

Suwannee River Region AACA 2023 Officers

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- Looking Back to 2022, 5 7 & 18
- Club Information 2
- President's Message 3
- Editor's Notes 3
- Minutes (None) 4
- TECH/SAFETY Air Filters 9
- Christmas Party 10
- Roosevelt Armored Car 12
- Birthdays & Anniversaries 13
- The Roadmap / Sunshine Report -13
- National Articles 14
- Advertising 15, 16, & 17

NEED A PERFECT GIFT IDEA ?

I can't think of a better gift to give someone who loves this hobby than an AACA membership. Do you have friends and family who aren't current members and enjoy antique cars as much as you do? With the benefits of *Antique Automobile* magazine and the Library & Research Center alone, how can you go wrong?!

> An AACA membership is a unique gift that gives all year long! Call us today at 717-534-1910!

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"WE BECOME WHAT WE THINK ABOUT

THOUGHT

FOR THE

MONTH



NEW MEMBER ARRIVALS

None This Month

Please remember to play up and promote our GREAT CLUB to your friends that may share our interests and enjoy what we do!



The Oil Can is the official publication of the Suwannee River Region Antique Automobile Club of America. The purpose of this journal is to keep our members and friends informed of local, regional and national activi-

ties and functions as well as our meetings and other important dates.

The content, views and opinions of the articles in <u>The Oil Can</u> are those of the named author and may not necessarily conform with those of the Editor, the Board of Directors of both the AACA National and the Suwannee River Region or our members. All clip art comes from sources that grant permission for their use.

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<u>Unless otherwise noted, photos are submitted</u> by the Editor.

Suwannee River Region AACA P O Box 7095 Lake City, FL 32055



The Preservation of Old Cars

The Suwannee River Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America, is a family friendly organization, located in North Florida. We love old cars, good food and enjoy above average comradery with each other. Our members are involved in local, state and national events.

Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month currently at The Wellborn Community Association and starts at 7:00PM. Door opens at 6:30PM. We cover necessary business, but the meetings are always light, interesting and involve all members and guests.

If you have an interest in old cars, please consider joining us. You do not have to own an antique car to join our region or AACA.

For more information, contact: Shirley McManus, President at 386.365.9643, or Don Downs, Editor at 904.483.0367

2



A Message from Our President

Shirley MeManus

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR JANUARY 2023 Edited by Don Downs

I'm hoping that you all had a very Merry Christmas and I know I'm looking forward to a brand-new year. This will be a short message simply because I was not at home for most of the month of December. Traveling to Pennsylvania this time of year was stressful. Our club always says family comes first and I needed to be there for my brother. I will say I was amazed how many older classic cars I saw in my travels. They were not on I-95... they were on the back roads in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. It was all I could do to keep from stopping and inquiring about them. I did have to put all that aside and focus on my mission. I did get back right before Christmas and Bill was happy about that.

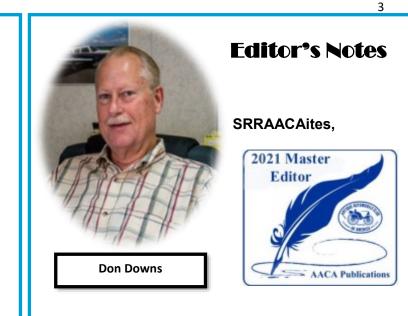
Unfortunately, I could not be at the Christmas Party. I want to thank Jimmy and Michelle Huntsman for hosting the party at their home. A big Thank you to Chef Don Downs for cooking all of the meat that you enjoyed, a big thanks to Kelly and Ralph orchestrating the whole thing, and for Alex who blessed everyone with his Christmas music. I also thank everyone that brought side dishes. I'm so sorry I missed it. I know you all had a wonderful time.

Looking over the calendar, January has a few options for



us! January 7th the club is planning a trip to The Tallahassee Antique Auto Museum. I do

need to know if you are planning to come ASAP. They need to know a count in advance. The club will be paying for the admission for members. We will start out at the Wellborn Breakfast first and then head for



So here we are at the beginning of another year. Let's hope things are good in 2023 and that everyone stays healthy and happy!

I have noticed that we are having less and less people at meetings and even the party had only 21 people. I am not sure why exactly, but if you are one of the ones not coming... why don't you let one of the board know the reason or reasons and we will try to correct it. I have a sneaking suspicion it may be driving a distance in the dark? It seems we may have better attendance during daylight savings time where it is still light out after the meeting. Not sure... but we were seemingly continually growing our attendance year round when our meetings were in Lake City at El Potro. Whatever... please let us know what will make more of you inclined to come each month. Please... we will listen. We want you!

I am truly honored to have been doing the Oil Can and winning awards for it over the past 3 years. Here I am starting my 4th year. Folks... I am getting weary. I am asking for someone to consider taking it over. I will offer help if you do. I will write stories... assist... or if you like... just let you run wild. It has been rewarding and I am glad you all seem to like it. It could be rewarding for you too! When I took over, I clearly stated that I could do it temporarily but it would be toned down and shorter than the great newsletters that Ralph had been doing. Well, I obviously did not tone them down... and took it to winning the Best of the Best. I would love to see someone else try to take it there... I can never win it again... If nothing changes, I may need to now actually tone it down. I am getting weary.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !





(continued on page 8)

The Oil Can Volume 9 Issue 1



Meeting Minutes

DECEMBER 2022 BOARD MEETING MINUTES Edited by Don Downs



 ${f T}$ here was no meeting in December and therefore there was no board meeting.

DECEMBER 2022 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Edited by Don Downs

There was no meeting in December.





As many of you already know, Alex had purchased a 55 Chevy and has been working to get it ready for an AACA judging. He is taking it to the National in Miami here very shortly. Both Kelly and Ralph have been helping him to get ready. Kelly has offered up his trailer and Ralph has offered up his truck to pull it. Looks like they have a plan in place! Let's all hope that Alex earns the award he is after.



LOOKING BACK TO 2022

Story & Pics by Don Downs



n **JANUARY**, we simply reviewed 2021... That year was the first kind of comeback from COVID and we had a lot of nice events and things to do.



FEBRUARY brought out some details and information about a new member at the time. Our feature was called A VET'S VETTE. This was a great story about Ted Shiska and his various cars and life adventures



Ted's Vette

Ann Eady Award

MARCH was the month after the AACA National Convention which was held up in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Mar



and I flew ourselves up to Pennsyl-

vania. It was a great trip. I won the Best of the Best Ann S. Eady Award for my 2021 efforts with The Oil Can. I would sure like to turn The Oil Can over to one of you so that you could have a chance at winning this prestigious award. Just let me know if you are interested!

APRIL we featured the AACA Winter Nationals which were held in Melbourne, Florida. This was a special event for Ralph Towner as he took his Pontiac Lemans for a shot at the First Junior. Ralph was successful in getting that award and it was no secret how tickled he was about it. Kelly and Alex were a part of this event as well. In fact,



Alex won a Preservation Award for his beautiful Cougar.

There was an invitation by our neighboring AACA Region in Gainesville to join up for a trip the Koch Museum in MAY. Both Ralph and I decided to make that trip! What a great time and what a wonderful collection of cars, memorabilia and other things... like barber shave cups. Anyway, it was somewhat of a drive to get to it, but worth the trip for certain.



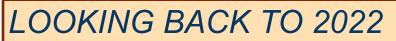
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rade... how could you not have a

great time? I'd say... good food,

PARADE

great events, just a great time.



(continued from page 5)

JUNE was a big month for us as the Wellborn Blueberry Festival and parade was a big event! We are talking big plates of Blueberry Pancakes... great events, great prizes... a wonderful pa-



JULY brought out another new member with Guns & Goats. This feature reviewed some history with Jay Stinson over the years. He had spent



Guns & GOATS !



6

Nothing like a GOAT !



much of his career in detective and undercover work. That transitioned into owning a gun shop. He has had a few nice cars but now enjoys his GTO (Goat).

AUGUST was a special month where we celebrated a milestone. How many folks can say they have had a car for 50 years? How many can say they have had a car (or should I say truck) for 50 years of continuous use? Bill has used this Jeep pickup truck as his "daily driver" for 50 years. He bought the thing brand new off the lot and has been the single owner since.

(continued on page 7)



We were at the Wellborn Blueberry Festival... NOT Gotham City!

LOOKING BACK TO 2022 OCTOBER tells the story of Sherm and his restoration repair shop here in Lake City. Sherm has a big shop and does basic repairs, repairs to

OCTOBER tells the story of Sherm and his restoration repair shop here

(continued from page 6)

Bill's Jeep has gone through a handful of transformations over the years. Color changes... commercial use to private use... snow plower to tow vehicle ... One thing is for certain ... Bill has never wanted for a different truck! He loves this one!



I promise... that is not a new car in for warranty work LOL

Work Truck...

Daily Driver...

SEPTEMBER brings us to the SHOEBOX LOVE AFFAIR. It is no secret that although Alex has a prized Mercury Cougar... his love is and



always has been with the Chevy lineup. He has had a handful too.



Most recently Alex got himself a 55 and brought it to near perfect condition. He recently began getting awards for it. He plans to take it to Miami here real soon to snag yet another award!



classics, body and paint, and restorations. am not certain, but I think he prefers the resto end of his business. know that he has done various types of work for many of our club members both recently and over the years. Sherm and

7

Rhonda have also hosted our picnic a few times at their house by the lake. That is such a nice place and a super setting for a picnic too!



(continued on page 18)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 3)

Tallahassee. No need to bring your classic. Anyone that's wants to carpool please let me know. If you have not been there before, it's a must see. If you choose not to go with us there is a car show in Live Oak that day as well.

Jumping ahead to February... WOW three events back-toback! Moose Lodge Valentine Car Show on February 11th, the Olustee Festival on the 18th, and then the American Legion Chili Cook-Off and car show on the 25th. Lots of good things coming up for this new year. Take of advantage of your membership and come out to the meetings and the events. You never know what you might miss.

Happy New Year. May it be a very healthy one for all of us.



NATIONAL DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE IF THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ALREADY SENT !! DO NOT MAIL TO PAY CALL 717.534.1910 NOW !!

Membership Corner: What Are My Current AACA Membership Benefits?

Did you know that AACA is one of the oldest, largest and most inclusive car clubs in the world with more than 45,000 members? Here's a reminder of what you currently get with your membership...

- Yearly National Convention, car shows and tours
- 138 Judged Classes including Original, Driver Participation, Race Cars and more
- Great program for Judges, plus awards
- AACA.org website includes FREE forums where you can buy, sell and more
- Beautiful bi-monthly 100-page magazine, *Antique Automobile*, featuring member vehicles, historical articles, event accounts and technical pieces
- Scholarship and Military programs
- 350 Local Regions and Chapters
- Monthly email newsletter, Speedster
- World-class awards and trophies
- Expanded AACA Library Collection and 2 hours of FREE research each year
- Specialty programs such as mileage awards, 50-year member pins, etc.
- And much more!

Thank you for being a current AACA member and for spreading the word about this great club!



TECH/SAFETY



Story by Don Downs - Pics are file photos

The air filter prevents dirty air from entering the car's engine. They keep dirt and abrasives out of the combustion chamber greatly adding to the life of your engine. In general, engine performance depends on the cleanliness and quality of the air filter.

Currently, there are three types of car air filters on the market. They have different characteristics according to their filtering material.

Paper Air Filter

This type of filter uses paper as its main filter element. Various car manufacturers commonly use this type of air filter. The filterability of a paper filter is very good and can remove even very small particles of dirt and dust.

Foam Air Filter

This type of filter uses foam as the main filter element. It is often called a wet foam filter, as it requires some oil to filter out very small dirt. Unfortunately, this type of filter has a relatively short lifespan.

Fabric Air Filter

The fabric air filter uses cloth as the main filter element. Not only is it very good at filtering out small dirt, but it is also easy to clean. The popular K&N filters are cloth. They are able to be cleaned and re-treated offering a long life.

There are older "metal & oil" filters that were common way back on very early engines. The media was almost like a scouring pad soaked in oil. This is not often found any longer.

You may add a new and better filter to your classic but save the original type if you are entering any AACA judged shows so you do not lose points.





CHRISTMAS PARTY

Story and Pictures by Don Downs

We were fortunate to again be able to have our annual



THE BEGINNINGS

(her brother) matters. Both Ralph and Kelly stepped in and did an excellent job of picking up and running with

Christmas party at the beautiful home of the Huntsman's. The setting there is so nice to celebrate such an occasion.

This year, it was sad that Shirley was unable to be a part of it. She had to do the "family first" thing and go up North to attend to some family crisis



first" thing and go party matters. I think we all wish to jump in and thank up North to attend those two for pulling it all together.

(continued on page 11)





(continued from page 10)

As has been customary for the past number of years, I was elected to do the cooking of the main courses for our holiday feast. I have been accepting the challenge so long as someone else makes the REAL mashed potatoes. This year, Norm Silver and Katrina Gibson stepped up to the plate and made a heaping helping of delicious mashed potatoes! So I made us roast turkey, roast pork loin, stuffing, and both turkey and pork gravies. There were so many other great things that I am sorry, but I lost track of where most of them originated. One side was so unordinary that I had to find the source. Doreen and Bob Hoffman put together a combo of Brussel sprouts with bacon and bacon fat that was simply fantastic. I have no idea where the mac and cheese came from but it was a



<complex-block>

delight as well. And some of the deserts... oh my...

Anyway, the party went on and Alex hammered the ivories a bit. Although turnout was less than hoped for, I think it is safe to say that we had a great time.

Relaxing



Roosevelt's Armored Car

The Story and Picture Are Anonymous

Hours after Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Se- The car was sold at an auction price of \$341,000 in 2012. cret Service found themselves in a bind. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was to give his infamy speech to Con- After this, there was an actual armored car created for him gress the next day, and although the trip from the White in 1942. It would be the first of a kind Presidential ar-House to Capitol Hill was short, agents weren't sure how mored car. It was engineered from the ground up at a to transport him safely.

At the time, Federal Law prohibited buying any cars that cost more than \$750, so they would have to get clearance Every President since has had specially designed armored from Congress to do that, and nobody had time for that. vehicles. One of the Secret Service members, however, remembered that the US Treasury had seized the bulletproof car that mobster Al Capone owned when he was sent to jail in 1931.

They cleaned it, made sure it was running fine and had it ready for the President December 8.

And run properly it did. Capone's car was a sight to behold. It had been painted black and green so as to look identical to Chicago's police cars at the time. It also had a specially installed siren and flashing lights hidden behind the grille, along with a police scanner radio. To top it off, the gangster's 1928 Cadillac 341A Town Sedan had 3,000

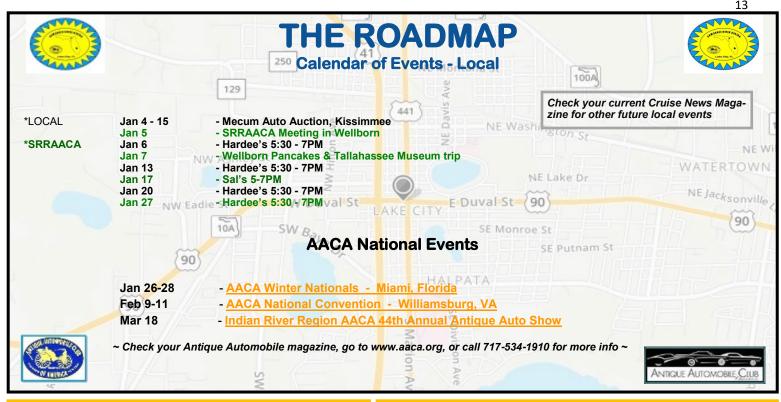
pounds of armor and inch-thick bulletproof windows. Mechanics are said to have cleaned and checked each feature of the Caddy well into the night of December 7th, to make sure that it would run properly the next day for the Commander in Chief.

cost of over a million dollars. In 1942... a million bucks was a heck of a lot of money! Way more than \$750 !!



First official Armored Car... a 1942 Lincoln







Shirley has safely returned from her trip to Pennsylvania. Her plans took a different turn than she had expected. Her brother became ill while she was there and required surgery followed by another surgery in a few weeks and then rehab. Shirley will likely tell us more about it in her President's message.

Doreen Hoffman has recently had a COVID event. Apparently, her church seemed to have a high number of their folks with it. Perhaps that is where she got it?

Please read: If you have not paid your local and/or national membership dues, they are now past due. Please look for the information telling how to pay them in this issue. **Reminder: To be a member of our Suwannee River Region your national dues must be current.**

Our first meeting of 2023 will be this Thursday evening, January 5th, starting around 7:15 pm at the Wellborn Community Center. Please make plans to attend and learn what is in store for this year. **If you have not paid your local dues**, you may give them to our **treasurer**, **Roy Spurling** at the meeting. See you there!

Kelly Jordan and I are helping Alex Fardales to take his 1955 Belaire to Miami on January 26th to show at the AACA Southeastern Winter Nationals. I am pulling Alex's car in Kelly's trailer with my truck. Both Kelly and I are almost as thrilled to be involved in the event as Alex is. We will be attending several events that the South Florida Region AACA is sponsoring. Kelly and I will be helping with judging at the Saturday show. Look for the details in an article in an upcoming issue of The Oil Can. It's been a good year for our SRRAACA club. Our members have attended many events and helped with several charities during 2022. If you have any ideas that you think would make 2023 a better year, let Shirley or one of the Board members know. Wishing each of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2023!

Remember to let me know of anything you would like published in the Sunshine Report.





Overheating By Fred Trusty AACA Executive Vice President

Ever since I bought my 1935 Packard 120 it had an intermittent overheating issue but if I keep the car moving and it's no problem. Last year on the day of our local region picnic the temperature was in the low 90's but I decided to drive the Packard anyway. I thought, it's only 25 miles to the clubhouse so what could happen? Why is it that in situations like this what could happen always does? We got caught in stop and go traffic and the car overheated, died, and wouldn't restart. Sitting in a 1935 Packard at the side of the road on a humid 90-degree day is not fun but at least I could say, "my wife is hot." We got to ride home in a new chauffer driven Ford F-450 tow truck. Needless to say we were very late for the picnic, but the good news is there was still food left.

Early this summer, I finally found time to start work on the overheating problem. Even after sitting in the garage all those months it fired right up. The first thing I checked was the thermostat. Using my cordless infrared thermometer, I heated a pan of water on the stove to 150 degrees and then put the thermostat in the water and then turned up the heat. Right at 160 degrees it opened. I let the water cool and it closed.

The second thing I did was pull the radiator out and have it pressure and flow tested. It tested fine plus the local shop didn't charge me anything. He said he liked old Packards. Next, I plugged the lower block coolant fitting and filled the block with water through the thermostat neck. Then I opened the block draincock and clean water came out with no rust or debris.

Hmm! What to do next? I got on the AACA Forum. One of the posts said to check the coolant distribution tube that runs the length of the block behind the water pump. Off came the water pump and out came the tube. Both were in good shape. By now I'm thinking, "What the heck is going on here?" I called several friends to see if they could think of anything, but they suggested what I had already done.

I must have read the cooling section in the Packard shop manual a dozen times. Then I looked at the parts diagram. The thermostat is held in the neck by a sleeve which is basically an open-ended cylinder with a flare on one end which is used to hold the thermostat in the neck. Someone who had worked on the car in the past had put the sleeve in backwards preventing the thermostat from opening.

To be sure the sleeve was the problem, on a very hot day I drove the car slowly at a stop and go pace for about 30 minutes. The temperature stayed in the 160–180 degree range. Then I let it sit in the sun idling. After about 15 minutes the temperature started to go past the 180 degree mark but when I drove it the temperature went back down. At some point I might install an electric fan but for the time being I'm just going to drive and enjoy the car.



The Way We Were By Don Barlup, Vice President National Headquarters & Library

I am a fan of "Turner Classic Movies". The history of transportation fills the streets in each early movie I watch. From Model T's to classics and the luxury chrome laden rides of the 50's and 60's. Early trucks as in they "Drive By Night" is one of my favorites. It's great to relive these memories of early motoring at the click of the remote.

> Speaking of reliving memories: I remember 1500 plus cars at Hershey. I remember 300 plus cars on the AAA Glidden

Tour.

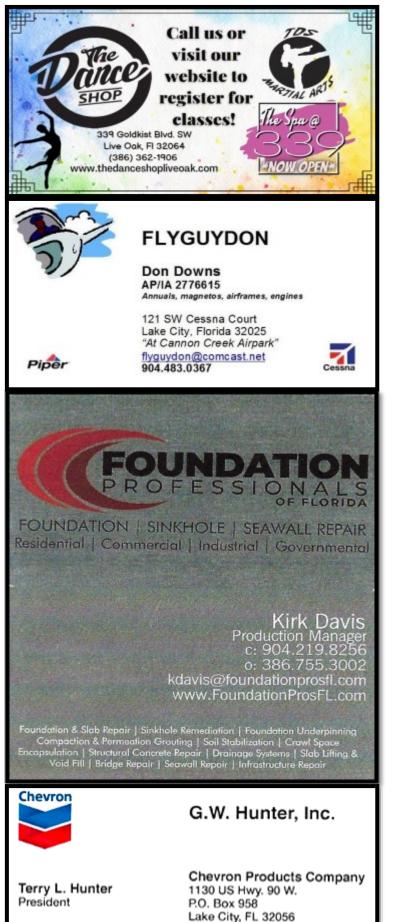
I remember the National Events Calendar filling up fast with meets and tours 2 to 3 years in advance.

Yes, I know! We were all younger in the I remember days! Well, we need to make those I remember days the days of tomorrow! As active AACA Regions and Chapters we need to up our thinking and get back to those days of increased participation and a full National Activities Calendar.

We started as a single cylinder club and progressed to 16 cylinders. We are now at 8 cylinders. Your club needs to get back to 12 cylinders. Let's get it done! Together we can!

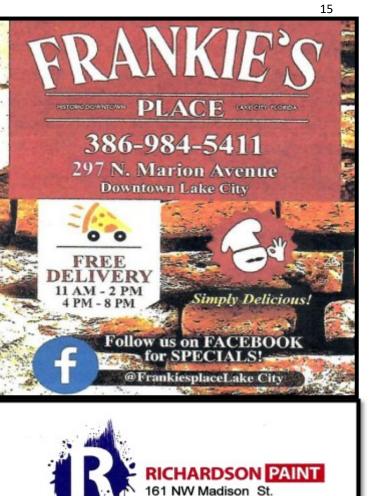






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15

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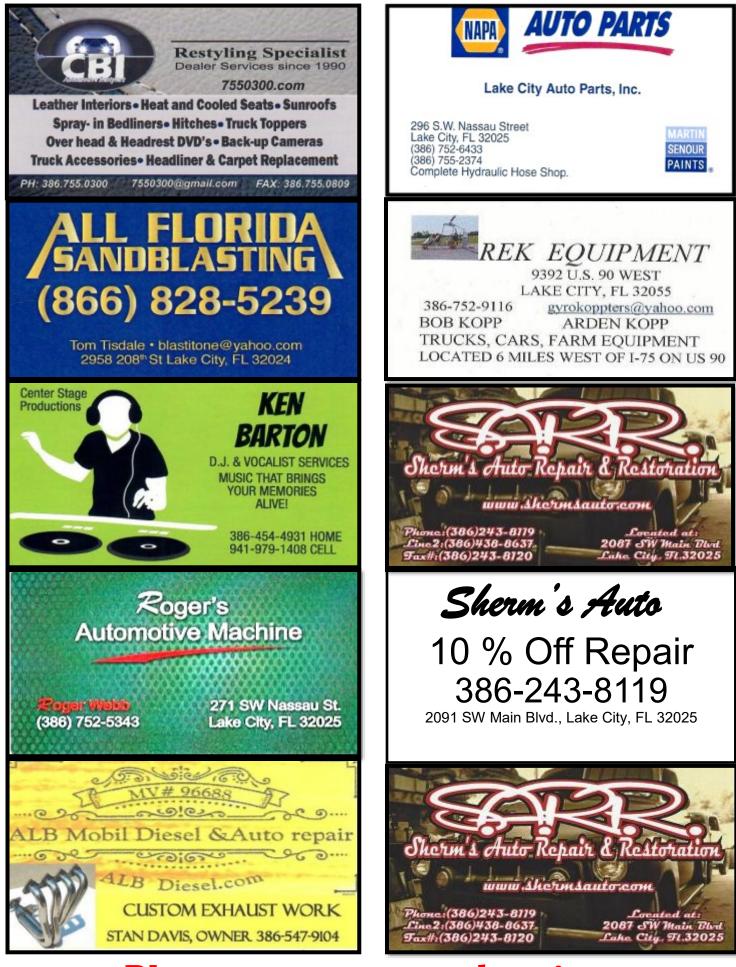


The Oil Can Volume 9 Issue 1





The Oil Can Volume 9 Issue 1



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17



(continued from page 7)

NOVEMBER is a sweet month! All about AACA Nationals



in Hershey Pennsylvania. Ralph made a trip up to see the new library and be a part of this national event. He also did participate in the judging too.



volved with. He makes it a point to always go to the Turkey Run in Daytona which happens each year Thanksgiving. near He also made a trek to his old stomping grounds in Miami to visit the Miami International Auto Show. That one includes a feature you are not likely to find very often... a major huge



<image>



Beautiful Lineup !

car show that is all indoors under AC! What a huge place that is. I can't imagine the electric bill !

Ralph has wanted to get a reason to go up and see the new library and this was just the perfect opportunity for him to do that.

DECEMBER highlighted a few events that Alex was in-





Alex at the Turkey Run



Alex Thinks That Shirley Might Like This Brand New Camaro