

**JANUARY/
FEBRUARY,
2025
SUWANNEE
RIVER REGION
AACA
LAKE CITY,
FLORIDA
WELCOME 2025!**



**VOLUME 11
ISSUE 1
Jan /Feb, 2025**



**Next Meeting ¹
Wellborn Community Center
January 2nd 2025**



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025



**Ralph Towner signing off as Editor of the Oil Can.
A break well earned & deserved.**

Details on page 3 ~ Cover story on page 5

Notice: Any member who has not paid their membership dues by now need to contact Ralph Towner acting Treasurer at 386-397-4571. The local dues are \$20. Please pay them at January 2nd meeting or write a check for \$20, payable to SRRAACA and mail it ASAP to: Ralph Towner 503 NW Armadillo LN Lake City, FL 32055.

These dues are considered delinquent as of 12/31/2024. The complete information was on page 10 of the Nov/Dec issue of the Oil Can newsletter.

National dues are \$45. Please see page 13 for a complete reprint of that important information.

Suwannee River Region AACA 2025 Officers

President:	Kelly Jordan
Vice President:	Sherman Stanley
Secretary:	Doreen Hoffman
Treasurer:	Nina Howd
Board of Directors	
One year:	Harry McGinnis Leo Hart
Two Year:	Ron Manna Alex Fardales
Webmaster:	Don Downs
Newsletter Editors:	Gerald & Nina Howd
Website address:	www.srraaca.com
All SRRACA Email:	srraaca@comcast.net



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**Cover: Ralph Towner in his
Pontiac LeMans Sprint**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*Any day above ground is
a good day. Before you
complain about anything,
be thankful for your life
and the things that are
still going well.*

Germany Kent



NEW MEMBER ARRIVALS

Arthur Seibrecht - 1971 Ford Torino

*Encourage anyone you know with a
classic or antique car or just an
interest in the hobby to join AACA
and our SRRACA Region.*



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

The content, views and opinions of the articles in The Oil Can 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.

Other AACA newsletter editors may use articles from The Oil Can by giving credit for the article to the Editor of The Oil Can and the Suwannee River Region AACA.

Unless otherwise noted, photos are submitted by the Editor.

Suwannee River Region AACA

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, Florida Community Center 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:
Kelly Jordan, President at 386.758.3249, or
Gerald Howd, Editor at 386.288.0448

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 and Research Center alone, how can you go wrong?!

An AACA membership is a unique gift that gives all year long!

Web: aaca.org Call : 717-534-1910



Kelly Jordan
President



Shirley McManus
Previous President

A message from our newly elected President

HO HO HO ! Good Tidings everyone! I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and have had all the turkey, ham, dressing and all your favorite dishes and desserts that you could stand. Its been reported to me (thru confidential sources) that Santa with all the reindeer and sleigh are safely back at the North Pole. Santa wanted to relay back to y'all that Grandma did not get run over by his reindeer this year on Christmas final approach. My time as VP and acting president is over and its time for me to step into my new role as your 2025 Suwannee River Region AACA President. I have some big shoes to step into after the fantastic job Shirley McManus did guiding and directing this organization for 8 years. At the club Christmas party Dec 5th we honored Shirley presenting her a very nice plaque and a beautiful crystal vase filled with 2 dozen red roses.

Shirley - Thank you so much for your leadership, determination and perseverance. I sure hope I can do half as good as job you have done. A real quick look back - we had a great cub picnic out at Ron Manna's home on Saturday Nov 16. All us there had a great time and the weather was beautiful ! If you were not there, you missed a good one. Thanks Ron for all your time and effort on that. Ralph Towner made a couple of trips out there to help Ron with planning and setting up the tour we did on the way out to the event. Thanks Ralph. If you didn't attend the cub Christmas party you missed another great event with plenty of food and time to visit. Chef Don Downs cooked some fantastic turkey and spiral ham. Thanks Don! I also want to thank Ralph Towner for all the heads up, reminders and sending out a lot of emails for me while I was filling in for Shirley in November and December.

We are blasting into 2025 with plenty of things to do. I'm learning fast - Communication and follow up is the key. I've already missed sending out a couple of reminders. Please remember I work full time (about 50 hours a week.) Feel free to remind me of things. Call me anytime. We are kicking in the new year with the first club meeting on Thursday Jan 2nd. Yes we are having it on the day after New Years. Like I said above, 2025 is coming in Hot! The board and I want your input on activities and plans for this coming year. The Meeting will start at 7pm sharp. My goal for meetings is 1 hour - we should out by 8pm. As folks used to say - Be There or Be Square. I'll See you there, Kelly Jordan psst - quiet, Don't tell, I have a nick name - Cricket



Editor's Notes

By Gerald "Jerry" & Nina "9a" Howd

By now you have figured out that there are new editors for this newsletter. It was a major decision for us to accept responsibility for this publication. Ralph Towner has done an outstanding job with this newsletter. It is intimidating for us to follow in his footsteps. That being said, we have decided to tackle this as joint venture. We have been married now for 45 years so working together for a common goal is nothing new for us.

We wish to thank Ralph for his dedication and service to the club for producing this publication. It is quite an undertaking compiling a lot of information every month. Ralph Towner & Don Downs have won many Master Editor awards over the years to prove their competence in producing such a complicated newsletter. We can only aspire to fill their shoes and not trip and fall in the process.

Until we get more familiar with all the in and outs of the production of this newsletter please bear with us. We will be producing it bi-monthly. Hopefully, we can get enough information into a bi-monthly issue to satisfy the club members needs. November & December 2024 were very busy months full of events and the holidays. So, a 24 page newsletter was justified.

We are always open to criticism and compliments. If you don't like something, please say something and conversely, if you like something, feel free to express your accolades. This newsletter is for the benefit of all of the club members. We will do our best to satisfy everyone's needs. If you attend an event that we don't, please take pictures and send them to us with details. We will do our best to include as many events as possible throughout the year. Suggestions and helpful tips can be emailed to either of us at ghowd@yahoo.com or ninachowd@aol.com or srraaca@comcast.net

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Jerry & Nina



**Mary Beth Downs, Secretary
With her Plymouth Scamp**

November 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

The October meeting was cancelled due to hurricane Board Meeting November 2024.

There was no board meeting for November.

General Meeting Minutes November 2024

The meeting was brought to order on November 7th at Wellborn Community Center in Wellborn, FL at 7:00 p.m. by our Acting President Kelly Jordan. Shirley stepped down due to things at home and she hurt her knee. Bill and Joe are doing well. We wish Shirley the best. Please remember Shirley and check in on her to see if she needs anything.

Kelly let us know that Roy Spurling who was our treasurer until October 2024 was moving near Savannah, GA.

Don gave a website report and let us know our activity was stable on the site. Kelly encouraged us to use the site for information about the club.

Ralph gave a report on the newsletter. He encouraged us to read the article on Jack Wells' motorcycle trip. He also reminded us that it was time to vote for our national officers. He let us know that we could find the ballot was the post card that came with AACA magazine.

Kelly let us know about the upcoming club picnic November 16th next Saturday. It will be rain or shine. It will be held by Ron Mana at his home. There will be a tour out to Ron's home leaving at 11:00 a.m. please meet at meeting place by 10:30 a.m. Drinks, hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Club members are to bring a covered dish and a chair. Ken Barton will DJ.

Sherm talked about the Wellborn Fall Festival Chili Cook off on November 30th. There will be a car show the cost to be in the car show entry will be a toy. It is from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Nominations were held for board officers. Kelly Jordan as President, Sherm as Vice President. Board members Ron, Alex, Leo. Nina as treasurer, Doreen as Secretary & Harry

McGinnis as board member.

December 5th at 6:00 p.m. is our Club Christmas Party. Don will cook the turkey. Sherm will provide mashed potatoes. Club members provide side dishes. There will be a gift exchange. For a man and a woman. The gift price should be \$20.00. Also, Pilots with Presents at Lake City airport is on the 14th of December from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please bring a present for a child to this event.

Cannon Creek and Friends Christmas Party is on the 14th of December at the American Legion at 5:00 p.m. The tickets are on sale for 45.00. Please get in touch with Vicki Shanks for tickets.

We were all reminded that membership dues need to be paid. The Hart car show and BBQ winners were Joe Haggy in the top 20, and Alex Fardales best of show. Congratulations!

Signees for the bank account are Marybeth, Kelly, Ralph and Nina. Roy Spurling, Barbara Richards & Shirley McManus are will no longer be on the 2025 signee list.

The Sugar Cane festival is coming up in White Springs.

Kelly announced the winning number for 50/50. I won! Congratulations to me!

Kelly adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by Marybeth Downs, Secretary

There was no board meeting or club meeting for December 2024. We held the Annual Christmas party on December 5th. See page #11 for details.

American Legion Toys for Tots Ride

On November 9th 2024, the American Legion Riders held their annual "Toys for Tots" run. They started the run from a different location, but they arrive at The Lake City American Legion parking lot around noon. There are many riders from around the area as well as from several miles away, who participate in this event. They arrive just in time to enjoy a BBQ lunch, prepared by The Legion volunteers. Spectators are welcome to buy a ticket and enjoy the lunch as well. There is a raffle, consisting of varied items that one could buy tickets for and place in buckets by the items they wished to bid on. As part of the event, there is a small car show. Some of our SRRAACA members entered their cars.



Three trophies were awarded and all three went to our members. Third place went to Alex Fardales, for his 1995 Mercury Cougar.

Second place went to Ralph Towner, for his 1957 Pontiac Starchief.



First place went to a new member, just recruited that day, Arthur Siebrecht, for his beautiful 1971 Ford Torino.

This event rounds up many toys for needy children each year. It is usually held in early November each year. Put it on your calendar to attend in 2025.



Cover story from page 1

Ralph Towner signing off as Editor of the Oil Can.

By Jerry Howd

My wife and I first joined the club because of an invitation from Shirley. We were excited and a little hesitant at first because, we had never been involved in car club previously. Upon our first arrival at the monthly meeting Ralph Towner was one of the first people to seek us out and personally welcome us to the club. He instantly set us at ease and confirmed we made the right decision to join the club.



We were impressed by the newsletter. It obviously had a lot of work poured into it and great care to fill so many pages of information. We were even more impressed to learn

that Ralph was the man behind the newsletter. He and Don Downs before him, had won several Master Editor awards from the National Club. An incredible honor for such a small local club newsletter. Great job!

Over the course of the next year we enjoyed the newsletter. Then, Ralph made sure to pursue us to get an interview to be a featured article as new members with our car. He came to our home and did an extensive interview with both of us and got some great pictures of our car. Sure enough, the next edition there we were in the March/April 2024 edition. It was very complimentary article and we were rightfully humbled by the care that Ralph took to compile all of the interview notes into a cohesive professional article. Of course, one of best pictures was of our Grandson Daniel with our car taken at the Pilots for Paws event at the airport the previous December.

Nina & I appreciate Ralph's commitment to producing the newsletter and when he announced that he wanted to turn it over to another member we were shocked and thought to ourselves who would be willing to take on such a task? As the months progressed and nobody stepped forward to relieve Ralph, we discussed the crazy possibility of maybe both of us trying to fill his shoes. The old saying of "Be careful what you ask for, you just might get it." Well, here we are. We will most certainly lean upon Ralph's guidance and wisdom to help along the way as we struggle to learn how he was able to accomplish producing this newsletter to such high standards.

As you enter into the unbelievable status of Octogenarian, we wish you and Marie the best of everything. You have earned a well deserved a break from the newsletter responsibilities.



Well done and thank you very much!

We still look forward to seeing you and Marie at our monthly meetings and our scheduled events with your Pontiac Star Chief or your Pontiac LeMans Sprint. Both of these



are amazing vehicles that are incredibly well maintained and beautiful. Your meticulous dedication is obvious.

Ralph, on behalf of all the members of the club a huge "THANK YOU! We have all been beneficiaries of your outstanding efforts to produce such a fine newsletter. Your multiple wins as "Master Editor" are proof of your abilities and will be a point of pride for this club for years to come.



November 16th 2024 Club Picnic at Ron Manna's amazing property



Workshop and a nice covered seating area with two picnic tables.



Grill area under covered roof getting fired up.



Bella my Granddaughter



Hanger area with great music for all by DJ Ken Barton.

We had a dozen cars lined up at one point.



Ron and Alice setup some food serving tables inside the workshop under multiple model airplanes. What a great workshop he has there.

One of the many model airplanes hanging inside the workshop. This one has no skin. Just the bare wooden framework.



More model airplanes and food tables.



Cessna 152 plane and pilot.



Bob Lester in his Pietenpol experimental plane.

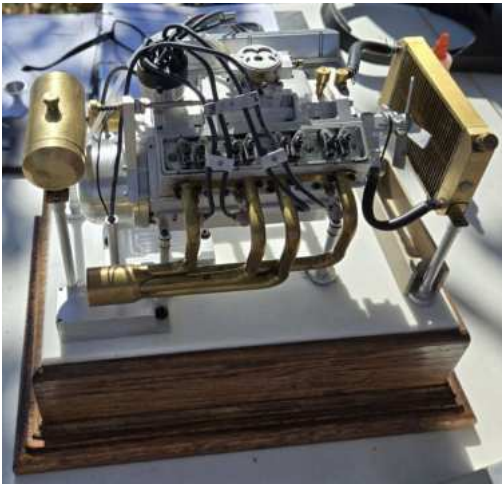


Ben Jones and his Kolb Experimental plane.



Three of Ron's friends flew in for lunch on his 2,500 foot long runway which is designated as an emergency landing runway for the local area. It was very interesting to watch them all land and take off on such a beautiful sunny day. There is actually an emergency heliport located on the far side of the runway that is used by the local emergency services for medical flights out to the larger hospitals in the bigger cities.





Ralph Towner showing off his miniature V-8 engine to the group. A very informative and fascinating demonstration. It was amazing how tiny the pieces were that made up this real working V-8 engine. The spark plugs were about as long as your fingernail. He used a model airplane starter to fire it up and show us all how it actually functioned. The entire engine was just under 6 inches long. Awesome job Ralph!



Some of the cars lined up next to the hanger with members arriving after a nice country drive.



A few pictures with some club members and their cars taken by my granddaughter, Bella. [How about a future member directory?](#)

2025 AACA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hotel Reservations Now Open

The 2025 AACA Annual Convention will be held February 6-8 in the Charlotte/Concord, NC, area at the Embassy Suites by Hilton. We are working on one or two exciting pre-convention excursions for Thursday that you will not want to miss, so you may want to consider coming in on Wednesday.

Here is the full hotel and reservation information, so you can book early and start your planning:

Embassy Suites by Hilton Charlotte/Concord Golf Resort & Spa
5400 John Q. Hammons Drive NW
Concord, NC 28027

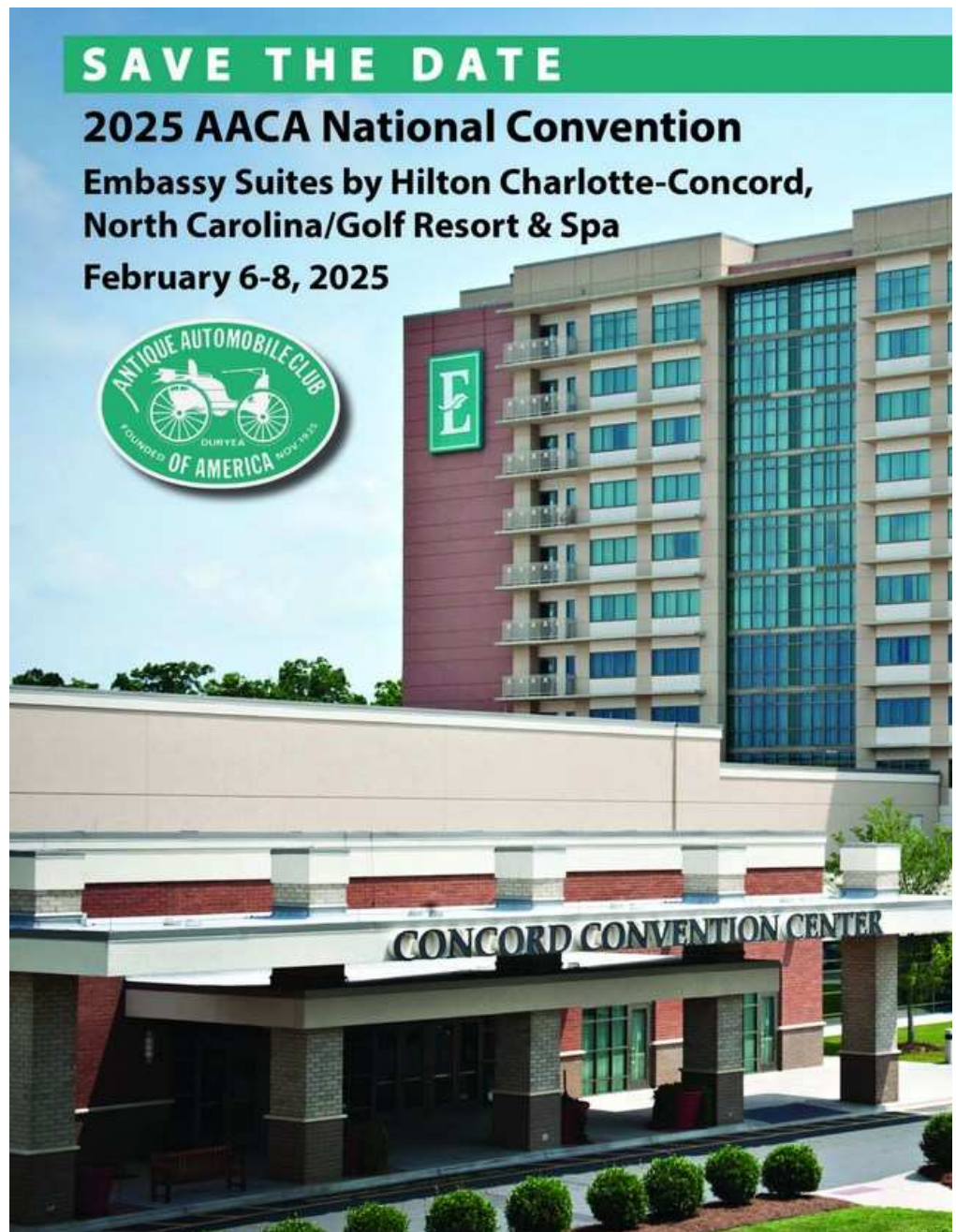
Only 20 miles from the Charlotte Douglas International Airport

Room Rate: \$159 + tax, includes complimentary hot breakfast buffet, Wi-Fi, parking

Reservation Link: [AACA Annual Convention \(hilton.com\)](https://www.hilton.com/go/2025AACA)

Reservation Phone: 704-455-8200
(mention AACA Annual Convention)

Reservation Deadline: January 16, 2025



Headquarters Building

We welcome you to visit our new facility in Hershey! The main level features a rotating collection of vehicles (both club-owned and borrowed from others in our community), art displays, National trophy collection and awards kiosk, and the oral history collection, as well as headquarters staff offices.

On the second floor you'll find the library, staff offices, and primary collection. Some of our popular collections include: Periodicals & Magazines, the Ralph Dunwoodie Archives, Shop Manuals & Parts Catalogs, the Buick Heritage Alliance collection, reference books, sales literature, and the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild models. Most of our collection is housed in space-saving movable stacks, secured in a climate-controlled environment to ensure its preservation. Enjoy your time with us in our comfortable reading room, or utilize our classroom or boardroom areas. The materials in our collection are very rare and valuable, and many items are irreplaceable. To avoid accidental losses, we ask that handbags, tote bags, briefcases, shopping bags, etc. are not brought into the main library area. Please leave them in your car, or use our lockers to store your personal items while you visit. Thank you for protecting our collection!

AACA Headquarters
800 W. Hersheypark Drive Hershey, PA 17033
(717) 534-1910

Suwannee Toys For Tots Event November 30th 2024 - Wellborn, FL



A very cold morning had everyone bundled up but, the animals and kids were ready for the events of the day.



Goats, ponies & camels. Oh what fun! A corn hole area was also there for more kid activities.



Despite the cold weather, we had fourteen cars and just as many trucks show up for the event. Along with a few motorcycles as it warmed up.



Ken Barton was MC of the day along with some wonderful singers.



The chili cook-off had a some great competition with some truly unique recipes. I was surprised by one recipe that had peanut butter. What? It was really good. It went good with hot pretzels.

A cake walk and auction warmed us up for the rest of the donated items that were also auctioned off. I believe the auction alone raised over \$2,000 for Toys For Tots. Great Job!!!



Of course, being Wellborn, Santa arrived via tractor and hay wagon.



Continued on page 10

Continued - Suwannee Toys For Tots Event November 30th 2024 - Wellborn, FL



First place winner was Gary Walker with his beautiful 1966 Chevy C10 pickup. Top notch beautiful truck.



Santa with a couple of young ladies from his "nice list".



Second place winner was Eddie Medina with his 1968 Chevy Camaro Z-28.

Most winners graciously donated their prize winnings back to Toys For Tots!

3rd place winner was Dave Holmes with his 1956 Dodge Custom Royal Lancer. (The Editor's personal favorite entry.)

Santa received lots of attention at the event. Here he is with Prince the Pug.

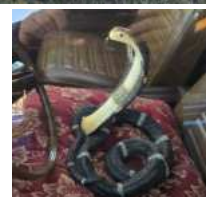


Bundled up visitors trying to keep warm waiting for Santa.



First place for the chili cook-off was Jose Lopez. Second place was Tres' Stanley. Third place was Kat Harry. Thanks to all the volunteers to helped out with that portion of the event, They fed a lot of cold hungry people. Hot dogs, pretzels & chili.

The motorcycle class: First place was Austin Shaver. Second place was Santa and third place was Sherm Stanley. Hearty souls riding them here on cold morning.



Some other random beautiful vehicles who didn't win but, caught the eyes of many. Thanks to everyone who took the time on a chilly winter's day to share their vehicles with us. We enjoyed seeing all of them and Toys For Tots really appreciated it. A great cause worthy of our support. Thank you all for participating in all the events of the day. We, as members of the local community made a huge impact for the Toys For Tots of Suwannee County.

More on this awesome car in a future issue. Arthur Seibrecht's amazing 1971 Ford "King Cobra" Torino. A real gem. Look out! Better watch that driver!



Beautiful table decorations with Ron & Alice in the background and the Christmas tree with little train set.



Kelly addressing the whole group before dinner was served.



"Pontiac Pete" with Chuck & Diana.

Dave leading the gift exchange process with Barbara displaying her gift in the background with Vicki, Richard, Pamela, Mary Beth, Don & Ralph seated at tables.



Alex & Ken at the DJ area.



A good time was had by all. Ralph & Marie, Yvonne & Pete & Chuck with George and Ralph in the background.



Awesome ham & turkey by Chef Extraordinaire Mr. Don Downs.

Shirley McManus was given an award along with two dozen roses for all her years of dedicated service to the Club as President from 2016 through 2024. Thank you Shirley!



Bill McManus looking healthy and good just weeks away from his 95th birthday.



Rhonda, Paul, Yvonne, Pete, George, Chuck & Ralph watching the gift exchange.



Merry Christmas Everyone!

Pilots With Presents December 14th 2024 at the Lake City Gateway Airport (LCQ)



We had a good turn-out of vehicles. With a few late shows, there were 20 vehicles there with several non-club members joining in as well.



The toy bins filled up quickly. Making it another good day for Toys for Tots.



Doreen had the hammer ready just in case you didn't have your lunch ticket ready. ☺ Just kidding. It was a windy day and it made a great napkin holder.



Pilots and planes everywhere. Even the Florida Highway Patrol brought out their high tech plane. Very cool!



Bob Hoffman was one of the grill masters cooking up some delicious hot dogs for the crowd. Many people attended the event and were treated to a hot dog, a bag of chips, a drink and a cookie.



Later that evening at the Cannon Creek & Friends Christmas dinner at the American Legion



Nina & I, Denise, Bob & Doreen, Ralph & Marie
(Picture by Dave Holmes)



A couple of group shots of the crowd. Sorry, I don't know all the names.



Nina won a basket with Kelly looking on.
(Picture by Dave Holmes)

Nina singing Karaoke with her go to Christmas song "I want a hippopotamus for Christmas!"

Baskets, baskets, baskets. Lined up along the back wall ready to be won by a lucky ticket draw from the bags.



A sampling of the beautiful gift baskets. So many themes and well packed.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION REPRINTED FROM THE NOV-DEC EDITION

Membership Renewal Time

It's 2025 Membership Renewal Time

It's our busiest time of the year here at AACA Headquarters – it's membership renewal time! The first renewal notice for 2025 dues will be included in the September/October mailing package of *Antique Automobile*.

Members can also use our online renewal option on our website ([click AACA.org](http://click.AACA.org) for link). Renewing online is quick and easy! Just log in with your membership number and pin number, review the information currently listed on your membership record and make changes if necessary. Review your information one more time and choose your payment type. Payment options include Visa, MasterCard, Discover or PayPal. Your payment will automatically update your membership record.

Antique Automobile Club of America
(717) 534-1910; kwhite@aaca.org

We thank you and appreciate your
loyalty!

It's November and the time of year is here to renew our dues, both local (\$20) and AACA National (\$45).

I want all of you to know your membership is valuable to both our SRRAACA region and to National AACA, whether you can be active or not. Of course, we must have volunteers as officers and at our events in order to keep, our organization going. Please consider becoming an officer for 2025.

For local dues, please pay them at our next meeting to Ralph Towner, acting treasurer. Otherwise, write a check for \$20, payable to SRRAACA and mail to:

Ralph Towner
503 NW Armadillo LN
Lake City, FL 32055

For National dues, first, please read the information in the green outlined block on the left. It gives complete instructions on how to renew national. You must be an AACA member to be in our SRRAACA region. If you have any questions about renewing, call me at 386-397-4571.

If you have no other choice, write a check for \$45 made out to AACA, and give it to me at the meeting or mail it with your local dues to the above address. *Ralph*



Safety Tips for Children / Older Folks

Source: momjunction.com

The older we get, the more I realize that these tips are just as relevant to older folks as they are to children.

1. Know your name, phone number and address
2. Do NOT eat anything given by a stranger.
3. Do NOT climb the fence.
4. Do NOT walk out of the yard alone.
5. Playing or experimenting with fire is NOT allowed.
6. Never go anywhere with a stranger.
7. No one is allowed to touch your body.
8. If you get lost stay where you are.
9. Do NOT share your address or number details.
10. If I am uncomfortable I will not do it.

Random Facts / Did you know?

Source: Random Common Knowledge

- ♦ Most American car horns honk in the note of F
- ♦ Only 18 percent of Americans know how to drive stick shift, which might explain why only 5-percent of vehicles sold in the country are manual.
- ♦ The top selling car of all-time is the Toyota Corolla. Since it was first introduced by Toyota Motor Corporation in 1966, the manufacturer has sold an estimated 50 million Corollas.
- ♦ The first muscle car (also known as a "supercar") was released by General Motors in 1949. In order to be considered a muscle car, a vehicle needed to have a lightweight body, V8 engine and rear-wheel drive — all features that were designed for drag racing. The earliest muscle car on the market was the Oldsmobile 88, which went on to make NASCAR history.
- ♦ The average car contains over 30,000 unique parts. When you think about it, it's a miracle they don't break down more often.
- ♦ There are an estimated 1.2 billion cars in the world today while there were only 500 million in 1986. According to a report released by a research house Bernstein, there will be a total of 2 billion cars on the planet by 2040.
- ♦ Almost 95% of a car's lifetime is spent parked.
- ♦ A crash typically happens within an average of three seconds after a driver is distracted. According to a source, texting while driving increases the chances of an accident by 23 times.
- ♦ Did you know that in 1982, the automobile industry provided one of every 6 jobs in the U.S? Thus, the automobile industry became a key force for change in the 20th century America.
- ♦ New car smell is actually the smell of various volatile organic compounds that are used to manufacture the car. The smell is intoxicating and the manufacturers are adopting measure and techniques to get rid of this smell.
- ♦ Did you know that Henry Ford made eight different models of cars (A, B, C, F, K, N, R, S) before he could produce the famous Model T? The Ford Model T had a four-cylinder inline engine that produced 20 HP.
- ♦ The word "car" comes from the Latin word "carrus" — a two-wheeled wagon.
- ♦ Volume 1, Number 1 of the AACA magazine was first published in 1937 and called "The Bulletin of the Antique Automobile"



Website Corner

Webmaster: Don Downs
Our Website address is:
<https://srraaca.com/>

Get in the habit of checking our quality website often!



Upcoming Events for January / February 2025

Jan 2 **SRRAACA Meeting**
Wellborn Community Center

Wellborn Community Center
1340 8th Street
Wellborn, Florida 32094

Jan 3 **Hardee's 5:00PM - 7:30PM**

Jan 4 **Wellborn Pancake Blueberry**
Breakfast 7:00AM - 10:30AM

Jan 10 **Hardee's 5:00PM - 7:30PM**

Jan 17 **Hardee's 5:00PM - 7:30PM**

Jan 21 **Sal's 5:00PM / 7:30PM**

Jan 24 **Hardee's 5:00PM - 7:30PM**

Jan 25 **Denny's Diner**
Cruise-In 8:00AM/10:00AM

Jan 31 **Hardee's 5:00PM - 7:30PM**

Feb 1 **Wellborn Blueberry Pancake**
Breakfast 7:00AM - 10:30AM

Feb 6 **SRRAACA Meeting**
Wellborn Community Center

Feb 7 **Hardee's 5:00PM - 7:30PM**

Feb 14 **Hardee's 5:00PM - 7:30PM**

Feb 18 **Sal's 5:00PM / 7:30PM**

Feb 21 **Hardee's 5:00PM - 7:30PM**

Feb 22 **Denny's Diner**
Cruise-In 8:00AM/10:00AM

Feb 28 **Hardee's 5:00PM - 7:30PM**



Sal's Italian Deli
161 SW Stonegate Terrace #101
Lake City, FL 32024



Dennys' Diner
176 NW Centurion Ct
Lake City, FL 32055





JANUARY 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2 Club Meeting 7 PM	3 Hardee's 5-7 PM	4 Wellborn Breakfast 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM
5	6 Phyllis Glenn B-Day	7	8	9	10 Hardee's 5-7 PM	11
12	13	14	15	16 Steve Brown B-Day	17 Hardee's 5-7 PM Doty Anniversary	18
19 AACA National Convention Registration Deadline Today	20 ML King Day	21 Sal's Deli 4:30-7:00 Rhonda Stanley B-Day	22	23 Shirley McManus B-Day	24 Hardee's 5-7 PM	25 Denny's 8-10 AM
26 Chet Gray B-Day	27 Melvin Lane B-Day Robert Kopp B-Day	28	29 Chinese New Year McNamer Anniversary	30 Kenneth Barton B-Day	31 Hardee's 5-7 PM Bruce Hill B-Day	
		Notes			Suwannee River Region Antique Automobile Club of America Lake City, Florida https://sraca.com/	



FEBRUARY 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Wellborn Breakfast 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM
2 Groundhog Day Don Downs B-Day	3	4 Louis Barton B-Day	5	6 Club Meeting 7PM Harry McGinnis B-Day AACA National Convention	7 Hardee's 5-7 PM Barbara Richards B-Day AACA National Convention	8 Douglas Smith B-Day AACA National Convention
9	10	11	12 Lincoln's B-Day Norman Silver B-Day	13 Sherman Stanley B-Day	14 Valentine's Day Hardee's 5-7 PM Hill Anniversary	15
16	17 Presidents' Day	18 Sal's Deli 4:30-7:00	19	20	21 Hardee's 5-7 PM	22 Denny's 8-10 AM
23	24	25 Dewey Burton B-Day	26 Richard Hanney B-Day	27	28 Hardee's 5-7 PM	
		Notes			Suwannee River Region Antique Automobile Club of America Lake City, Florida https://sraaca.com/	

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE VP, Sherm Stanley

As the election has placed me the new vice president, I'm very happy and look forward to do all I can to help the club stay strong and grow and add some new things with the help of the club.

I'm here to help Kelly all I can and I will also ask all members to start thinking of things to bring up to the next meeting that they would like to do next year. So, in closing Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

DID YOU KNOW?

For those of you who don't know, our newly elected Vice President and long time car club member Sherm Stanley, who owns Sherm's Auto Repair and Restoration here in Lake City, FL won a very prestigious Best of Florida award this past fall.

Please see the below article from the Lake City Reporter from the October 6-7, 2024 edition.

Congratulations Sherm! Well done!

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5-6, 2024

LOCAL

LAKE CITY REPORTER

3A

Sherm's captures State Best of the Best accolade

Lake City auto repair shop wins honor in magazine contest.

By TONY BRITT

A local automotive repair center is one of the best in the state. Sherm's Auto Repair and Restoration was named among the best of the Best Florida 2024 in the Auto Repair Centers category through a magazine contest held this year.

According to its website, the Guide to Florida Best of the Best is an annual roundup of the best products and services people can find across the state.

Throughout the year, readers of the Guide to Florida vote for the best things they live in the best of Florida annual awards. The votes are tabulated and compiled with the guide's editor's picks to determine the winners.

The 2024 voting ended July 31, one minute before midnight. There is no fee to have a business listed on the Guide to Florida, or to be on the ballot to receive votes for the Best of Florida.

Sherm's Auto Center claimed its award in the Auto Repair Center category where it was recognized with seven other repair centers across the state.

"We were recently recognized as the Best of the Best Award in the Lake City Reporter, as well as we have been recognized in the Guide to Florida Best of the Best for 2024," said Sherm Stanley, owner of Sherm's Auto.

"We're honored to receive that award, which also comes along with state magazine recognition that goes throughout the state for the business that we conduct."

Stanley's son, Tim Stanley (Sherman Stanley III), who is in the business with his father, provided all the needed information when Guide To Florida representatives called with questions to see whether Sherm's Auto met

the criteria to claim the award. Stanley estimated that his business was competing against thousands of other repair centers from across the state.

"It's a big job on the back for doing your job right, which means the state staff we do for the DOT, FHV and Department of Agriculture car repairs," Stanley said of the statewide award. "It means a lot to us in the state with the meaning of we'll still continue to take care of those vehicles and it's a part of our business and keep our employees and continue to work and employed in the community, but it also means a good 'Mia Boy' for us. We're doing something right. We look forward for the future, want to continue to grow and be part of the community."

At Sherm's Auto, 2001 SW Main Blvd., mechanics, vehicle technicians and automotive body repairmen provide differing auto care needs for customers.

The shop provides auto repair work for state vehicles, performs preventative maintenance work such as oil changes, brake work, air conditioner and engine repairs. The business also consists of a complete body shop that consists of collision work for insurance companies, as well as restoration services where old vehicles are restored, painted and repaired.

"What isn't drivable becomes drivable again for us aging folks that can't quite turn the steering wheel like we used to," Stanley said. "We add some modernization to the older vehicles to make them drivable for people. This is a job, but this is a hobby to me and I enjoy it. That's what makes me come here every day and I don't see myself changing."

Hobby or not, Stanley is proud of the achievement and the recognition for a job well done.

"It's a big recognition, as much as it is for the local Best of the Best, it is to be the state Best of the Best. It lets us know that we're doing the job right and that it is making our customers right," he said.



"The state is even more finicky than most people are in that we also take care of Florida Highway Patrol vehicles, DOT vehicles," Stanley said. Stanley said the state looks at a variety of other factors and they scrutinize when they consider whether the business is doing a good job, following through with customers and determining whether the business is fair with its price practices.

"We're very fair on our prices and that's why we have repeat business," Stanley said. Sherm's Auto was previously nominated for the award in 2023, but was never awarded on this particular occasion.

"We've been nominated,

from then Lake City Community College's Automotive Technology program in 1981, winning an Associate of Arts degree. He later began working at Bountree-Moore Ford as a technician where he progressed up the ladder and later became a service director, before starting his own business in 2008.

"None of this is possible without my employees and their hard work everyday, what they do and how they participate. They are actually Sherm's Auto," he said. "It's not Sherm, it's Sherm's Auto, as a team, and that's what I look at everyday and take care of my employees like they're family. That adds to part of the success to get these kinds of awards."

Ye Olde Swap Shop

For Sale

1957 Chevrolet
Belair Two door
Hardtop



Good condition throughout, rated as a strong 2-3 vehicle. The car starts and runs well. The engine has been upgraded to a Chevy 350 V8 and a four speed manual transmission has been installed. The car has upgraded wheels. However, the original wheels will be included. Asking price is \$35,000. Contact Bruce or Diane Hill for more information. 386-963-2491

For Sale

1930 Ford Model
A Roadster



An exceptional restoration, has an alternator installed, all parts to go back original included. Body and engine numbers match. \$29,000.00

Dave Holmes Cell: 817-308-9752

A great source to find events in Florida

An excellent substitute for Cruise News, is online, flacarshows.com. They have articles to read, events listed all over Florida by regions, ways to buy and sell vehicles and more. It is online only; no printed edition. Check it out by going to:

<https://flacarshows.com/>

At the top and mid area are different events & stories which they cover. Click on each of them to go to that area. Enjoy.

This is a screen shot of the newspaper article. I realize that you cannot possibly read it. A full size copy is included along with this newsletter sent via email and a printed copy will also be available at the next meeting.



On a personal note: Nina & I, along with some of my co-workers participated in packing food for Hunger Fight of Columbia County at the Richardson Community Center on December 7th 2024. We packed a total of 35,616 ready to cook meals. These meals were picked up by Christian Service Center for distribution to underprivileged children right here in Columbia County. A few hours of packing teamwork and some crazy dancing to the 70's & 80's dance songs. It was some big fun for a great cause. We are looking forward to helping again in 2025. Maybe we can get 10 people from the car club to fill a table next year?



Nina dancing around while waiting for the next bag to make it her way to seal up.

Each meal is heat sealed in a plastic bag with the cooking instructions and all nutrition information.



19 packages per layer ready to be boxed.



Kacey & Nina working the heat sealer.



Pam packing cheese & milk packets and Lynda dancing waiting for the next bag to fill with macaroni.



Our teammates packing oatmeal & brown sugar meals.



Lynda, Danielle & Pam packing, scooping, bagging and weighing mac & cheese.



Pam & Bailey. It looks like Bailey was trying to tap out from the oatmeal table. The competition was just too tough from the Chezy Mac table team.



Of course, our side of the building kicked it into high gear and finished well ahead of the other tables. The competition was fierce and all in good fun. We were cleaning up while the other tables were still packing over there.

Go team Chezy Mac.

Pam, Nina, Jerry, Lynda, Danielle, Leah, Chloe, Eli, Kasey & Liliana



Sunshine Report Road To Recovery

Jack Wells had a hard cold which kept him from going to the Cannon Creek & Friends party. Ralph is happy to report that he is doing much better.

Ken Barton will be unable to attend Hardee's events until after the time change in March. After dark driving has become a problem and he will be having cataract surgery sometime in 2025.

Bill McManus after having several health scares in the later part of 2024, he appears to be doing very well and recovering from his brain surgery quite well. His achievement of reaching his recent 95th birthday proves his resilience and is a testament to Shirley's diligence and her love for Bill.

(Should anyone have any health concerns that they would like to share with the club members, please do so by calling, texting or emailing the editor.)

Passings



The club members wish to express sympathy for the families of members who have recently passed:

Mr. Hugh "Al" Buie—October 24th 2024

(Should anyone know of any club member or family members who may have passed away recently, please let the editor know with any available details so they can be remembered in this section.)



CELEBRATIONS January Birthdays

Phyllis Glenn 01/06
Steve Brown 01/16
Rhonda Stanley 01/21
Shirley McManus 01/23
Chet Gray 01/26
Melvin Lane 01/27
Robert Kopp 01/27
Kenneth Barton 01/30
Bruce Hill 01/31

January Anniversaries

Doty Anniversary 01/17
McNamee Anniversary 01/29



February Birthdays

Don Downs 02/02
Louis Barton 02/04
Harry McGinnis 02/06
Barbara Richards 02/07
Douglas Smith 02/08
Norman Silver 02/12
Sherman Stanley 02/13
Dewey Burton 02/25
Richard Hanney 02/26



February Anniversaries

Hill Anniversary 02/14





GROW YOUR REGION AND YOUR CLUB

By Dave Anspach

AACAA Executive Vice President

Everyone knows that membership has been down over the past few years. It had gone down a bit pre covid, dropped a lot more during covid, and has continued a gradual decline since then. There are a thousand rea-sons why this is happening, but we, as a club shouldn't just sit back and accept it. It is up to every one of us to FIGHT this trend!! But HOW?? What can one person do??

Well, first of all, realize that you are NOT alone. The club provides all kinds of materials for you to use to promote membership. Get them from the office in Hershey and USE them. Carry them with you ever you go. See an old car at the gas station? Give the driver some literature. See a guy in the store with a car jacket, t-shirt, or hat on ? invite him or her to your next region meeting. Going to a car show? Set up a table with a batch of AACAA Magazines and recruit members. Just think, if every member just got one new member a year, in just a few years we would be a massive organization!

I mentioned being part of a region. For many people the social aspect of the old car hobby is the primary factor for joining a club. Use our regions shows, tours, picnics, parties etc as a tool to get people to join. Push your region to do things together. A group of AACAA show cars together going to a local show will surely dominate the prizes. People want to be a part of a winner and they will want to join your club. Invite every person to your Regional meet-ing. Carry with you and give to every one an in-troduction to your Region and the places and another thing to remember is to get a name and email address. Then send that prospective member an electronic copy of your Region news-letter (which costs you nothing) and have your membership chair send them a reminder before your next meeting!!

And don't forget those free memberships. Who can say no to something free? But please, don't just hand the form to someone. Get their information and have them sign it and take it with you! Then, be sure to mail it in to Hershey. So many forms have just been handed out and gone unused!! Remember we have special free memberships for veterans. Use them !! The fact that veterans are recognized is sometimes the difference that brings someone into the fold.

We ALL must fight this battle of declining membership. Every one of us had a special reason or person who got us involved. It is up to YOU to be the reason or person for the next new member to join!!

2025 AACAA National Activities

February 2025

February 6, 2025 - February 8, 2025
2025 Annual Convention
Annual Convention - Charlotte, NC

March 2025

March 2, 2025 - Ontelaunee Region AACAA Swap Meet & Car Corral Location: 312 Gernant's Church Rd, Leesport, PA Sponsor: Ontelaunee Region Over 60 indoor spaces and unlimited outdoor spaces under cover. Held rain or shine
7:00 AM to 2:00 PM

March 23, 2025- 53rd Annual Swap Meet and Car Corral
Sponsor: South Jersey Region AACAA Location: Salem County Fairgrounds, 735 Hard Hwy., Woodstown, NJ Contact: Chuck Gibson 609-221-5435 or Ed Fuller 856-297-4025 Website: sjraaca.com

**Always check our website for any
schedule updates, www.aaca.org**



Jerry's Silly Humor

- What do you call the security guards for Samsung? Guardians of the Galaxy.
- I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- What has four wheels and flies? A garbage truck.
- Have you seen those traffic circles or driven around them? Well, they are pointless.
- You know what really grinds my gears? Clutch failure.
- I had a nightmare last night that someone hit me with a car muffler. I woke up absolutely exhausted.
- When I die, I want to go peacefully in my sleep like my Grandpa did, and not frightened and screaming like the passengers in his car.
- A blonde walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. She says she's going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000. The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for the loan, so the blonde hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce. The car is parked on the street in front of the bank; she has the title, and everything checks out. The bank agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the blonde for using a \$250,000 Rolls as collateral against a \$5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then drives the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parks it there. Two weeks later, the blonde returns and repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Miss, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely; but we are a little puzzled. We checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is - why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?" The blond replies....."Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

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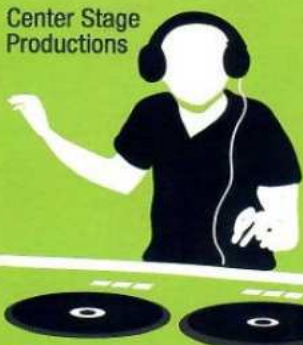
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