



January 2024

# THE SIDELIGHT

Published by KYSWAP, Inc.,  
Subsidiary of KYANA Charities  
3821 Hunsinger Lane Louisville, KY 40220



Printed by: Middletown Copies & Printing 11714 Old Shelbyville Road • Louisville, KY 40243

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### **THE SIDELIGHT**

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KYSWAP, INC.  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

**Deadline for articles is the 18<sup>th</sup> of preceding month to have it printed in the following issue.** Articles from the membership are welcome and will be printed as space permits. Members may advertise at no charge, either for items for sale or requests to obtain.

Editorials and/or letters to the editor are the opinion of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the club.

The Sidelight is automatically delivered to all members by email each month. Anyone wishing to receive a paper copy via US mail may call Sandra Joseph (502) 558-9431 or email her to:

## FROM THE PRESIDENT MARK KUBANCIK



Whether it's the KYANA Region, KYANA Charities, or KYSWAP, one thing is consistent...all function thanks to the support of an all-volunteer workforce. Thinking about this, I did a simple web search for the word "volunteer". Many, many things appear, though this one sentence best describes the term for me: *A volunteer is a person who willfully donates his/her time and energy to help promote a good cause or help an organization work more effectively.*

KYANA is indeed blessed to have so many willing and talented volunteers. In 2023 the call went out for both an interim and permanent Region Treasurer, and both calls were answered quickly by Tim Truax and Shawn McDonald respectively. We previously talked about Dollie Flechler graciously volunteering to complete our current roster, delivering to the printer just before she passed. At our recent Christmas party, Jerry & Carol Bass received the Spark Plug award for their selfless volunteer efforts for our club. We have many members who have been in KYANA for well more than fifty years, and they have no doubt accumulated hundreds of volunteer hours supporting our club. If it were not for these members who formed the foundation of KYANA we might not today have a clubhouse to call home or the finances to ensure we continue to function on a solid footing going forward.

OK, so why all this about volunteers? Our current Membership Chairman, Ken Martin, suffered a stroke on Thanksgiving Day and has since been hospitalized. While respecting Ken and Dana's privacy, suffice it to say that Ken has a long road to recovery, barring a Christmas miracle. If you pray, please keep Ken and Dana in your prayers. That said, we are seeking a volunteer or volunteers to temporarily assume Membership chair duties. Ken assumed this position from Roger Stephan, and if you knew Roger you would know that this job can be done without a computer or internet connection, although having both is a plus. Primary duties include contacting prospective members, ensuring they have the information necessary to join, keeping track of their registrations, and recording their event attendance. If you are interested in helping KYANA grow and are eager and willing to help, please contact me. You will have many hands helping you get up to speed in this role.

January and February are always busy months for our club despite most of us tucking our antique vehicles away for the "ary" months. In this issue of The Sidelight, you will find information on the January business meeting, the Swap Meet planning meeting in February, a new breakfast meeting event in February, and our return to Derby Dinner in February. In addition, Fred Trusty and I will be attending the AACA's annual meeting in northern Virginia, where I will be promoting our annual swap meet.

As I write this message it is exactly one week until Christmas. Pat is downstairs baking all sorts of goodies for the kids and grandkids to enjoy. While we are seeing snow flurries today, I'm looking forward to the end of this week when temperatures are again predicted to rise above normal. That's more bonus days to get the DeSoto or Pontiac out from under cover and exercised.

Here's hoping you and yours have a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

Thanks, Mark

*Remember...it's supposed to be fun!*

FROM THE SECRETARY ALEX WILKINS

KYANA Region Elections Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2023

**Location:** KYANA Clubhouse

With 97 total Region members in attendance, the meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm for the purpose of electing Officers and Board Members for the 2024 calendar year. George Fackler and his team of vote counters ran the election process.

George Fackler announced that Willie Wilhoite had chosen to withdraw himself from re-election to the Board.

With no opposition, the following members were elected by acclamation to serve for 2024:

- President: Mark Kubancik
- Vice President: Chester Robertson
- Secretary: Alex Wilkins
- Treasurer: Shawn McDonald
- Board Member: Stan Gaus
- Board Member: Kenneth R. Martin
- Board Member: Tim Truax

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm. The Board thanks all members who ran for office and all members who attended for voting. A special thanks to George Fackler for running the elections this year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alex Wilkins  
Secretary

JUST FOR LAUGHS



A woman calls an import parts warehouse and asks for a 28-ounce water pump. "A what?" says the confused parts guy. "My husband left a note it says he needs a 28-ounce water pump."

"A 28-ounce water pump? What kind of car does it fit?" "A Datsun."

As the parts guy writes down "Datsun, 28 oz. water pump" a light in his head goes on. "Oh yes ma'am. We've got 28-ounce water pumps. We have 24-ounce and 26-ounce water pumps too."

"Finally," she says. "You're the first place I've called that knew what I was talking about."

"Yes ma'am. That's because we're a full-service parts warehouse; it's our job to have the parts you need, like a 28-ounce water pump," he says, smiling, as he jots down customer pick-up, Datsun 280Z water pump part number...

## FROM THE SECRETARY ALEX WILKINS

KYANA Region Board Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2023

**Location:** KYANA Clubhouse

**KYANA Region Board Members Present:** Mark Kubancik, Alex Wilkins, Chester Robertson, Tim Truax, Brian Koressel, Willie Willhoite

**KYANA Region Members Present:** Shawn McDonald, Jim Joseph, Ruth Hill

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm

**Secretary's Report:** Chester Robertson moved to accept the November meeting minutes, Tim Truax seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chester Robertson moved to accept the November treasurer's report, Brian Koressel seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor. Tim Truax updated the board on online KYANA membership renewals.

**Activities:** Chester Robertson updated the board on upcoming events.

**Membership:** Alex Wilkins updated the board on renewals for existing members. Submittal to AACA National will happen before the end of the year.

**Clubhouse Rentals:** Nothing new to report.

**Sidelight:** Nothing new to report.

**Website:** Car related articles are still needed for the website. Please send them in!

**Old Business:** Alex Wilkins will be putting together an article asking for chairpersons for the 2025 National Meet.

**New Business:** Nothing new to report.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Alex Wilkins and seconded by Tim Truax. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm. The next meeting will be held at the clubhouse on January 9 at 6:30 pm.

## REQUEST



Jerry Bass is requesting electronic photos of KYANA members' cars to be displayed at the KYANA booth for the 2024 World of Wheels Show in January. Please email the photos to Jerry at: [creekdeer5004@gmail.com](mailto:creekdeer5004@gmail.com).

## KYANA EVENTS BY CHESTER ROBERTSON



The new year is starting and already we have a new event along with three other events happening in January and February. The first event, hosted by Jerry Bass, is the Bluegrass World of Wheels on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The January business meeting is on January 28<sup>th</sup>. There is more information below. Don't forget to send in your money soon. The ever-popular Derby Dinner Playhouse event is on a Friday night this year. Make sure you contact Alethea Hayes as soon as possible to get a ticket for this year's play, The Bunco Club. Thanks to Mark Kubancik for organizing a new event, February Breakfast Meeting – Collector Car Insurance & Woodgraining. This sounds like an informative event and we hope that we get a lot of participants. There is also a Swap Meet Planning Meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be more information in the next Sidelight. Even though we can't get our buggies out due to the cold and snowy weather, you can still attend the scheduled events and visit with your old friends or make some new friends. Chester.

## PRAYERS, THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS



- ✚ Please keep Maureen Vannatta in your prayers as she has surgery on December 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ Alan Vannatta had a heart catheter procedure on December 19<sup>th</sup>. There was no blockage. He is scheduled for heart valve replacement surgery in January.
- ✚ Please keep Pat Kubancik in your prayers as she undergoes surgery on January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ Continued prayers for Ken Martin who had a stroke in November. He has been moved to 4S-8. This is the next step towards going to rehab. There is currently no timeline for when he will be moved.
- ✚ Please keep Dana Martin in your thoughts and prayers. While visiting Ken, she fell and broke her wrist.
- ✚ Please remember especially Mike Lyall, Betty Hardin, Ralph Miller, Dick Renders, Patsy Basham and Glenda Clark.

As the year draws to an end, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year. Please remember all our KYANA families in your prayers. We hope and pray for all to have a healthier 2024.

**Be Blessed, Patsy**

## BLUEGRASS WORLD OF WHEELS 2024



## BLUEGRASS WORLD OF WHEELS 2024

Mark your calendars. The Bluegrass World of Wheels show is fast approaching. The date will be Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Move-in day will be Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The show will be in the North Wing at the Kentucky Exposition Center. Admission is \$21 and parking will be \$12. The hours of the show are 10:00AM to 9:00PM Saturday and 10:00AM to 6:00 pm Sunday.

This year's theme will be "We Are KYANA." Our display will highlight KYANA. There will be 8"x10" photos of many of the member's cars as well as photos of some of our events. In addition, there will be information regarding The Sidelight, The Light up Louisville Parade, Toys for Tots, the Veteran's Day Parade, club outings, the KYANA Car Show, the LMPD National Night Out and the Clubhouse facilities. The idea is to use this opportunity to recruit new members.

This year we will have four new KYANA participants. Colin Coleman is bringing his 32 Ford Coupe, Hunt and Pat Palmer-Ball are going to display their 1965 Mustang GT Fastback, Tim Truax is showing his 1960 Pontiac race car and Terry Craven will be showing his 1948 Caddy. I want to extend my thanks to those who are taking the time to enter their cars.

Please come out and show your support for this event. Wear some KYANA apparel and your name tag and spend some time in the booth helping to educate the public on what KYANA is all about.

Thank you,  
Jerry Bass

## JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING



© CanStockPhoto.com - csp400229

What: JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING  
Planning for the new year

When: January 28 @ 2pm

Where Ole KYANA Club House

Please send a check for \$8.00 per KYANA member to:

Donna Burchett  
4907 Seville Dr.  
Louisville, Ky. 40272  
[d.burchett69@gmail.com](mailto:d.burchett69@gmail.com) or 502 851 0715

Deadline: January 20 (do it early)

## DERBY DINNER PLAYHOUSE



*KYANA @ Derby Dinner Playhouse*

*The Bunco Squad*

*Friday, Feb 16, 2024*

Doors are open at 6:00PM

Footnotes Pre-Show at 7:15PM

Main Show Begins at 7:45PM

Please arrive early to check in with me if you would like to sit with a group. All parties of your table group must be present when you check in so I can account for all members in attendance. I cannot hand a ticket to you for someone else if they haven't checked in with me first.

Prices are below, and I look forward to seeing you at the show! -Alethea Hayes

**Members Pay:** \$21.50 per person

**Non-Member Pay:** \$43.00 per person

This event fills up quick! So please send in your checks Addressed to **KYANA** to the address below:

Alethea Hayes  
199 Mudd Lane  
Fisherville, KY 40023

## NEW EVENT!!!!

### February Breakfast Meeting – Collector Car Insurance & Woodgraining

Trying something a little different for the new year. Mark your calendar on Saturday morning February 17<sup>th</sup> for a breakfast meeting that will include brief seminars on collector car insurance and antique car woodgraining restoration. Joining us at this meeting will be Alex LaRue with the LaRue-Carey Insurance Group, based in Hodgenville, KY, and former KYANA member Dean Smith. Dean recently completed restoration of a 1940 Dodge sedan, performing much of the restoration work on his own, including refinishing the woodgrain surfaces on the dash and window surrounds. Dean offered to share his lessons learned for DIY woodgraining with interested KYANA members. I met Alex LaRue at the Kentucky Railway show in October and it was apparent to me that he could speak with authority on the collector car insurance topic.

Prior to our guest speakers we will dine on a hearty breakfast. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m. followed by Alex and Dean. Cost for the breakfast is still being determined so watch the February Sidelight for registration details if you plan to attend. Meanwhile, feel free to call if you have any questions.

Mark Kubancik 502-797-8555

## UPDATE YOUR KYANA WARDROBE

### Update your KYANA Wardrobe!



Look sharp at the swap meet and throughout the year in new KYANA logo wearables. The KYSWAP board recently approved funds to subsidize your cost to purchase new apparel featuring the KYANA logo. Each KYANA member's cost of one apparel item will be subsidized by \$15. KYANA's Tom McCarty will again manage this process and he will have sample apparel items for you to inspect at the January business meeting. Cost per item includes the embroidered KYANA logo and your first name embroidered on the item, should you so desire.

Following are the available apparel items and **your cost** including embroidered logo and name (if desired):

- T-shirts (Light Blue) Sm-XL= **\$1** 2XL-3XL= **\$4** 4XL- 5XL = **\$6**
- Polo shirt - Choice of color - Sm-XL = **\$15** 2XL - 3XL **\$20**. Each size up (4X-6X) is \$3 more.
- Light blue oxford cloth shirt (short sleeve) Sm-XL= **\$30** 2XL and 3XL= **\$35**. Long sleeves add \$5.
- Zipper hooded sweatshirt - choice of color - Sm-XL= **\$25** 2XL-3XL= **\$29**. Larger sizes available at additional cost.

Should you want to order more than one item simply add \$15 to the cost of any additional item listed above. You will need to pay Tom McCarty when you place your order at the January meeting. Tom accepts a variety of payment methods including cash, check, and credit card. If you are unable to attend the January meeting and would like to order an item or two, Tom has graciously agreed to take orders over the phone. Tom's contact information is listed below. Again, you will need to provide payment upon placing a phone order. Come to the January meeting prepared to shop! Your finished items will be delivered to you at the Swap Meet planning meeting (or at the Swap Meet if you are unable to attend the Swap Meet meeting).

**Tom McCarty Phone or text: 502-649-7421**

**Email: [tommc204@gmail.com](mailto:tommc204@gmail.com)**

## THANK YOU!!!!



### Thanks for your generosity!

It's no secret that KYANA is a giving group. That was proven once again during our annual adult Christmas party when food donations for Dare to Care spilled over one full table top to a second table. KYANA members attending the party voluntarily donated 337 lb. of non-perishable food for our less fortunate neighbors in the Louisville metro area. A special thank you to Tim Truax who graciously agreed to drive his truck to the party, gather the donations, and drive them to the Dare to Care donation center. Thanks to everyone who participated for making the holidays a bit brighter for our neighbors.

## AWARDS AND ELECTIONS



Thank you to our host Beverly Foster coordinated our dinner with Cracker Barrel and it did not disappoint. Thank you Beverly and all your helpers who made this event enjoyable.



# LIGHT UP LOUISVILLE PARADE

What a day for a parade!! Thanks to all the KYANA members who brought out their cars. There were some that braved the cold weather and drove their convertibles with the top down!! Also check out who was locked in the paddy wagon with her two dogs. What a display!



## ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY



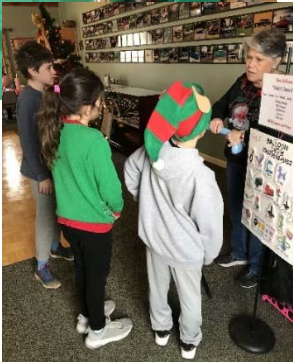
Shelly and Brian Koressel outdid themselves hosting the Adult Christmas Party this year. The addition of having live music was a real treat. Thanks to Pat Portman from the Country Music show for serenading us with her wonderful voice!! We all enjoyed a delicious dinner and talking with our fellow KYANA friends.





# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

KIDS!!! Santa!!! Grinch!!! What a trifecta. If you missed this party this year, you need to plan on attending next year. Just look at the smiling faces on the children and adults. Thanks to the Bass, Kubancik & Mulrooney Families for hosting this event.





**CAR FOR SALE**



For Sale: 1988 Rolls Royce long wheelbase Silver Spur. New suspension accumulators, fuel accumulator, A/C compressor, power seat controllers. Tan leather seats and interior wood are in excellent condition as is the paint. 37,400 Miles. \$27K. Photos available, Dennis Buchholz 502 552 0076, [Buchholz001@bellsouth.net](mailto:Buchholz001@bellsouth.net)

# A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

This letter was received from a family in Eastern Kentucky. As you will recall this area was hit hard with flooding. As stated in the letter, many families lost everything. KYANA Charities has made several donations to this cause. We should be proud of helping so many families.

Page 1 of 3

A Message to You from Flood Survivor Wilma Combs  
THANKSGIVING 2023

A message of Gratitude

Our family is full of love, excitement and thankfulness. We have traveled through a season of grief, loss, instability, uncertainty, and fear. Considering that season started back in 2021 with our community and our family facing a horrible flood. It devastated our lives. Our children were just overwhelmed with sadness for their family and friends. We did have some hope and began to recover quickly. Exhausted emotionally and strained financially we faced our second flood the following year 2022 and this time not only did we lose our home but we were broke relationally and financially and on top that we lost beloved members of our community. What we had recovered from the previous flood had been lost with so much more. The devastation was unlike anything we had ever experienced and this time there was no money or resources for us to fall back on. We bounced around alot. From motels, hotels, homeless shelters, camper trailers, and blessed family and friends homes. Our kids and us were scattered. Heartbroken and lost I became very still. I prayed and prayed and prayed some more.

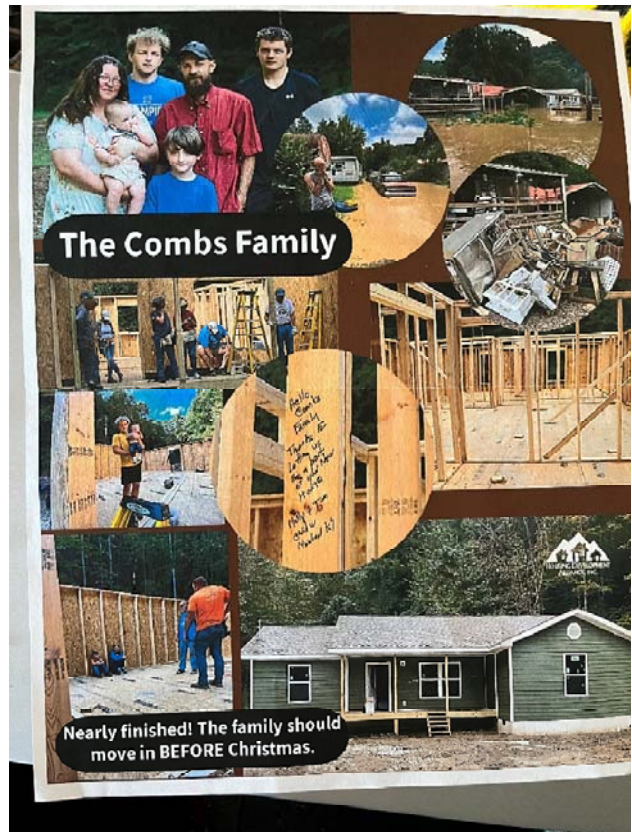
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You see we discovered that I was several weeks pregnant about 2 weeks after the biggest flood in July of 2022. Talk about ups and downs I couldn't help but feel blessed. Plus all our children safe with family and friends. So with scattered children and pregnant I held on tighter than ever to my faith. Then whispers of faith came, hold on your not alone, take care of today Gods got this and surely we did. Today we have a place to call home once again. God pulled us back together and made a miracle happen in our lives through the most selfless and compassionate donors I have ever encountered. I have watched donations roll in from all over the world. I have felt the love and compassion of those sending the answers to our growing needs. Donors who have never met us and may never get the opportunity to. Donors from all walks of life giving in diverse ways. Giving resources, funding recovery efforts, and giving their personal time from their families to reach ours and make a way for us. My words can not begin to express the gratitude and love that we have for each and every one that in some compassy has helped not only

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us but our communities here all over Ky with the devastation that we endured. There will be treasures missed and loved ones lost but memories are forever. That's where we will hold those we've lost and those who have through their own trials and life managed to donate to our cause. I am humbled by the love and passion to help all of us. I have such a large family so help doesn't come easy. I want you all to know how very thankful and humbled I am by what you have sent and given for all of us. This Thanksgiving we are thankful for each and every penny and every second of time donated to help us rebuild our homes and make memories with those precious to us. May God bless you all and cover you in his mercies and Grace. For he has move mountains for us through each of you.

Forever Gratefully  
The Combs Family  
Joshua, Wilma  
Joshua II, Destiny  
Dawson, Desmond  
Baby Emmett



## MY STREET ROD NATIONALS ADVENTURE

**KYANA member Stan Gaus shares his car story below.**

When I joined the KYANA car club in 2019, I was looking for a car and purchased a 1971 Camaro because that is what I drove in college. I think we all remember the days when we were young and had something that we wish we could have kept. Buying the Camaro was an adventure of its own, but this story is about the NSRA Street Rod Nationals experience of 2023.

I have said for many years that I miss the old cars because I could work on them. What I forgot was that I had to work on them. The Camaro has been a good reminder of this. Each year my drive from home in Shelbyville to the Fair and Exposition Center has been an adventure. The first year was overheating and rewiring cooling fans. The second year was more of the same, but the fans quit working and had to be replaced. 2023 was looking like the year that I could just drive back and forth without problems but that only lasted about 25 miles before the MSD ignition box overheated and quit firing. Luckily, I had some ice in my cooler, and I was back on the road. A sandwich sized ice bag each way and I made it through all four days of the event.



While sitting in the shade or walking around the NSRA event, I kept thinking about all of the nice quiet cruising cars that some people are driving. I listened to one guy talk about his 1963 Nova wagon that he drove to Gatlinburg and back and people talking about going on Power Tours. I started to think I needed more of a regular driving car that maybe even got better mileage. I also noticed that there were many cars for sale, but the prices were ridiculous on most of them.

While walking around the swap meet, I started looking at a 1962 Oldsmobile F85 Cutlass that a guy brought in on a trailer and had for sale at the swap meet asking \$9,500. The car was unique in several ways. It was a convertible, seemed to be original and has a 215 cubic inch aluminum engine that was only used by GM for three years before they sold it to Rover. Probably the most unique characteristic of the car was that it didn't run but would try to start on starting fluid. I looked at the car several different times but when I was ready to make an offer, the guy wasn't around.





After I arrived home, I called the number from the windshield of the car and made a \$7,000 offer to Bill which was quickly rejected with “thanks very much for the offer but I can’t sell it for less than \$9,000”. I was surprised by the quick rejection and thought I just needed to let Bill know that although I offered \$7,000, I wasn’t going over \$8,000 and that he could think about it. Well, it wasn’t very long before Bill called me. He proposed some counter discussion but just like at an auction, when you set your maximum bid, you must stay with it. Fortunately (or not) we made a deal, and I picked up the car in Mt. Washington.

After buying the car, and having it for a couple of days, I started to wonder what I had done and more importantly, why I did it. I did not need something else to take my time. Reflecting on the experience, I think several things played into the decision.

1. There were a lot of cars for sale at the NSRA event and most seemed to be very high priced for what they are.
2. A drunk person was really considering buying my Camaro for more than it is worth despite it not actually being for sale.
3. I was envious of people that have an old car that they can just drive around and cruise for longer distances.
4. A car that doesn’t run is not only more affordable, but also a challenge.
5. My friend didn’t deter me when looking at the car and my wife probably gives me too much freedom.

I probably shouldn’t have let everyone in the club know what I paid for the car because you may start to question my intelligence, but I must own it now. I used to deal poorly with buyers’ remorse but now I realize the best that I can do is try to learn from the experience. The lessons that I take away are:

1. Don’t believe everyone’s story and don’t envision yourself in it.
2. Just because something costs a whole lot less than something that doesn’t need work, doesn’t mean it’s a good deal.
3. If I have a drunk person looking at my car again, I’ll get his money before Monday when he must sober up to go back to work.
4. Cutlass was originally just a trim package, and my Oldsmobile is an F85.

I was going to end the story here, but some people would wonder if I have done anything with the car that I don’t have time for since purchasing it. It has been two months since the NSRA was in Louisville but that only equates to a few hours to work on an old car. In that time, I have:

1. Had to go get the trailer to bring the Camaro home after a show in Shelbyville and it now has an HEI distributor.
2. Managed to get the F85 running although not smoothly. It has a miss that I haven’t had time to figure out yet.
3. Driven the F85 up and down my driveway. One wheel sometimes locks when applying the brakes.

I am planning to drive the F85 to the 2024 KYANA picnic and hopefully will see you there. I want to close by wishing everyone the best on whatever your project is and encouraging you to write a little story to share with your car club.



Best regards,

Stan Gaus

## HUDSON AUTOMOBILES

### HUDSON AUTOMOBILES: 1909-1957

Steve Lippmann

January 2024



1909 Hudson

Hudson cars in the U.S.A. had a nearly 50-year run. It all began in Detroit, Michigan - like so many other American automobile brands. The Hudson Motor Car Company was founded in 1909 by Joseph L. Hudson, the owner of Detroit Hudson Department Stores. Together with a group of Detroiters, they started the company named after him. Automotive production began at an old Aerocar factory, that was helped by some other car enthusiasts, including Ransom E. Olds and Roy D. Chapin (whose son decades later became president of the Hudson-Nash/ American Motors Corporation). The Hudson Motor Car Company did remarkably well in their first three decades; however, subsequent sales consistently declined. They then merged with Nash-Kelvinator in 1954, but that too, failed to rejuvenate sales. Finally, the Hudson name as a vehicle disappeared in 1957.

Their first production car was the so-called Hudson "20". At \$1,000, it was one of the first lower-priced cars available; they reportedly sold about 4,508 Hudsons during 1910, rating them as the company with the highest first-year manufacturing output in this country's history up to that point. Success mandated a bigger factory, and they relocated near the original Chalmers Automobile plant. Reportedly, 6,486 motor vehicles were built in 1911. Then, too, they introduced their still lower-cost Essex car brand, with some in the \$300 range. {Note: Chalmers' later merger with Maxwell resulted in the advent of another Detroit automotive name, Chrysler}.

Fisher Body Company, also of Detroit, initially made Hudson car bodies; they similarly supplied many other auto companies. By 1923, coachbuilding was contracted to Biddle and Smart, with bodies made of aluminum, not steel. However, with their own body plant in 1926, they also fabricated steel bodies for Hudson and Essex. Their balanced crankshaft engine, the Super-6, outperformed many other powerplants of this era. Hudson initially designed their own engines, and straight-6s were the standard for most, but not all, Hudsons. During the later 1920s, they trailed only Ford and Chevrolet in production numbers – for example, by 1929, about 300,000 cars were made that year. Hudsons were the

first automobile with a dual braking system and dashboard warning lights. The company also expanded production into Belgium and England.



For a change, the 1930 Hudson-8 and Essex cars ran with a powerful straight-8 cylinder newly designed engine. It was provided with a smooth-running, nicely counterbalanced, 5 main-bearing crankshafts with several vibration dampers. It was fast and successfully motorized a 1931 Indianapolis

500 race car. Amelia Earhart helped advertise the 1932 introduction of a new Hudson Company automobile brand, Terraplane, while the Essex name was being discontinued. The 1936 Hudsons were bigger, still more powerful (93-124 HP), and came with updated suspensions that yielded a better ride. Yet, by 1939, Terraplane, too, was dropped to augment



the Hudson "112" nameplate, and that same year an assembly plant was started in Canada. Through the Bendix Corporation these cars then first offered optional accessories like a vacuum-powered automatic-clutch and a steering-column-mounted electronic gear selector, that made the front seat floor more passenger convenient.

*1938 Terraplane*

The 1940 models were equipped with independent front suspension and shock absorbers incorporated within the coil springs. The Hudson Super-6 version was re-introduced to the lineup. By 1941, car bodies were still larger, and wheelbases further lengthened. An improved synchromesh manual transmission was introduced along with an automatic transmission equipped with overdrive. Vehicles were lower and running boards were incorporated within the body. Further changes were initiated through the hire of Elizabeth Ann Thatcher, an automobile designer. She was to create designs that appealed more to women buyers; that resulted in more lighting and nicer interiors. Nevertheless, she soon left the company to marry Joe Oros, a Cadillac designer, who later was Ford's chief of the Mustang automobile design team.

The World War II years of 1942-1945 witnessed a switch from consumer automotive manufacture to naval engines, aircraft guns, and airplane parts, especially ailerons, etc. Hudson still also made military vehicles and other weapons, for example, they built 20 mm Oerlikon cannons for the Navy utilizing unaltered Swiss blueprints.

Fisher Body Company (or after 1926, Fisher Body Division of General Motors) had long been interested in purchasing Hudson and even developed some prototypes to be their new vehicle offerings. By 1944, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, a major Hudson stockholder, was considered to possibly sell her majority holdings. Yet, due to unanticipated stock market price changes, finances were inadequate, and ownership transfer was never accomplished.

Automobile production for the public resumed after WWII and a pickup truck was added to the lineup. By 1948, Hudson famously introduced "step-down" bodies. These cars were now built with lowered passenger compartments, surrounded by the frame. That yielded greater safety, comfort, and handling; this innovation was copied throughout the industry. By 1951, a still more powerful engine became available and a GM, 4-speed Hydramatic transmission was optional. Early 1950s Hudsons became famous for being fast, top speedsters at auto racing circuits. They set lots of speedy track-records and even drag-race wins, with success based on high torque and low weight.

Nevertheless, the early 1950s dominance in the vehicle market by Chrysler, GM, and Ford led to declining sales for many smaller automobile makers, including Hudson. Even Hudson's racy, powerful reputation failed to boost sales. Profitability declined and only the Korean War's government military orders allowed the company to stay in business. Sales and income did not get better into the mid-1950s either. Merger ideas between Hudson, Nash, Packard, and Studebaker were for years already considered, hoping to give these four small companies greater market-economy-of-scale power. Finally, in 1954 Hudson and Nash-Kelvinator formed American Motors Corporation (AMC), with headquarters in Southfield, Michigan. {Note: From 1916 - 1922 there had once been another unrelated New Jersey auto firm founded by Louis Chevrolet of the exact same name}. AMC operated a Hudson factory in Detroit to build larger cars in several different

versions and retained the Kenosha, Wisconsin, Nash plant to build products under the Hudson nameplate. There they also concentrated on making Ramblers and Metropolitans, early compact-type cars.

A parts-sharing plan allowed them to obtain and install Packard V-8 engines and Ultramatic automatic transmissions during 1955. The American Motors Corporation continued to use them even after a Packard-Studebaker merger; yet, there were few products going from AMC to Packard-Studebaker. These Packard engines were so costly that AMC switched to produce their own power plants in 1956. By 1955, Hudson and Nash utilized common body-shell manufacture with different parts from each brand, but with some individualized aspects. For example, they shared Hudson dashboards and brakes, Nash heaters, a Harrison Radiator Corporation built air conditioner, and a Hudson-type front cowl. Other automakers did the same. Lots of KYANA folks remember the 1955 - 1957 Hudson Hornets. We see them periodically; one appeared in our 2023 KYANA clubhouse June car show.



*Metropolitan*

Hudson dealerships sold some Rambler and Metropolitan models - identified by the Hudson name on the hood, grill, horn button, and some had an "H" symbol on the gasoline filler caps and/or hubcaps. Sales remained disappointing despite new styling, dual carburetor manifolds, and better, more powerful engines (e.g., 202 cubic inch displacement and a 308 cu in version with high compression). Without much marketing change, Hudson and Nash were permanently dropped out of the AMC vehicle offerings in 1957. That ended almost five decades of their presence.

My parents owned a secondhand Hudson back in the 1940s, at a time before my memory focused on cars. Yet, I clearly remember their next one: a gray, 2-door 1948 Silver Streak Pontiac with a Hydramatic transmission. Pontiac offered several big straight-8 engines that boasted four different displacements at: 223, 233, 249, and 268 cubic inch sizes, and always included the famous Indian-chief head-ornament, prominently mounted up front, on top of the hood.

In the late 1950s, I sometimes saw Hudsons also on automobile dirt-racetracks during my teenage days; often that included, thrilling but very dangerous figure-8 stock-car races and exciting, running-only-in-reverse demolition derbies. Back then, I probably drove my mother's 1951 Chevrolet to witness these events.

KYANA folks near my age remember seeing Hudsons as regular family cars out on the roads in the 1950s. The history of Hudson includes so many economic aspects, all about competition, new engineering innovations, consumer taste and changes, good or bad luck, and twice, the external events of war-mandated changes in production.





**KYSWAP  
KYANA SWAP MEET  
LARGEST INDOOR  
SWAP MEET**



**57<sup>th</sup> YEAR - SINCE 1965**

**March 9-10, 2024**

**KY State Fair & Exposition Center  
937 Phillips Lane  
Louisville, KY 40209**

**Saturday – 8:00am – 6:00pm**

**Sunday – 8:00 – 4:00pm**



Admission - \$10.00 per day  
Children under 12 Free with an adult

Room for over 1140 Vendors under one roof

Regular Space - (10x20) - \$90.00

Corner Space - (10x20) - \$100.00

Carpeted Space - (10x10) - \$50.00

100 Space Outside Car Corral

Contact: Kevin Alwes

502-468-1442

\$30.00 per space



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## KYANA EVENTS FOR 2024

DATE	EVENT	SPONSOR
January 28	January Business Meeting	Donna Burchett
February 16	Derby Dinner Playhouse	Alethea Hayes
February 17	Collector Car Insurance and Woodgraining	Mark Kubancik
February 25	Swap Meet Planning Meeting	Morgan Howard
March 8-10	KYANA Swap Meet	Robertson & Vannatta
March 29	Salvage Yard Tour	Mark Kubancik
April	Easter Egg Hunt	Beverly Foster
April	Swap Meet Appreciation Dinner	Jenni Mulrooney
May	KYANA Spring Clubhouse Clean Up	Jerry Bass
May	Middletown Police Foundation Car Show	Greg Gitschier
June	KYANA Yard Sale	Hill Families
July 4	Norton Commons July 4 <sup>th</sup> Parade	Mark Kubancik
August 6	National Night Out	Jerry Bass
August 1-4	NSRA Street Rod Nationals	Terry Craven & Mark Kubancik
August	Country Music Show	David Hill
September 2	KYANA Open Car Show	Jerry & Carol Bass
September	JDRF /Ford KTP Car Show	Shawn McDonald
September	KYANA Picnic	Pat Palmer-Ball
October 8-11	Hershey Fall Nationals	AACA
October	St Francis Car Show	Steve Lippmann
October	Corydon Fall Auto Show	
October	Kentucky Railway Museum Car Show	Neil White
November	Toys for Tots Breakfast	Alan & Maureen Vannatta
November	Veteran's Day Parade	Chester Robertson
November	Awards and Elections	Beverly Foster
December	Light up Louisville Parade	Alan Vannatta
December	Adult Christmas Party	Brian & Shelly Koressel
December	Children's Christmas Party	Bass, Kubancik & Mulrooney Families
December	Christmas Country Music Show	Brian & Ruth Hill

# THE SIDELIGHT

KYANA

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE OF AMERICA

Volume 106

January 2024

Number 88



Sidelight Editor  
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Batavia, OH 45103

On the cover:

KYANA member Stan  
Gaus shares his car  
story.

