



Sidelights

OCTOBER 2026



Volume 69 Issue 7 <https://southfloridaregion.aaca.com>



*Cars,
Members,
and
Worker
Bees*

Picnic Time



Go to page 6



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**OCTOBER 2026****Volume 69 Issue 7****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**

Well, after a late-summer stretch of rain, rain, and more rain, we're ready to welcome a hopefully drier autumn—and, even better, the beginning of our car show season!

Your club directors have been working hard behind the scenes to bring you new and exciting places to show off those beautiful rides, but just as importantly, to give us more opportunities to get together, have some fun, and enjoy the friendships that make our club such a great family.

The upcoming Naples Drive Tour and the Deering Estate Vintage Car Show are great examples of what we're working toward. And if you think we've been sitting around waiting for the weather to cooperate, think again!

We just wrapped up a fantastic Annual Picnic and BBQ, complete with great food prepared by our very own board members, plenty of laughs, and a whole lot of good times. Events like this are what being part of our club is all about—and they're also our way of giving something back to all of you who make this club what it is.

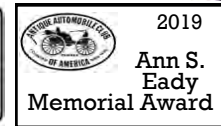
And if you weren't there... well, let's just say you missed a good one! I would be amiss if I didn't thank the members who brought their delicious appetizers, side dishes or desserts. It truly was a team effort.

As we head into the busy season, don't forget about our monthly membership meetings. And, of course, keep an eye on the club website calendar for the latest information on upcoming events, activities, and opportunities to get your car out and enjoy some time with your club family.

Here's to cooler weather, great drives, beautiful cars, and even better friends!

Cheers,

AI
Your President



Finally, relief from the summer heat. Knowing that we all have very busy schedules, hopefully you can find the time to participate in several numerous car club activities that are being planned. With your membership you are mailed the *Antique Automobile* magazine and emailed *Speedster*, both containing a wealth of information of what is happening throughout our hobby. Take the time to read both. Be and stay informed.

As our membership has grown, many newbies, and perhaps some long-time members may not be aware of the different categories within the car collector hobby. To help you, be sure to read the Rummage Box article on page 18 in this issue of *Sidelights*. One other piece of information not mentioned and not fully realized is the difference between an open car show and one in which AACA guidelines are utilized. For judging purposes, the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) evaluates antique vehicles "which have been restored to the same state as the dealer could have prepared the vehicle for delivery to the customer. This includes any feature, option or accessory shown in the original factory catalog, parts book, sales literature, or company directives for the model year of the vehicle. AACA accepts motorized vehicles 25 years old or older, which were built in factories and specifically designed and manufactured for transportation use on public roadways and highways", aka non-modified vehicles. (Source: 2026 AACA Official Judging Guidelines). An open car show allows for cars to be modified.

Happy motoring, *Jean*





The A.A.C.A. South Florida Region Board Meeting of Tuesday, August 4, 2026, was called to Order by 1st Vice President Ed Medina at 7:45 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, Millie Garcia, Jean Hawa, Tony Hernández, 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 July'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: Ed Medina spoke in lieu of Manny Garcia and presented a reconciliation statement for July from the club's bank account.

Third Order of Business – Membership Report: Ed Medina reported that as of now we have 223 active families.

General Membership Meeting (August 22, 2026): Ed Medina mentioned that we tentatively will be having a coffee and car general meeting on Saturday, August 22 at Frankie's Pizza. Date and place could be subject to change. If not, we will be meeting at La Carreta as in previous general meetings.

BBQ Picnic / Membership Meeting (September 19, 2026)
– Ed Medina informed us that he sent an e-mail to all the members reminding them to sign up for this activity, adding that desserts and side dishes will be judged for first and second places in each category. Also, hamburgers and hot dogs will be cooked by our own president, past-presidents and/or board members. Water and sodas will be provided by the club. Ed proposed a \$2,500 budget; Tony Hernández made a motion, Tomás Hernández seconded it, all were in favor.

Naples Drive and Dinner Cruise (October 10-11, 2026) –

Ed Medina informed us that he has blocked-out several rooms at the Hyatt House. He also gave itinerary details, including time of departure, lunch halfway before arriving at the hotel, REVS Museum and optional dinner cruise at sunset. Regarding returning to Miami, he gave information for those who want to visit the Ford and Edison Estates and Museum.

Deering Estate Vintage Auto Show (November 15, 2026)
– Jean Hawa informed that we will be able to allocate 40 cars, 1965 and older, stressing the need for the earlier years' vehicles. Jean will proofread the registration form before Ed Medina posts it on line.

Other Club Business:

- Ira Shapiro opened up a discussion about the future of the Coral Gables Car Show stating that we need to consider the amount of traffic on foot this show brings and to keep on mind that substituting this venue with the Country Walk car show we will be having less publicity, will need to provide food trucks and portable bathroom on site.
- Ed Medina announced that he signed the Sponsor Consultant Contract prepared by Manny Garcia and under the approval of our club Of Council Guy Lewis. Ed Medina added that we should keep exploring more sponsorships.
- Ed Medina informed us that we have a new sponsor; Lucky 13 Public Adjusters will be providing trophies for a car show. Tony Hernández will search for an additional sponsor.
- CPC Central Presbyterian Christmas Car Show. We have a volunteer to play Santa Claus and have spoken with the Bells of Harmony Trio for participating. There will be a Toy Drive, carolers, 50/50 raffle, and a Christmas tree raffle.
- Benjamin Cardonne spoke with Fathers against Fentanyl and informed us that they want our club to be involved either promoting their cause or do something with them. Ira Shapiro agreed to support them.

Sunshine Report: Jean Hawa informed us that Mike Penn's daughter got married. She also added that Ralph Thiele had surgery.

Adjournment: With no further club business to discuss, 1st Vice President Ed Medina made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 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, September 1, 2026, was called to Order by President Al Padilla at 7:30 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, Treasurer Manny Garcia, Immediate Past-President Tomás Hernández, and Board Members Angel Aulet, Benjamin Cardonne, Millie Garcia, Jean Hawa, Thomas Kosky, Mike Penn, Junior Felix Valdes and guest Maurice Hawa.

Establish a Quorum: President Al Padilla was able to establish a quorum with 13 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 August'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 was not able to present a bank reconciliation statement because tonight's meeting fell on the first of the month, before the issuance of the bank statement. He will present the statement from the club's bank account at next month's meeting.

Third Order of Business – Membership Report: Ed Medina reported that as of now we have 223 active families and is expecting another member as soon as tomorrow for a total of 224 families.

Membership Meeting (October 15, 2026) – Ed informed us that October's general meeting we will be meeting at Frankie's Pizza for Cars and Coffee. More information to follow.

BBQ Picnic / Membership Meeting (September 19, 2026)
- Ed Medina mentioned that we will have our general meeting at the BBQ. He reminded us that current and past presidents will be cooking the hamburgers and hot

dogs. He also reminded the volunteers what each will be bringing.

Naples Drive and Dinner Cruise (October 10-11, 2026) – Junior Valdes informed us that more rooms have been blocked by the hotel and more will be added on as people sign up. Ed Medina stated that 21 rooms have been reserved.

Deering Estate Vintage Auto Show (November 15, 2026)
– Jean Hawa stated that she will be pulling the insurance policy shortly and that Ed Medina will be adding QR codes to the windshield cars, similar to what was done for the cars at Memory Lane.

Election Board Slate – Manny Garcia stated that a list of officers for re-election will be posted on the website by Ed Medina and Jean Hawa will include the list in the upcoming issues of *Sidelights*.

Other Club Business:

- Manny Garcia informed us that he has put in a request with the City of Coral Gables for the Biltmore Way Car Show in March 2027.
- Ed Medina announced that he has pulled insurance for the BBQ picnic and the Christmas Show (of December 5) and reminded us about bringing an unwrapped toy.
- Upcoming General Membership Meetings:
 - October 15- Frankie's Pizza (Thursday evening)
 - November 21- Elections will be held at a Cars 'n Coffee on Saturday, at Guy Lewis' home.
 - December 12- Holiday Party/Installation of Officers- Miami Outboard Club.
- Ben Cardonne is planning to talk with the car dealership at Sunset Place about a possible car event.

Sunshine Report: Jean Hawa informed us that Chico Goldsmith and Ira Shapiro were sent get well cards.

Adjournment: With no further club business to discuss, President Al Padilla made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. It was unanimously seconded and approved.

Submitted by Yovanna Hernandez, Secretary



South Florida Region Annual BBQ
September 19, 2026
By Ed Medina

It was an amazing day with perfect weather, not a cloud in the sky and a great breeze coming off the lake in the park. 62 members gathered together to have a great time, talk cars, talk about life and everything in between.

Thank you to all who brought the delicious appetizers, side dishes and desserts, along with the board members all chipping in to cook and prepare all the toppings and condiments. We had burgers, hot dogs, sausage, grilled and raw onions, bacon, tomato, lettuce, pickles, relish, mustard and ketchup. The AACA would give Fuddruckers a run for their money. There was everything to make the perfect burger or dog!

The cooking duties were shared between Tomas, Ben and Al. Jorge handled beverages and entertainment and Jean brought the tablecloths, toppings, condiments, plates, cups and cutlery. Everyone pitched in and it couldn't have been a better experience; everyone was already talking about next year. Card tables and dominoes tables were available for members to play games and enjoy. Awards were given for the homemade pot luck dishes the members brought to share. There was a little bit of everything, all delicious and deserving of an award, but unfortunately only a few took the honors.

Appetizers- in first place was Diane's Brie with Strawberries and second place was Justo's Tortilla Española.

Side Dishes- first place was Ira's special grilled onions and second place went to Ana's Garbanzos (chick peas)

Desserts was a tough one- but first place went to Artie with his Banana pudding and second went to Isabel with her Flan de Coco.

Other awards were given for the person that traveled the longest distance to get to the BBQ and other awards to the eldest member in attendance which was given to past president Maurice. Complimentary oil change certificates, donated by Ford of Kendall and Williamson Cadillac, were awarded to four of our members.



"Master Chef" Ben

PHOTO CREDITS

Jean Hawa

L: Isabel, Al, Miriam
 R: Jorge



Clara and Francisco



L-R:
 Al
 Tomás
 Ben
 Jorge

Gina
 Ed
 Ira



L-R: Cheryl, Sara, Ana,
 and Diane are also
 members of the
 Sunshine Corvette Club.

(continued on page 7)



L-R: Mike, Richard, Maurice



Cathy
Angel



Maurice received certificate for being the oldest member present



1st Place— Diane
Appetizer Winners



2nd Place— Justo
Appetizer Winners



1st Place— Ira
Side Dish Winners



2nd Place— Ana
Side Dish Winners



1st Place— Artie
Dessert Winners



2nd Place— Isabel
Dessert Winners



Blas drove his antique the farthest.



Ed was a winner, but relinquished his prize.



1991 Nissan Figaro



Mazda



Chevrolet Corvettes





1942 Willys



1972 Ford



1946 Cadillac



1953 Cadillac convertible



1960 Chevrolet Impala



Volvo



1995 Aston Martin DB2



1969
Pontiac GTO



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.

ARTICLE SIX– DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- SECTION VI: THE REGIONAL SECRETARY shall:**

- A) Record, maintain and protect, and make available upon the request of a member, the minutes of all general membership, Board of Director meetings and Special meetings if any.
- B) Keep all votes of the general membership and the Board of Directors
- C) Act as the custodian of the club's logo and assure that it is used on club documents appropriately.
- D) Perform other duties as appropriate of the Regional Secretary.
- E) The minutes shall be stored electronically and will provide such records and minutes at meetings of the Board, general membership and special meetings.



Slate of Officers and Directors for 2027:

Officers:

These five officers are up for election at the 2026 November General Meeting to serve a one-year term in 2027:

OFFICERS

1. President Al Padilla
2. 1st Vice President.....Ed Medina
3. 2nd Vice President.....Jorge Salazar
4. Secretary.....**OPEN POSITION**
5. Treasurer.....Manny Garcia

DIRECTORS

The following directors are subject to election. They will be finishing the second year of a two-year term that commenced in January 2025.

6. Chico Goldsmith
7. Jean Hawa
8. Ira Shapiro
9. Benjamin Cardonne
10. Tom Kosky
11. **OPEN POSITION – NOMINATIONS**

The following directors are NOT subject to election. They will be serving the second year of a two-year term that commenced January 2026.

12. Mike Penn
13. Millie Garcia
14. Alejandro Clay
15. Anthony Hernandez
16. Angel Aulet
17. Junior Valdes

These two-board members are automatic positions:

18. Guy Lewis..... Of Counsel
19. Tomás Hernández - Immediate Past President



As seen in *SPEEDSTER*
2027 AACAA Membership
Renewals Start Soon
By Karen White, AACAA
Membership Manager,

kwhite@aacaa.org

As most of you know, your AACAA membership runs for a calendar year – January 1 through December 31.

Beginning September 1 (tomorrow), you can start using our super easy online membership renewal. Renewing online is quick and simple! Just log in with your membership number and PIN number, review the information currently listed on your membership record and make changes if necessary. Payment options include Visa, MasterCard and Discover. Your payment will automatically record to your membership record, and you will receive a confirmation email receipt.

Your membership number and PIN number can be found on your membership card. **If you don't know your membership number and/or PIN number, you can email membership@aacaa.org or call AACAA National Headquarters at 717-534-1910. Please DON'T try to pay your dues by using the JOIN AACAA tab. This WILL NOT renew your membership – instead, it will create a new one.**

If you're going to be at Hershey, you can also stop by the AACAA trailer or tents and renew your membership in person with us.

2027 South Florida Region Membership Renewal Time

The information below was emailed to all members on 09/09/26. It's our busiest time of the year here at The South Florida Region AACAA – it's membership renewal time! The first renewal notice for 2027 dues will be included in the October mailing package of *Sidelights*.

Members can use the online renewal option on our website Renewing online is quick and easy! (preferred method) Just click enter the required information, review the information listed and make changes if necessary. Review your information one more time and select the payment option **PayPal or Credit Card** Credit Card payment options include Visa, MasterCard, Amex or Discover. **Your payment will automatically update your membership record.**

If you wish to pay by check you can attend one of our monthly Membership Meetings at which time we will be more than happy to assist you, or you can mail your check to the following:

Annual Fee **\$45.00** Checks payable to **South Florida Region AACAA**
If you want to mail your check refer back to the September 9th email from Ed Medina.

We thank you and appreciate your loyalty!

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, November 21,
2026 at Cars and Coffee
LOCATION: TBA





THE ROAD TO CARTERSVILLE, GA AND THE AACA WINTER MEET

Submitted by Cheryl Mullinix

So let's start the story at the beginning: Jay and I were both retired now. Well, Jay fully retired and me still working remotely part time. We found "there was no what happens next after retirement." No one ever explains that with retirement some things do change. You like to sleep in; he is still up at the crack of the sun's rays hitting the trees.

So let me start with the back story of how I acquired my retirement gift. As most members know I was a devout Harley girl, very proud of my 08 Street Glide which was a true love affair. It had a custom paint and many accessories. After much soul searching, I realized it was time to find another hobby.

Jay convinced me after that it was time for me to sell my first love, my Harley, and look for a classic car that had the same paint scheme as my Harley. I decided on a Corvette. So, Jay made a few calls.

Lo and behold, Mel Mann had the perfect Corvette for me; an ALL original, 13,000+ miles, with tons of extras. Mel offered Jay an awesome deal on a 1977 C3 all original red and grey interior. It was love at first sight. It was the same color scheme as my Harley. I took that as a sign it was for me. We had a longtime friend play chauffeur with his truck and car trailer to get her in Naples.

As luck would have it the trailer had a blowout 3/4 of the way there. Thank goodness for smart phones and Google maps. We were able to find a Tires Plus that had the correct tire and had it changed on the road in less than 30 minutes. We

finally got her home. I decided I wanted to take her on a road trip.

Jay was thinking "road trip meant Fort Lauderdale or Naples". But I had my heart set on the Winter Meet, seemed like it would be fun. Next thing we knew I registered the car in an AACA ALL ORIGINAL class. Oh, did I forget to mention I let Jay know after I registered for the car show, booked the hotel and paid the fees. That was to be the first road trip for this low mileage, original retirement gift. The road trip was to the AACA Winter Meet. It was time to see if my retirement present would actually make the drive. I got the crazy notion to



drive the 1977 to Cartersville, Georgia for the AACA Winter Meet.

That is when the real work started. Jay went over every nut, bolt, screw wire harness, the entire car from top to bottom to make sure an all-original car could make the trip.

First reality check is, how the heck do you pack a week worth of luggage, T-top, mechanic tools and cleaning supplies for this 800 plus one-way journey. I was able to Jenga everything in the back of the Corvette. How I still don't know. So, packing's done with, now to get the mileage and the Waze way. I thought I would drive it, after all it was my retirement gift. However, I never realized how comfy the passenger's seat was, so yes, I actually let Jay play chauffeur. We arrived in Cartersville March 25th, registered and set out on the wide array of events the local chapter had organized for us.

The first night was a really pleasant meet and greet from the local chapter. They kept the wine and drinks flowing. We met a lot of new friends and heard great stories about their car, the journey or just their car collections.

The next day: Bus ride to Old Car City where a BBQ buffet awaited. Old Car City is about 10 acres of survivor



cars in various states of being reclaimed by nature. It was fascinating listening to the owners stories of collecting the various cars. There was even a Knick knack store filled with quirky and vintage toys.

The next day we wandered through Cartersville, wandered through vintage shops and enjoyed the many murals around the historic downtown area. The highlight of the trip was the tour of the Savoy Automobile Museum which displays the cultural diversity of the automobile. Through changing exhibits, educational programs, and engaging experiences individuals have the opportunity to appreciate the beauty and history of automobiles. This

world-class museum and show-grounds sits on approximately 37 acres in Cartersville, GA. It is a definite must see. We even got a sneak peek behind the scenes of their numerous storage facilities and how the cars were rotated.



(cont. on pg 12)



Savoy Museum

(continued
from pg 11)



We woke up on the 27th at about 6 a.m. to get to the field in enough time to clean her up and make sure I could find our designated class. Of this is where I usually let Jay handle everything. I thought I registered for the Junior instead of Original. I received a quick lesson in registering cars for the different classes. We got parked and started the process of putting on her makeup so she would be ready for judging.



We were surprised to see that our daughter and grandsons drove down to visit us for the day. The grandsons had a blast picking out their favorite car and making new friends. We were growing the next generation of classic car collectors. It was a treat to see two of our own car club owners at the Winter Meet as well, Steve Greenblatt and Guy Lewis. One of the highlights was enjoying the car enthusiasts with our grandsons.



Next came the judging, I was in the original class. I learned the importance of providing all the original documentation that you have with you. There was a question by one of the judges about the moonroof T-top. I was able to provide the original invoice that had the moonroof on it. I believe all in all I had three points deducted. What a blast to be able to drive such a beautiful piece of machinery so far without a hiccup.

I look forward to our next long-distance adventure in her.

Antique Automobile Club of America 2026 Winter Nationals Cartersville, GA March 28, 2026

Class ORG First Original

1966 Pontiac Tempest Custom

Bill A. Thiele

1977 Chevrolet Corvette

Cheryl Mullinix

Class 25 A First Junior

1959 Austin-Healey 3000 MK I

Juan M. Penedo

Class 27M First Junior

1978 Mercedes-Benz 450SL

Guy A. Lewis

Class 30B Second Junior

1967 Chevrolet Corvette

Stephen Greenblatt



**Antique Automobile Club of America
Special Nationals
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico March 21, 2026**

Class 24D First Preservation

1955 BMW LeBlonde Jaime I. Del Valle

**Antique Automobile Club of America
Grand Nationals
Allentown, Pennsylvania August 22, 2026**

Class 04B Senior Grand National

1958 Vespa 400 Edward A. Dauer

Class 25D Senior Grand National

1979 Mercedes-Benz 450 SL
Joanne Dauer

Class 26B Senior Grand

1949 Kaiser Vagabond Edward A. Dauer

Class 27C Senior Grand National

1958 Oldsmobile Edward A. Dauer

Class 29 Senior Grand National

1960 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz
Edward A. Dauer

All Grand National winners receive a
preservation award

**JULY 18, 2026 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING/CARS & COFFEE**

Submitted by Jean Hawa

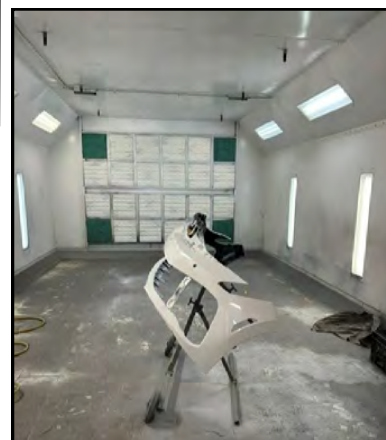
Once again, to encourage more members to attend a general membership meeting, we adjusted the scheduled 3rd Thursday evening to a Saturday Cars and Coffee venue. This Saturday members visited the Stoner Bros Body Shop at 5835 Commerce Lane, South Miami. This site was recommended by several members because they have used and are currently using the business.

After a half hour of meeting and greeting one another as well as examining each of the member's antiques, we were introduced to the owner, Rafael and his family.

After a brief run down of what the shop employees can do for its customers, Rafael, took us on a tour of the shop explaining how and why his repair shop is successful, mainly because his staff is well-trained, certified, and extremely proud of their craftsmanship.



Blas and others are looking at his car's engine.



First stop of the tour was the climate controlled, fully enclosed paint room. This helped keep repair costs down and saves time because the vehicles don't have to be transported elsewhere.

(continued on page 14)



L: This shop was very nostalgic for Jay because his 1963 Chevrolet Corvette convertible was worked on at this shop over 25 years ago, under different ownership.



Samples of paint. Above: The actual product.



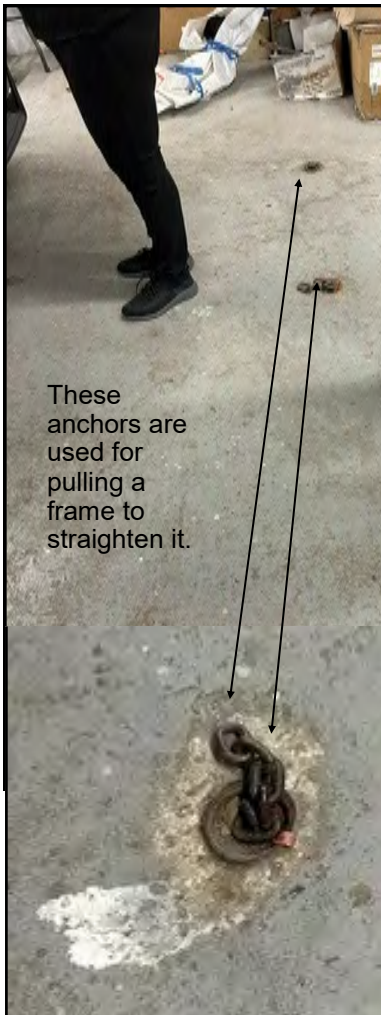
R: Compressors



Left: Specific samples for customer's cars.



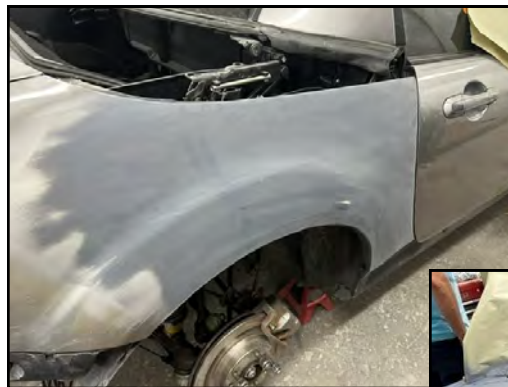
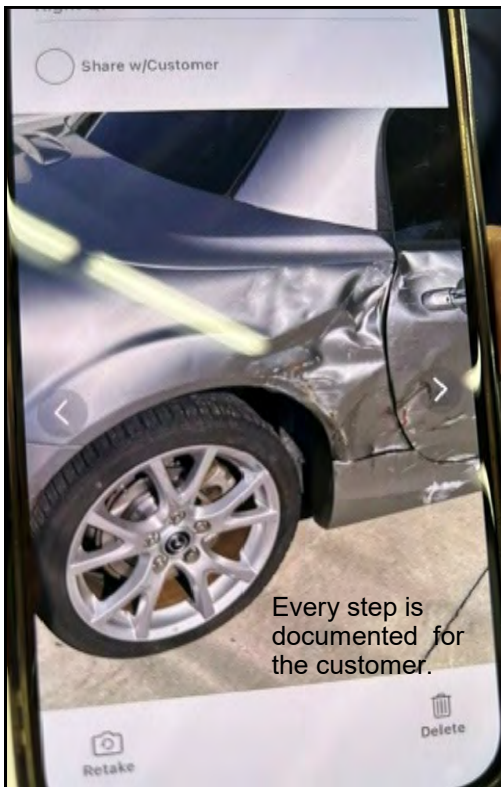
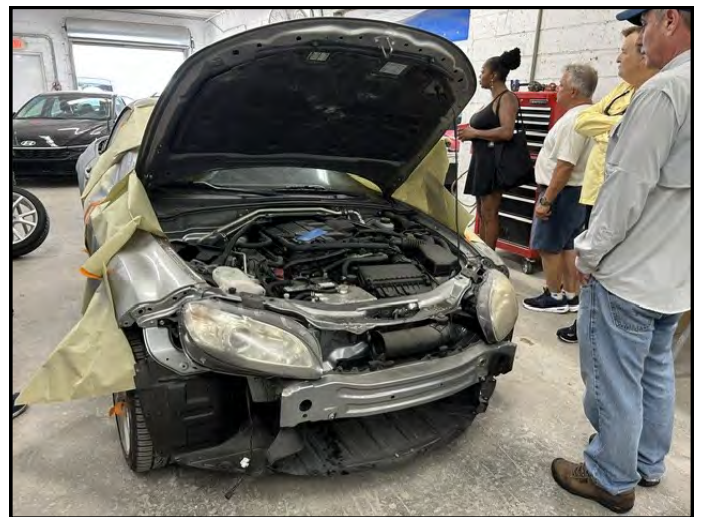
Protective covering is used when a project is delayed, especially when a missing part takes longer to arrive.



These anchors are used for pulling a frame to straighten it.



(continued on page 15)



Left and below:
A lot of sanding is done to create a smooth finish.



Everyone is observing



1967 Plymouth Belvedere II



Ben presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Rafael



Rich's Repair Ramblings

Suspension Parts Springs and Shocks Part 2: Shock Absorbers

In a vehicle suspension, springs and shock absorbers must work hand-in-hand. Will your car be able to take to take you from Point A to Point B without shocks? (We will use the more common "shocks" when referring to shock absorbers). The answer is an absolute 'yes'. Will your ride be comfortable? The answer to this question is a firm 'no'.

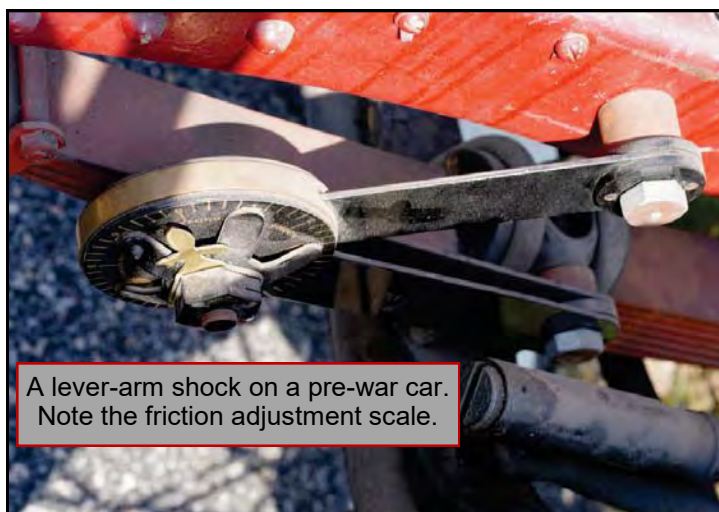
As we discussed last time in Springs and Shocks, Part 1, springs play an important role in rider comfort by allowing the car's wheels and tires to move up and down when encountering road imperfections. The springs absorb much of those motions and help isolate those movements from the passenger compartment. You've heard the statement "a body in motion tends to stay in motion", and that is true for springs. Springs, made of metal, will continue to move up and down until their stored energy is depleted. This is fine for the kiddies on the ride 'em broncos at the amusement park, but it's not much fun when traveling in your car. Shocks were introduced as a suspension element to dampen and retard the tendency of springs to keep oscillating. Together, springs and shocks provide a compliant ride which can also be fine-tuned for luxury or sportiness.

and deployed friction discs as a way to control spring movement, converting that movement into heat. Friction discs, however, were simplistic. Later versions of lever-arm shocks substituted hydraulic fluid for the friction discs. Lever-arm shocks continued to be installed by car makers through the first half of the 20th century. (A look at a Moss Motors catalog shows that MGBs used lever-arm shocks through the end of the model run in 1980, likely one of the last cars to do so.)

Lever shocks were superseded by tubular shocks. Tubular shocks also used hydraulic oil, and chambers within the shock allowed controlled flow of the oil, meaning that engineers could adjust the amount of shock damping. More advanced shocks introduced pressurized gas in conjunction with hydraulic fluid. The tube shocks gave chassis engineers more flexibility in suspension design. The shocks in some cases became locating elements for A-arms and axles. These shocks were easy to install and replace, using some combination of either a threaded rod with a nut and/or a pressed-in bushing which could accept a bolt.



A tubular shock (in red). Note the bushings for the mounting bolts.



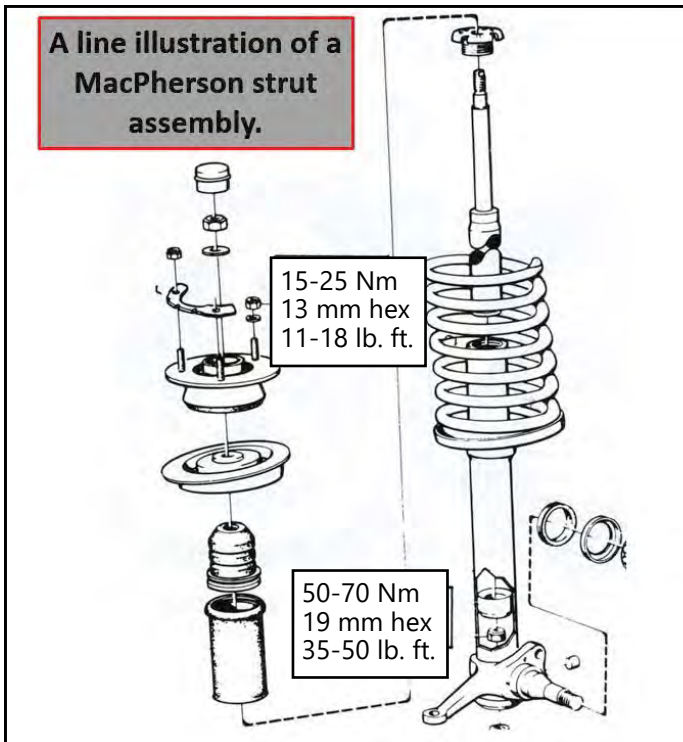
A lever-arm shock on a pre-war car. Note the friction adjustment scale.

One of the biggest advancements in shock design is the MacPherson strut, named after the engineer who invented it, Earle MacPherson. The fascinating backstory is this: Earle MacPherson worked as an engineer for Chevrolet. In 1945, he was tasked with developing an entirely new small car which was to be called the Cadet. His proposed suspension design utilized a combination spring/shock, consisting of a lower portion forming a sturdy hub mount, a shock installed within this vertical tube, and a coil spring sandwiched between lower and upper spring seats. Although tall, the design was relatively compact. However, Chevrolet cancelled the Cadet project. Unhappy, MacPherson quit GM and went to work for Ford. The first production car to use MacPherson struts was a British Ford, the 1950 Consul. (cont. on page 17)

The first shocks on motor cars were of the lever-arm type,

(continued from page 16)

(American cars would not adapt MacPherson struts until the 1980s.) Today, the vast majority of passenger cars use MacPherson struts, especially in the front. The design particularly lends itself to front-wheel-drive and unibody construction.



How do you know when your springs or shocks are worn out? As mentioned last month, my experience is that short of severe sagging or cracking, springs rarely go bad. Of course, if you're restoring a 75-year-old hulk with the intention of winning a First Senior at Hershey, I'd suggest new springs! The suspension element more likely to wear out are the shocks. One challenge is that if you've been driving the same car for 5 years and 50,000 miles, the shock wear is so gradual that you don't sense the slow degradation which occurs over time. The old "push down on the bumper and count how many times the car moves up and down" still can be used. (Anything more than once or twice up-and-down means the shocks are suspect.) If the vehicle rides poorly, or there is poor riding comfort, or there are noises from the suspension, or the handling has deteriorated (first ruling out other obvious causes like tires), then it may be the shocks. The auto repair industry would have you believe that shocks should be replaced every 50,000 miles. From my experience, most new car shocks should last twice that. Again, on a full restoration, while you have everything apart, a best practice would be to mount all new shocks of the original style as used by the manufacturer.

Next month in *The Ramblings*:

Replacing Shocks and Struts

NOTE: (1) The above article was published in the February 2023 issue Volume 68 Issue 02 of "The Road Map", pp.16—17, the newsletter of the New Jersey Region of AACA, edited by Dick Bettel. The article is written by Rich Reina, who is published here, with Rich's and editor Dick Bettel'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.

SOCIAL MEDIA



As seen or found on Facebook or Youtube

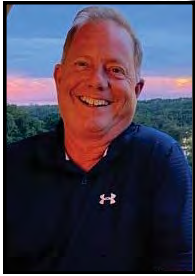
Rehabbing a double decker bus

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1b6b1DZQjm/>

New RR Engine 70 Years Sleeping

Engine used in Austin Champ & Alvis Stalwart and others, about hour & half.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7axnvInN57E&t=3763s>



The Controversial Topic of Collector Car Categorization By Jeff Broadus Vice President - Marketing

As in the past, the subject of collector car categorization always leads to some strong opinions by enthusiasts everywhere. To be clear, these categories were created, supported, and promoted by car clubs. Today these categorizations stand as industry accepted categories defining a niche and serving the collector car community. Below are six categories that make up the core categorizations representing a large percentage of multi-marque collector cars within our hobby.

Antique - Generic term used for all autos built before 1925. Horseless Carriage: A term used to describe very early autos built at, or before the turn of the century, characterized by very slender, tall wheels and carriage-like appearance. Brass Era: Autos built 1914 and earlier, so-called for the abundant use of brass in the production process (radiator, headlights, horn, sidelights, etc.). Nickel Era: This bridges the gap between the use of brass and chrome on autos during the period from 1915 to 1928.

Classic - The term "classic" is the most overused term in the car hobby. Officially, it is a label used by the CCCA (Classic Car Club of America) to identify "fine or unusual foreign or domestic motorcars built between and including the years 1925 and 1948, distinguished for their respective fine design, high engineering standards and superior workmanship.

HOT ROD - Originally this term was used to describe the practice of taking an old, cheap car, removing weight (usually by removing roof, hood, bumpers, windscreen and fenders), lower it, change or tune the engine to give more power, add fat wheels for traction and paint it to make it stand out.

STREET ROD - In the 1970s hot rodders tried to clean up their reputation and thus started to use the term 'street rod' instead of "Roadster" or "Hotrod". An ingeniously simple idea re-born.

Sports Cars - or sportscar, is a small, usually two-seater, two-door automobile designed for spirited performance and nimble handling. The term "sports car" was used in The Times, London in 1919. According to USA's Merriam Webster dictionary, USA's first known use of the term was in 1928. Sports cars started to become popular during the 1920s. In the postwar era, a "sports car" is most any car that seats two, can have a hard or soft top, and could be used for competition.

Production Car/25 Years or Older - This is a term used by the AACA to cover cars 25 years old or older that don't necessarily fall into categories such as Antique, Classic or Hot Rod and primarily deals with postwar collector cars. Muscle Car: These are mid-sized cars built from 1964 to 1973 and characterized by large displacement, high horse-power engines. They came factory direct to dealers with the largest engines available from the manufacturer.

Pony Car: A term originally used to describe the Ford Mustang, but later used to describe all cars built that would compete with the Mustang such as AMX, Barracuda, Camaro, Firebird, etc.).

Special Interest: A "catch-all" category for a car of any age that has collectible attributes but is not covered by any of the preceding categories. This would include late model cars with enthusiast appeal (Buick Reatta, Cadillac Allante, and Dodge Viper), or extremely low-mileage or well-cared-for cars that normally wouldn't be collected. Well, there you have it. If your car doesn't fit in any of the above-mentioned classifications, the only option left to consider;

Used Car - A car that is basically used as reliable transportation.



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Brany Binker

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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



202627 SOUTH FLORIDA REGION EVENTS

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

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– check website

15– General Membership Meeting– Frankies Pizza on Bird
Road, 9118 Bird Road, Miami 33165 at 7 p.m.

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, any International; must be pre-
registered

21– Cars & Coffee/General Membership Meeting/
Election Day; 9 a.m. Location will be emailed to
members

DECEMBER 2026

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

05– *CPC-CLC Christmas Classic Car Show–10:00 a.m. –2:30
p.m., 12455 SW 104 St, West Kendall, Open car show-
any vehicle pre-2001; Toy drive– bring new
unwrapped toy.

2026 OTHER EVENTS

October 2, 16, 30- GENERATION OLDSCHOOL: Friday Night
Cruise In (Shopping Center SW 89 Street & SW 162 Ave,
Miami FL; generationoldschool.net; <https://www.generationoldschool.net>; Generation Oldschool
@generation.oldschool) - Instagram; [youtube.com/UCJdX1EGmJL5jE8kuc](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJdX1EGmJL5jE8kuc)
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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– LA6 Car Truck & Motorcycle Show
St. Louis Catholic Church, 7270 SW 120 St, Pinecrest, FL
33156; Register now at: <https://buytickets.at/speedstyleandperformanceclub/2011623>

TO:



2026-2027 AACA

NATIONAL/ OTHER REGION EVENTS

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

2026

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

October 31, 2026– Ft. Lauderdale Region AACA– Trunk
or Treat– Sample-McDougald House, 450 NE 10
Street, Pompano Beach, FL. 4:30 PM-8:00 PM ; NO
FEE; E-mail: ftlauderdaleaaca@gmail.com

November 7, 2026– Ft. Lauderdale Region AACA– St.
Colman's Veteran's Day Car Show; 1200 South, S
Federal Hwy., Pompano, FL; 10 AM-2 PM, \$25-
Open Car/truck show– all makes, models, years,
original, custom ; ftlauderdaleaaca@gmail.com

2027

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

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

SUNSHINE REPORT

Condolences have been sent to Tomás Hernández for
the loss of his mother.

Get Well cards have been sent to Chico
Goldsmith, Bonnie Mayer, and Ira Shapiro



December 5, 2026– GASPARILLA Cars in the Park
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