishing the official website in 2001, joined the board of directors in 2001 as secretary and appointed webmaster, earned the AACA Webmaster Award of Excellence eleven times, and the Award of Master Webmaster from 2012-2021. At the 2020 Annual Convention he was awarded the Sparkplug Award, the highest AACA National Award for Webmasters. He was selected as the Most Valuable Member in 2002. Bob also was the *Sidelights* editor from 2006-2007.

In keeping with the Friends traditions several of Bob's friends, former colleagues and antique car club members shared their stories and memories that alluded to Bob being a U.S. Army veteran, a teacher, a grants administrator, and a *mensch*, followed by his wit, kindness, welcoming of new members, knowledge, field judge, mentorships, willingness to help, occasional poignant letters to the editor of *The Miami Herald*, his award-winning cucumber salad, and most of all his friendship. Long-time friend Philip Williams, who helped with all the arrangements, said it well in his Facebook post: "...a lot of good laughter in the way that he'd expect it."

Ira Shapiro presented Ken with a plaque from the AACA South Florida Region. At the conclusion, everyone shook hands and moved to the refreshments area to continue reminiscing.

Bob Squier will be missed by his husband Ken, family and many friends. May he rest in peace.



L-R:
Philip Williams
Ken Kurtz
Ira Shapiro

Bob was a very proud owner of his 1967 Austin Healey 3000 MKIII as seen in the above plaque.



CARS & BRUNCH
Submitted by Jean Hawa

The South Florida Classic Mustangs Club and the Miami Outboard Club hosted a Cars & Brunch event on Sunday April 19th. All AACA South Florida Region members were invited to participate. Everyone needed to pre-register and purchase event tickets. With a limited show field, all antique and classic cars were directed to a specialized area by the scenic Biscayne Bay along the MacArthur Causeway across from Dodge Island where the cruise ships depart from the Port of Miami.

The 11 a.m.–3 p.m. event was well attended. With picture perfect weather everyone enjoyed viewing the docked cruise ships. The sumptuous spread was varied and delicious. All brunch registrants (car owner or not) were issued a ballot to select three top cars. Awards were given for the People’s Choice, a Sponsor Award, and several Best in Show. Even though this editor was unable to stay for the awards ceremony, the winners are identified in this article.



People’s Choice: Jose Centeno’s 1951 Chevrolet pick-up 3100



Best in Show: Brad Nicholson’s 1961 Porsche



Sponsor Award: Gabriel Palacios’ 1965 Mustang GT 350 Tribute



Best In Show - Jay Pilch’s- 1969 Road Runner



Best in Show: Robert Hernandez’s 1965 Ford Mustang



Best in Show: Hanoi Macias’ 1957 Chevrolet BelAir



Best in Show: Steve Greenblatt’s 1967 Corvette 427 Stingray



1966 Ford Mustang GT convertible

1967 Pontiac Executive



Array of Corvettes



1966 Cadillac convertible



1968 Dodge Coronet R/T owned for 42 years by Luis Quiñones





**SOUTHEASTERN SPRING NATIONAL MEET
CHARLOTTE, NC—APRIL 11, 2026
SUBMITTED BY KENNY STOWE**

As a Life Member of AACA, and after entering hundreds of local and National Shows, I decided to “take it easy” a little.

AACA offers a non-competitive certification-based class for 25 + year old roadworthy vehicles. This unique process is performed without strict point judging. In the Driver Participation Class (DPC) you must pass a visual inspection rather than a score. Created in 2000 it was designed to promote driving of cars that are not necessarily high point restorations. The purpose was to allow certain non-authentic upgrades to make driving safer without the loss of points for authenticity.

I recently found a 1962 Oldsmobile Starfire convertible that fit the bill. The car is a classic American personal luxury car, powered by a 394 cubic inch Rocket V-8 putting out 345 horsepower. It retains its original leather bucket seat interior. It was the first year for a center console in a full size American car with automatic transmission.

The Jet Age designed car came standard with power steering, power windows, power brakes, dual exhaust with a distinctive rumble, a console mounted tachometer, and power seats. My car also has optional power vent windows, Oldsmobile tissue dispenser, power antenna, and air conditioning. I was also able to locate a very rare option - a transportable transistor radio with Oldsmobile embossing under the handle. This item allowed an owner to take music outside the car - cutting edge technology for those years.

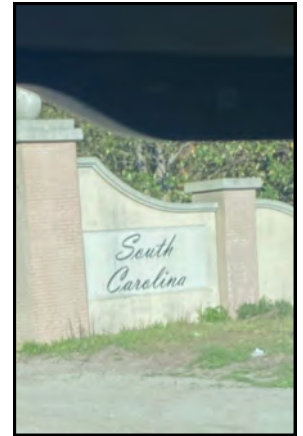
The Starfire was designed to compete with the Ford Thunderbird. As Oldsmobile’s top of the line model, most expensive, and most powerful, the convertible sold for \$4,744.00 and 7,149 were produced in 1962. The distinctive “ribbon style” speedometer changes color based on speed (green to orange to red).

My Oldsmobile went to the recent Charlotte, NC National Show hosted by the Hornets’ Nest Region, April 9-11 at the Charlotte Auto Fair. The weather was incredible. It was an extremely well organized and fun filled show.

The judges evaluated the vehicle, and at the 4 PM Awards, and representing the South Florida Region AACA, I was awarded a beautiful personalized wooden board,

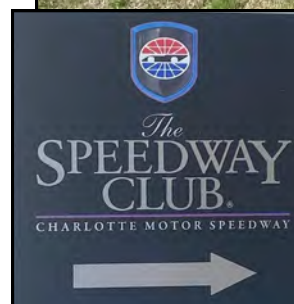
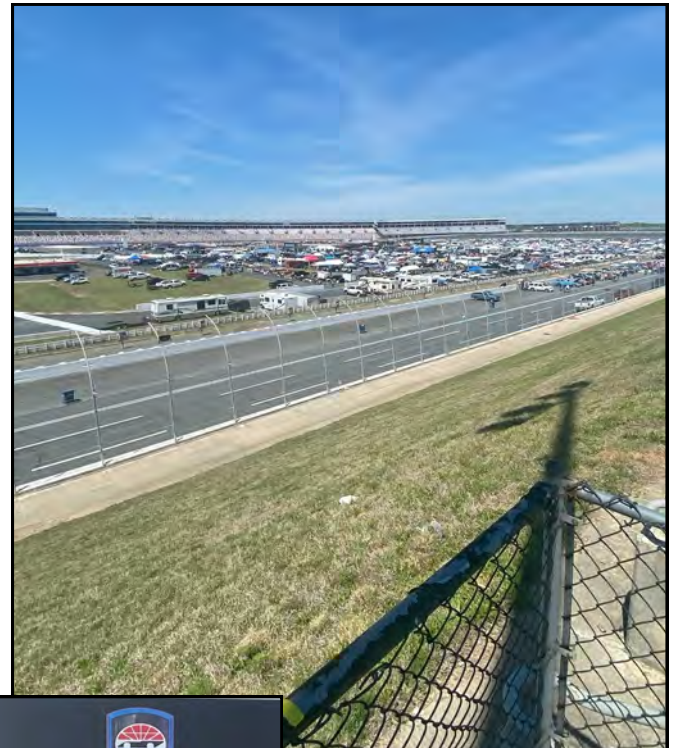
along with a chip, and a metal badge to be permanently affixed to the front of car. The ceremony was held in the Speedway Club overlooking the magnificent race track and grounds.

The DPC offers an alternative to strict point judging. It is a solution for people who would like to compete without going through a total and complete restoration in order to be competitive...



Travel route:

Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina



Speedway Club
overlooking track

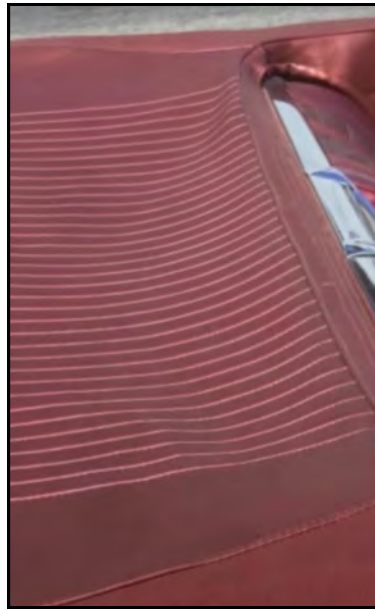
(continued on page 11)




AUTOFAIR
 April 9-11, 2026
AACA
SHOW CAR

Pass must be displayed at all times.
 Occupants must have credential or ticket.
 Valid all event days.

2782



L: Unusual and one of a kind ribbed convertible top boot (specific to Starfire convertible)



Rare factory option: Transportable Radio for taking transistor music to the beach, picnics, etc.



Radio



Antique Automobile Club of America
 Southeastern Spring Nationals
 April 9-11, 2026

EVALUATED

Driver Participation Class (DPC)

1962 Oldsmobile Starfire
 8 cyls Convertible
 Kenneth I Stowe
 North Bay Village, FL

40731 **DPC**

Vehicle # Class Number
Driver Participation Class



ANTIQUÉ AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA
 800 West Hersheypark Drive, Hershey PA 17033 717.534.1910 aaca.org

**CONGRATULATIONS
 DRIVER PARTICIPATION WINNER**

Kenneth I Stowe
 1962 Oldsmobile Starfire
 North Dry Village, FL 33744

Dear Kenneth,

On behalf of the President of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) and your National Board, let me thank you for participating in the Southeastern Spring Nationals in Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 11, 2026, and showing your 1962 Oldsmobile Starfire in the Driver Participation Class (DPC). I, too, extend my congratulations to you on receiving the AACA's DPC award for your vehicle.

Along with the DPC Board you received, you also received an AACA DPC grille badge to be displayed on the front of your vehicle. The AACA wants you to be proud of this award. Others will know that your vehicle is an AACA award winner when the DPC badge is properly displayed, and it greatly assists judges when you enter your car for future awards.

When you have your vehicle re-entered at a future Nationals to be re-evaluated for your Repeat DPC award, your DPC badge **MUST BE DISPLAYED** on your vehicle in plain sight per our judging guidelines, Section 4.II.B.2.

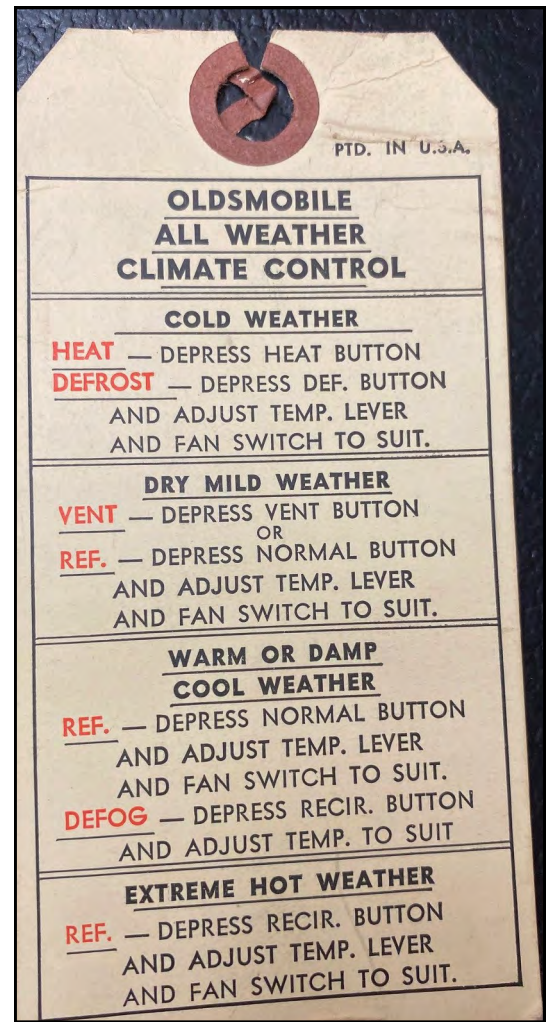
DPC vehicles are considered for the Annual Drivers Participation Award, in memory of John E. Bittner Jr. and William E. Swigart Jr., recognizing an outstanding car and owner who exemplify the spirit of maintaining and driving a collectible vehicle.

If a certified DPC vehicle is sold or transferred the new owner may continue with the next eligible award or can start fresh. The new owner must contact AACA Headquarters to advise of their purchase and choice of judging class for the vehicle.

Again, thank you and congratulations.

John Flechler

John Flechler
 DPC Committee Chairman



Factory Air Tag



Award Display Board

**UNKNOWN FACTS
 ABOUT ONE OF OUR UNSUNG HEROS (aka VERY STRONG AACA SOUTH FLORIDA REGION SUPPORTER WHO PREFERS THE BACKGROUND**

KENNY STOWE

AACA SOUTH FLORIDA MEMBER SINCE 1975

LONG TIME LIFE MEMBER

SOME OF HIS FORMER ANTIQUES

- 1948 Good Humor Cycle Truck
- 1952 Whizzer motorbike
- 1953 Packard Caribbean convertible
- 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air coupe
- 1959 Dodge Swept Side
- 1962 Chevrolet Impala Super Sport
- 1967 Chevrolet Corvette roadster
- 1968 Cadillac DeVille convertible
- 1972 American Motors AMX



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING— of May 23, 2026

Submitted by Jean Hawa

For numerous reasons, rather than meet on the regular 3rd Thursday evening of the month, our general membership meeting was held on a Saturday morning at the Florida Hotrods warehouse in southwest Miami-Dade. Owner Mario Morejon who was a guest speaker at our evening meeting several months gave us a very interesting presentation about how his original and custom restoration business is giving new life to damaged and/or aged, vehicles as well as transforming old cars into hot rods.

Our visit was a true eye opener into the real work of a full refabrication shop by us seeing projects having rusted areas cleaned/replaced on other abused or injured parts of different aged vehicles. Having seen the shop's right parts, equipment, and skilled knowledge, we saw quality workmanship in various projects in modern and antique cars. Every project has specific needs. Mario documents every step to show the customer what was done to meet the customer's requests whether it is metallic, plastic, upholstery, interior or exterior. We learned a lot. Those who couldn't come missed an opportunity to drive their old cars, socialize with other members, and learn something new. For more information: <http://floridahotrods.com>



Different metals are used for making templates or replacing damaged metal in floors, quarters, etc..



Engine installation aided by inserting wood to stabilize it



Waiting for an engine



Mario Morejon holds a Certificate of Appreciation given by 1st Vice President Ed Medina.



Rust waiting to be removed

Rust was removed by grinding down to bare metal.



Below: L-R: Art, Philip, staffer, Henry, Ira, Cathy, Ed, Angel, Mario, Tomás, Yovanna, Tom, Maurice, Francisco, Clara, and staffer



CUBA NOSTALGIA 2026

Submitted by Al Padilla

This year was the 27th anniversary of the Cuban culture and heritage exhibition also known as Cuba Nostalgia. This celebration was again held at the Miami-Dade County Fair and Expo Center grounds on May 16th and 17th. Its mission was, and is, to continue sharing the Cuban traditions, heritage, culture, history and education to present and future generations. The show continues to be the biggest and most prestigious to celebrate and experience all things Cuban as landmarks' recreations, food, music are depicted as well as the beautiful automobiles of pre-revolutionary years that roamed the streets and roads of the largest of the Caribbean islands. Once again the AACA South Florida Region was the main contributor of pre-1959 vehicles on the venue to include the "Batista" limousine which besides the gray history, always reveals the art and beauty of automotive innovation. I would like to thank all the members and non-members that took the time from their busy schedules to show and share their period correct cars with the gracious visitors.

1959 Ford
Retractable1958 Cadillac
Eldorado-
Jorge
Estopinales

1928 Chevrolet - Ivan Morro



1950 Chevrolet



1950 Plymouth sedan- Sivio Areu



1957 Thunderbird



1955 Buick Century- Al Padilla



1946 Cadillac convertible- Jr Valdez



1956 Mercedes-Benz 190-Nivardo Mora



1955 Chevrolet- Guy Lewis



1958 Mercedes Benz 300D (Batista's Limo)-Guy Lewis



1957 Chevrolet Belair convertible- Jr Valdez

NOT PICTURED:

1951 Chevrolet- Frank Brito

1952 Chevrolet pick up-Tony Hernandez

1953 Buick Riviera- Alejandro Clay

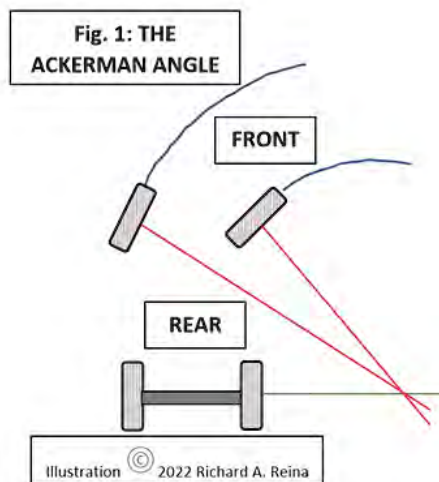


Rich's repair ramblings

MORE Steering Steering Angles to Know: Ackerman and Alignment

Last month we discussed how a steering system needs to turn both front wheels in the same direction. If both front wheels turned at the exact same angle relative to the length of the car, the tires would scrub on a turn, because the turning wheels are tracing circles of two different-sized diameters. For example, on a righthand turn, the right (inner) wheel is following a smaller diameter circle than the left (outer) wheel, and so the right wheel must turn in more sharply than the left wheel.

According to Wikipedia, the geometry for this was worked out almost 100 years before the advent of the automobile. It is attributed to a German carriage builder named Georg Lankensperger who devised the necessary angles in 1917. However, the actual patent was filed in England in 1818 by Rudolph Ackerman, whose name is associated with it to this day. In automotive engineering terminology, the "Ackerman angle" refers to the way the steering mechanism allows for the inner and outer wheels to turn at different angles. See Figure 1 below: In this sketch of a right-hand turn, the right front wheel is at a sharper angle than the left front wheel. According to Lankensperger/Ackerman, the correct geometry means that the lines representing the axles of both front wheels should meet at the same point on a theoretical line extending from the rear axle. Vehicles which do not adhere to the principles of the Ackerman angle will have unstable steering, especially as speeds increase, and become more prone to rollovers.



How do you maintain the "Ackerman angle" on your classic touring car? While there is no Ackerman angle measurement to check, keeping the vehicle's steering and front suspension in good form is the best approach. Last month we shared suggested maintenance ideas for steering systems. Steering system linkages are very close (in location AND function) with a car's front suspension. Keeping the front suspension in good condition also affects steering, and correct front end alignment is an important part of that. There are 3 alignment measurements to know about: toe, camber, and caster. While not every car allows for all 3 to be adjusted, it is a good practice to at least be familiar with what each term means.

Toe is probably the easiest alignment parameter to understand. Looking straight at the front of the car, if the front tires point inward, this is toe-in; tires which point outward are toe-out (it's the same as with our own toes!). Using my Alfa Romeo and a spare tire, I illustrated each of these parameters. See Figure 2 for toe-in and Figure 3 for toe-out. *(continued on page 17)*



Camber is the vertical tilt of the tire, inward or outward, at the top of the tire. Positive camber means that the top of the tire tilts outward; negative camber has the top tilting inward. Zero camber is a perfectly vertical tire. Figure 4 illustrates positive camber and Figure 5 shows negative camber.



rack, which allows toe, camber, and caster to be measured to within fractions of an inch. How often should this be done? There is a different answer depending on whether we are talking about your daily driver or your infrequently-driven collector car. Modern cars should probably have their alignments checked once a year. Your AACA Second-Junior, which you drive 300 miles a year, might be able to go a long time without an alignment check provided that the steering feels OK to you, and provided that you are not seeing any tire wear. One myth to dispel here, whether it's a newer car or an older one we're referring to: hitting a pothole does **NOT** knock the alignment out of spec – for pothole damage to do that, a major suspension component would be bent, and you will have issues over and above an alignment problem. Most alignments go out of spec slowly and over time, as steering and suspension components wear. That's why (and we are repeating ourselves): check those components and replace when necessary.

Caster is the most difficult to describe because it's not easy to "see". It can be defined as the difference between an imaginary line formed by the upper and lower wheel anchor points, and a vertical line through the center of the wheel. If the line formed by the anchor points touches the ground ahead of the wheel's vertical line, this is positive caster. You should be familiar with "casters" on an office chair or a heavy cabinet; the concept is the same. On a chair caster, the "mounting point" is offset from the caster wheel's true vertical. When an office chair is wheeled across the floor, the caster tends to swivel so that the mounting point is ahead of the wheel's vertical; this provides directional stability and makes it easier to wheel the chair or cabinet. The same concept applies to our cars: positive caster provides good directional stability and contributes to the steering wheel self-centering after a turn.

How do you know if the alignment is out of spec? The most correct way is to put the car on an alignment

Before you spend the money for a full alignment at "Al's Alignment Shop", eyeball your front tires. Tire wear is an easy way to see if the alignment is out of spec. The good news is that no tools are required. The bad news is that once the tires show wear, they may need replacement. "Feathering" of the tire tread (each rib develops a sharp edge) can be felt more than seen and can indicate incorrect toe. Wear along the outer edge can indicate excess positive camber; if the inner edge is worn, then there is too much negative camber. While incorrect caster will not show up as tire wear, driving the car will provide some indication: after completing a 90 degree turn, the steering wheel should return to center with little driver input. If it does not and it used to, the caster should be checked.

Next month in The Ramblings: Suspension Part 1, Springs and Shocks

NOTE: (1) The above article was published in the December 2022 issue Volume 67 NO. 12 of "The Road Map", pp.16–17, the newsletter of the New Jersey Region of AACA, edited by Dick Bettie. The article is written by Rich Reina, who is published here, with Rich's and editor Dick Bettie's 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.



Grouper, NOT the fish!

By Steve Moskowitz, CEO,
Antique Automobile Club of
America



AACA is always looking to increase benefits to our members, regions and/or affiliates. As such, you may remember our friends at Grouper, who have supported AACA members in the past and share our commitment to building strong, connected communities. Due to circumstances beyond Grouper or AACA's control the original programs offered to our members are no longer available. So, over the past few months we've explored different ways to work together, and we believe we've now found a model that truly fits our members and adds lasting value to the AACA experience.

That next step is Hello by Grouper, a national healthy-living platform now available to AACA members as a new member benefit. Designed to support healthy habits, meaningful connection, and lifelong learning, Hello offers practical tools and engaging experiences you can access anytime — from fitness and arts classes to puzzles, educational talks, wellness trackers, and interest-based communities. The platform helps members stay active, engaged, and inspired between AACA events.

You'll also find our dedicated AACA Community Space — a place to connect with fellow members — along-side a broader national community already enjoyed by thousands across many organizations.

If you haven't signed up yet, now is a great time to explore. It's already included in your membership — why not make the most of it?

Join Hello by Grouper: [join.hellogrouper.com/aaca]

Once you've signed up, download the iOS or Android Hello by Grouper mobile app to access Hello on the go!

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When YOU Come to a Crossroads....

By Phillip Cole
2026 Executive Vice President



In the Spring of 2000, I attended a communications workshop for nonprofit groups, churches and civic clubs in Nashville, Tennessee. The main topic of this workshop was "Life in the 21st Century". Looking at the list of speakers, I couldn't help but notice that one speaker had given his session a different topic, "Survival in the 21st Century". I made a point of arriving early for his session, because his topic had really caught my eye. He began with a surprising prediction, "Over the next twenty-five years, one out of every four nonprofit groups will cease to exist!"

Sadly, in my own community I have witnessed the truth in this gentleman's prediction:

Churches have closed their doors; civic groups have ceased to meet; and, community projects are no longer supported. And yes, we have seen a slowing of loss in AACA membership which has been overcome.... But that's not the end of the story.

Now, entering the second quarter of the 21st century, as members of AACA we find ourselves at a crossroad. Are we going to continue to just survive or are we going to flourish and move forward? I would ask that we all follow these three aims to help us move forward:

Reaffirm our Mission: The mission statement of AACA clearly states that we strive to be "America's Premier Resource for the Collectible Vehicle Community." Our mission statement should be the core value of who we are and where we are going.

Embrace Change: Coming to a crossroad means we may have to make some daunting decisions. But if we want to flourish and move forward, we must be willing to embrace change and encourage growth.

Be Supportive of AACA: Moving forward and overcoming road blocks that confront us are always best achieved through supportive community. We should all be supportive at the local level through our regions and chapters and at the national level through our national events. And yes, the best way to form and grow our supportive community is to encourage others to join us.

One of my favorite poets is Robert Frost. I recently discovered a concise but powerful quote where Frost gave advice about facing a crossroad: "The only way out is through..."

As we seek to flourish and move forward in the coming days and years as members of AACA, let's buckle up and drive straight through.



Brany Binker

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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 Hava
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2026 SOUTH FLORIDA REGION EVENTS

Website: <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>
(*for Online Registration)

JULY 2026

- 03- *Miami Springs Classic Car & Truck Show—6 –10 p.m.**
Miami Springs Circle, Curtiss Parkway; \$20; designated parking for AACASFR on Westward Drive; Trophies, prizes, dash plaques, raffles,
- 07- Board Meeting— 7:30 p.m.** at La Carreta Restaurant, 8650 SW 40 Street, Miami 33155

TBA- General Membership Meeting—

AUGUST 2026

- 04- Board Meeting— 7:30 p.m.** at La Carreta Restaurant, 8650 SW 40 Street, Miami 33155

TBA- General Membership Meeting—

~~*28—September 7—Memory Lane Exhibit at the Miami International Auto Show—CANCELLED~~

SEPTEMBER 2026

- 01- Board Meeting— 7:30 p.m.** at La Carreta Restaurant, 8650 SW 40 Street, Miami 33155

TBA General Membership Meeting—

OCTOBER 2026

- 06- Board Meeting— 7:30 p.m.** at La Carreta Restaurant, 8650 SW 40 Street, Miami 33155

10-11— Naples Drive and Dinner Cruise

TBA— General Membership Meeting

NOVEMBER 2026

- 03- Board Meeting— 7:30 p.m.** at La Carreta Restaurant, 8650 SW 40 Street, Miami 33155

15— Deering Estate Vintage Auto Show— for antiques 1965 and older

2026 OTHER EVENTS

October 16-18, 2026— The 27th Lake Mirror Classic
Lakeland, FL. The Lake Mirror Classic Concours d'Elegance and Car Show raises money for local Lakeland and Polk County charities.

November 14 , 2026- SSP/Lucas Alvarez Car show

TO:



2026 AACA



NATIONAL/ REGION EVENTS

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

July 11, 2026— ANNUAL COLLECTOR CAR

APPRECIATION DAY- Ft. Lauderdale Region— Car Show at Galuppi's Restaurant, 1103 N. Federal Highway, Pompano Beach- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

July 23-25, 2026— Central Springs Nationals— Green Bay, WI

August 5-8, 2026 — Southeastern Divisional Tour — Flat Rock, NC — hosted by Great Smokey Mountain Region & Little Detroit Chapter

August 19-22— Annual Grand Nationals/Zenith Awards— Allentown, PA— 717-534-1910

September 09-14— Founders Tour (1932-2001)- Williamsburg, VA— hosted by Historic VA Pennsylvania Region

September 21 – 26 – Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre-1943) — Dover, DE

October 6-9, 2026 — Eastern Fall Nationals — Hershey, PA — hosted by Hershey Region

2027

February 4-6, 2027 — Annual Convention/National Awards — King of Prussia, PA

February 18-20, 2027 — Winter Nationals — Melbourne, FL

SUNSHINE REPORT

Condolence cards were sent to Guy Lewis whose brother passed away, Ken Kurtz whose husband passed away, and Joe Pinson whose wife passed away.

