



Recharging the Charger

By Leon Ahlers



Several years ago, I penned a piece, complete with a picture of a rusty, disassembled 1969 Dodge Charger under the heading of "What constitutes a cover car?" Does a car have to be a shiny, award-winning example of automotive art to grace the front page, or just a beloved weekend driver with a few paint scratches and a worn interior? Ideally, it would be the former, but this is not a perfect world, and outside of a few folks with impressive collections, most of us are blessed with only a driver or two. Many of our cars

have, or should have graced the cover of the "Antique Expression": to have your car featured is an honor. Most of us who have antique cars enjoy bragging about them, but some don't, and it's these modest types whose cars need to come out of the shadows and into the newsletter. The continuing saga of the Charger from new to junk to rebirth has taken 47 years, so far. I probably should have sold it for parts, but I found a local craftsman, Paul Wright, who has reskinned the car and is readying it for paint as this is being written.

The next phase of restoration is brakes and suspension, then engine and transmission, then interior and trim. Sounds like a lot of work, and it is. Anyone who is doing their own work should check to see if there is a U-Tube video for their model car. Fortunately, I found one produced by the company which manufactures the interiors, so I now have a visual road map. As the build progresses, I will submit another installment, but meanwhile, will some of you closet classic owners please submit articles and stories... you will not be graded, but neatness counts!

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Don't Forget!

**Next meeting is April 11th
 at the Tracy Gee Center.**

Blazing Trails in Philly!

Diana and I were happy to represent GCR/AACA by manning the club's Trade Show Booth on February 11-13, 2016, in Philadelphia at the 80th Annual AACA National Meeting.

This was our first trip to Philadelphia and we were excited to be able to attend the Founder's meeting. We decided that if we were representing the Texas contingent that we would dress the part and "Go Texan." (See photo on back page.). Diana's hat was a real "show stopper" which was purchased from Chuck and June Crane's store "Blast from the Past" in Giddings two weeks prior to the trip. (See photo of hat!)

Never having been to Philly before we checked the weather repeatedly before our journey. People told us that it always snowed during the National meeting. So we gathered up our meager winter wear and layered up. We left Houston's balmy 60 degree weather and arrived in Philadelphia to 19 degrees with a wind chill factor of -9 degrees and more snow forecast. BRRRR!

We arrived at the Sheraton Philadelphia and were greeted with a welcoming offer of hot apple cider, lemonade, cupcakes and green apples. After dropping off the luggage, we went in search of the ballroom and location of our trade show booth. Fortunately, Chuck Crane was able to get our club's trade show booth assigned next to his trade show booth "Blast from the Past." We set up our booth with brochures featuring the Central Fall Meet along with the Galveston Magazine, a map of Galveston, TX, including various advertisement handouts of historical places of interest to see while in Galveston during the fall meet. I failed to mention that it was about 100 degrees in the trade show room and we were wondering how far down we could strip before security was called to haul us off. We were still layered up when we went to set up the booth and the Ballroom area

was on the 3rd floor and we all know Heat Rises!

Friday morning, dressed in our Western wear, I manned the booth while Diana attended the First Lady's breakfast which included an address by Carol Barlup, the outgoing AACA president's wife. There was entertainment provided by AACA member, Emery Turner, who played his violin and is also a member of the Glidden Band. Carol Barlup also welcomed the new First Lady, Dot, wife of Bob Parrish, who happened to be sitting at the same table with Diana.

I managed to take in a couple of seminars while Diana managed our booth. It was reported that there were over 1000 people in attendance at the meet. We talked to as many people as we could about coming to the Central Fall Meet, hosted by the Gulf Coast Region to be held in Galveston, TX on Oct. 20-22, 2016. We had a lot of positive feedback from the people we talked to at the trade show.

I did manage to snag a short sleeved AACA shirt from the National AACA Merchandise sales booth, as it was still very warm inside the trade show ballroom.

All in all I would say our trip was a success in getting the word out about the Central Fall Meet. The only thing missing was our GCR/AACA banner. There were some great club banners on display around the hotel. (See photos on back page.)

Dean and Diana Forbes



April ANNIVERSARIES

Harry & Gloria Arp	4/3
Gordon & Patsy Bennett	4/8 (16 !)
Leon & Pam Ahlers	4/20 (32 !!!)
Sean & Tonya Ornduff	4/29

April BIRTHDAYS

Carol Baccaro	4/1
Evelyn Timmins	4/1
Nancy Womack	4/8
Charles Logan	4/14
Michael Calistrat	4/20
Junko Keifer	4/26
Betty Gorrell	4/27



May ANNIVERSARIES

John & Dena Doerfler	5/1 (40!!!)
Stan & Ellen Ericksen	5/10 (64!!!!)
Jerry & Julie Collins	5/11 (20!)
Jim & Sandra Johnston	5/24 (29!!)
Dean & Diana Forbes	5/31 (41!!!)
Ron & Sally McMillan	6/11 (22!!)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Walt Cook	5/2
Dot McCurry	5/4
Barbara A. Wahlberg	5/4
Chris Baccaro	5/7
Jenny Medley	5/7
J.T. Gorrell	5/8
Charlie Worthen	5/9
Esther Duncan	5/15
Don Bohne	5/19
Jamie Baccaro	5/22
Ron McMillan	5/23
Douglas Staley	5/24
Susan Smith	5/24
Jerry Collins	5/25
Sherri Kurtz	5/27
Karen Staley	5/28
Timothy Eyssen	5/30



Editor's Note: If you do not see your birthday or anniversary noted on the correct date, or if you would like your anniversary year listed, just let me know. Evelyn

From The President

Javis Boudreaux

Mercy... Spring has arrived with an abundance of pollen, pollen and more pollen.

As a reminder to all our club members: the "Pate Swap Meet," our annual fund raiser is April 28th thru May 1th this year. I want to encourage all to attend and experience the event. It's going to be "HUUUGE" this year with an anticipated 9400 plus vendor spaces sold to the public for commercial exhibits and sales. So come on out to enjoy the weather, people and swapping.

At our next meeting be sure to bring any items you wish to donate such as water, sodas, food, paper products, etc., for use by the Pate workers. As you know, this helps defer costs and is always greatly appreciated. Sam will be collecting at the April 11th meeting at Tracey Gee. He has a big truck so don't be shy!! PLUS...sign up to be a Pate worker.

With the mention of the arrival of spring, it is time to get the cars out and visit your local car shows and events. It never hurts to do a little elbow rubbing for the club and pass on the news that we are the best and largest club in the area and always looking for new members! Let's recruit and solicit members for the club every chance we get.

Let's have fun with these nice rides we own. Don't take tomorrow for granted for we are made no promises about how many "tomorrows" we may have.

FINIS POUR ASTEUR!

Don't forget!

The Antique Expression Publication Changes



After this April-May issue, we will have an AE for June-July. We will be sending a reminder of upcoming club meetings and events in the interim months.

Get your news in early, especially dated information.

Secretary's Column A.A.C.A. Gulf Coast Region

General Meeting 14 March, 2016

I'm not saying he was green in the gills or anything like that, but President **Javis Boudreaux** looked and sounded a bit Irish as he called the March GCR meeting to order at 7:45 PM. The assembled, who had been behaving like participants in a St. Patrick's Day celebration, quickly snapped to order and seated themselves like shamrocks in a County Kerry meadow.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Bill Wahlberg was with us tonight, so Javis asked him to lead us in the invocation. As is his habit, Bill did a beautiful job. Bill is almost poetic about prayer - I suspect he writes sonnets and odes in his spare time and rhymes "love" with "dove" and "squirrel" with "girl". But seriously, we enjoy Bill's expression of thanks. He always gently urges us to be mindful of each other's needs, to help each other, and to be grateful. We're grateful for you, Bill. After the invocation, Javis led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests - There were no guests tonight, but we did get to see several members we've not seen lately as much as we'd like. You already know that **Bill Wahlberg** was there, but so was his *much* better half, **Barbara**. **Bill and Victoria Seward** were also at the meeting, and both were looking great. I also got a chance to visit with **José Gonzales-Juaregui**. José is looking as spiffy as his all-original 1959 Mercury, which I'm trying to get him to bring to one of the Museum of Fine Arts happy hours when we showcase cars from the '50s. I was also glad to see **Donna Romeo** at the meeting, although I didn't get a chance to chat with her. It was nice to see you, Donna. Two people who weren't here but whom I always enjoy seeing were **Ted and**

Evelyn Hiesser. We all hope to see you at the next meeting.

GCR Reports

Treasury Report: Ev Timmins reported that the bank that houses our savings and checking accounts gave us a small bonus for our deposits last year. I'm sure we'll find a use for that money. Thanks for keeping the books for us, Ev!

Meeting Minutes: Javis asked for a motion to approve the January meeting minutes as published in the last Antique Expression. **Barbara Wahlberg** made the motion, and **Dena Doerfler** seconded it. There were no February meeting minutes to approve because that meeting was our annual Valentine's Day luncheon.

Sunshine Report: Barbara Wahlberg didn't mention any members in tonight's sunshine list, but I know you've got a friend or two you've not seen at a meeting in a while, including some who are dealing with cancer. Be sure to call him or her today and lend a little support.

PATE:: Sam Romeo told us about a recent Pate meeting. They are building out about 400 new spaces and have already sold 600 more spaces than they sold this time last year. So it looks like Pate is doing well, and that's great news. Sandra Johnston reminded us to bring napkins and drinks to the next meeting for Pate if you can.

Refreshments: GCR reports are good, but refreshments are better! With St. Patrick's day just around the corner from our March 14 meeting, it was only appropriate that our resident redhead, **Eileen Bartlett**, was one of the two who refreshed us tonight! The other was **Theresa Bartlett**. What did they bring with an Irish theme? Of course there were green shamrock shaped cookies, but they also brought several

homemade treats. I'm told that the chocolate cupcakes with cream cheese icing were out of this world. Believe it or not, I did not eat any of them. I might have been too busy sampling the homemade pan pizza on a flaky crust (perfect!) or the Irish quiche. You may be asking yourselves, "What in the name of St. Patrick is an Irish quiche?" Well, based on what I observed as I passed a few forkfuls into the abyss, it's peas, carrots, and potatoes mixed in a creamy egg base, all housed in a pastry crust, and topped with a bit of white cheese. Truly memorable! Thank you, Eileen and Theresa. By the bye, they sent me home with a care package, so you can imagine what I had for breakfast the next morning.

Where We've Been

Jim Johnston told us about a recent car show in Sugarland where **Sandra Johnston's** '56 T-Bird won first in its class. Congratulations, Sandra.

Robert Wheelless also talked about a recent event at Hooks Airport with more than 300 cars and four antique airplanes. One of the airplanes was the B-17 bomber that **Lee Brown**, Nancy Smith and **John Alkire** are involved with. In fact, they had to replace a condenser and magneto while the event was going on.

Where We're Going

April 11, 2016: Our next meeting is at the Tracy Gee Community Center. The mini tour planned for the Doerfler's house is being postponed to a later date.

April 22-24, 2016, Keels and Wheels: **Ev Timmins** reminded us of this fun and important annual event which is held at the Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook, Texas. Keels and Wheels benefits Boys & Girls Harbor, Inc. in La Porte. Boys & Girls Harbor provides healthy, comprehensive care for children and families in crisis.

(Continued from page 4)

April 22-24, 2016, Concours d'Elegance of Texas: **Ron Stein** told us that woodies are the featured cars this year. The event is held at La Torretta resort in Montgomery, Texas.

May 18-22, 2016, Texas Tour: **Julie Wagner** reminded us that this year's Texas Tour will be held in Abilene. The Golden Crescent Region of Victoria, Texas is hosting the event. Dwain Epting of Midland, Texas is the Tour Chairman, and his daughter, LaShanda Epting, is the capable and efficient Registration Chair. Between the two of them, they've organized what looks like a fun and eventful tour.

May 28, 2016: **Dean Forbes** reminded us that the 3rd annual car show benefiting the Navy SEAL Foundation will be held at the Fort Bend County Fair Grounds.

July 4th, 2016: Lee Brown and Javis Boudreaux have suggested having our annual summer event on July 2 at the Cadillac Bar. It will cost money, but at least the venue is "air conditioned for your comfort!" We'll learn a bit more in the April meeting as other venues are still being considered.

August 21, 2016: Ron Stein has secured 40 spots for us at the Hemi Hideout. If you're not familiar with the Hemi Hideout, Ron aptly described it as "One man's dream of a Mopar garage with 1,000 plus signs." The main building is a wonderful museum and party venue built in the Amish style and with Amish methods.

October 20-22, 2016 - AACA Central Fall Meet, Galveston, Texas: **Robert Wheelless** spoke briefly about the work he and others are doing for this AACA national tour event. **Dena Doerfler** also spoke and asked for the event's silent auction. Dena would like us to donate things like toy cars, license plates, and other car related things as well as homemade aprons, quilts, and other crafts. **Jim Johnston** recommended we take every opportunity we can to go to

Harbor Freight with coupons to get free things we can use to help fill the tour bags.

Other News to Amuse

Ev Timmins spoke about local and national membership. Dues are past due, and we'd like to get everyone's payments comfortably situated in our bourgeoning bank account.

Albert reminded everyone about the *Sculpted in Steel* exhibition of Art Deco era automobiles and motorcycles at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The exhibition will be here until May 30, and I urge you to go see it while you can. Otherwise, you'd have to gain access to several private collections all over the USA and make a side trip to Germany just to see all of these wonderful cars and motorcycles. In association with the exhibition, the Museum is displaying some local cars at its regular Thursday evening happy hours. The theme of the first happy hour was "muscle cars", and **Javis and Lynne Boudreaux** were invited to bring their '69 Plymouth GTX to it. The crowds really enjoyed seeing the GTX. Javis told all the women that they could touch his car if they wore *chamois*. They thought he said "jammies" and slapped him. Now if we could just get **José Gonzales-Juaregui** to bring his '59 Mercury to the happy hour that showcases cars from the '50s. C'mon, José! You'll be in good company. Lee Brown is bringing his '56 Nash Ambassador sedan, and Robert Wheelless is bringing his '56 Cadillac convertible.

Luck of the Draw

Our drawings are always highly anticipated. Tonight, Ev Timmins asked Barbara Wahlberg to draw the lucky winners. The first drawing was for the \$10 "Being There" award. Barbara drew Javis Boudreaux's number. Javis said he was going to buy Lynne some new *chamois*. The second drawing was for our cumulative prize that grows by \$10 every month until a lucky winner wins it. The only catch is that not only does your name have to be selected at random, but you have to be there as well. Do you remember when I said that we missed seeing **Ted and Evelyn Hiesser** at tonight's meeting? I really wish Evelyn had been here because she would have won \$120, and this was the first meeting in ages that we've not seen Evelyn! Next month, the prize will be \$130. Wouldn't it be great if Evelyn comes

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to the next meeting and wins the \$130?

Adjourn - The meeting ended at 8:40 PM, and many of us continued the discussion in the parking lot.

As it was – Albert L. Ramos

In Memorium

I was told only a few of you would have known this person, but for those few, we owe it to you to let you know of the passing of **Norman Dail Beach, Jr.** Norman was born on June 19, 1924 and passed away on March 13, 2016. He was a resident of Winnie, TX. He was married to Lurlene. His funeral was on Mar. 15 at Broussard's, 134 W. Buccaneer, Winnie, TX. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Alzheimer's Association, 700 North St., Suite M, Beaumont, TX 77701 or to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77030.

Stan wrote: The "old timers" will remember Dail (Port Arthur Club) who was one of four CHARACTERS for entertainment for many years at CAV OIL CADE (George van Cleave, Dick Brownlee and Stan himself). Stan remembers him as a FUN loving fellow, and a good friend.

Chickasha in Review

Several of our members made the trek to Chickasha this year including Lee, John, Sam, Tommy, Chuck and June. Steve Hammatt from WA wrote in an information memo to Lee,

"Recently returned from this month's Chickasha Swap Meet. While still low in vendor count, all evidence that I've seen shows that there were lots of good buys and general sales traffic. Next year's Chickasha will hopefully bring increased number of vendors; Mike and Susie Erslund (swap meet managers) have announced that next year's event will change back to a Friday-Saturday format in hopes of increased participation.

Dates are: March 17-18, 2017. Hope to see you there!"

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REFRESHMENTS

April 11

Tahl Rozycki
Albert Ramos

Pate Swap Meet

*April 28 – May 1, 2016
Thursday - Sunday*

Here we are folks; we have reached the countdown to the Pate swap meet. Some of us look forward to this swap meet all year for various reasons: shop, visit, read crochet, look at lots of neat stuff and eat. Some are looking for that hard to find part, some enjoy seeing old friends, some are ready to clean out the garage and make money off the previous treasures that we have accumulated, so we can collect some new treasures!

Whatever your reason, Pate is the place for the car enthusiast to be at the end of April every year. Our role as a club is to "man" the gates, although our women are certainly capable and welcome to join the team taking care of some of the entrance gates to the Pate swap meet.

We have a tent and chairs that make it a comfortable place to get out of the weather for a little bit. Our tent is a great place to get a cold drink, tell a few stories, or find out if someone saw the treasure you have been searching for, somewhere on the Pate grounds!

In order to man these gates it requires volunteers. So we are asking for more and/or new volunteers. Please take a look at your schedule and see if you have some time to help. We will have the sign up sheet at the next meeting. Please come see us at the next club meeting and Pate!!! We sure would like to have you!

(Pate swap meet is held at the Texas Motor Speedway Fort Worth Texas USA

Texas Motor Speedway is 20 miles north of downtown

Fort Worth at the corner of Interstate 35 West and State Highway 114).

Update on NATIONALS: the Central Division Fall Meet, that is!

For the Galveston meet in October we have been grinding away behind the scenes.

There have been numerous phone calls, emails and trips to confirm meals, venues, people, places and agencies. Jim Johnston has sent out letters to different clubs to inform the clubs first-hand about the upcoming meet. Jim also had a great meeting with the Galveston City Manager Brian Maxwell and has invited him to one of our meetings to let us know what he feels he can do to help us out. Ron Stein had a good meeting with staff members of the Visitors Bureau at the City of Galveston. Also, Sandra Johnston and Evelyn Timmins have been chipping away at the meals planned at Moody Gardens.



Jim Johnston has begun work on the solicitation of ads for the Meet Book. He will be passing out information on an ad sales campaign. The strategy will focus on members selling ads in a way that they will not be stepping on each other's toes or have redundant efforts in contacting people/businesses for ad sales. Jim has also ordered and received our 2016 National Meet dash plaques, which look just like the logo above.

At the last club meeting Dena Doerfler made a great presentation on organizing and gathering items for the 2016 meet Silent Auction. We continue to push forward with the chairmen committee meetings and getting people to assume the responsibilities of each of the categories required by AACA.

By the time you read this article we will have had our first meeting with 2016 National Meet Committee chairpersons. Please, everyone keep in mind there are still vacancies that we need to fill as we move forward. It is very important that we stay in the direction of having this National Meet be a TEAM effort, and that's the way it should be.

So far the volunteers have been wonderful, stepping in and filling numerous roles to keep things going in the right direction. But we still need help. Keep in mind, the more people (member workers) we have, the better the Meet will be and the more fun we will have in Galveston!

Robert Wheelless and Jim Johnston

Need to Show it Off? Your antique that is.....

AutoRama at the Ranch Sunday, April 10 11-4
George Ranch High School www.grhsband.org/autorama-at-the-ranch

Friendswood 12th Annual Classic Car & Bike Show Saturday, April 16 9-4
Stevenson Park, Friendswood info@friendswoodchamber.com

On the Level Saturday, April 30 10-4 West Oaks Mall
graylodgearshow@gmail.com Proceeds benefit Gray Lodge Charities

3rd Annual Open Car Show Saturday, May 28th 10-3 Ft. Bend County Fair-
grounds, Rosenberg raywebb@comcast.net Proceeds benefit Navy Seals Fdn.

On The Road Again*

Stan Ericksen's "Checkered" Past

The other day I went to Stan Ericksen's house to help him do a little spring cleaning in his garage. We've worked in his garage before to clear out some of the cobwebs, so to speak; and it's always great fun to hear Stan reminisce about how some of the things in his garage got there or how he used them. What a great way to pass the afternoon. If I had a dollar for every one of Stan's laughs and smiles or for the ones he gave me while we were working, I'd be a very rich man indeed!

This afternoon we were clearing off Stan's trophy shelf. If you've been in the GCR for 40 years or so like Stan, I'll bet you've got a trophy shelf, too. Stan's trophy shelf is 10-feet off the ground above several work benches. We got his tallest ladder, and one of us (*not* Stan), climbed up and down that ladder about 150 times and took down every trophy, ribbon, picture, and what-not. We dusted off and boxed the trophies so I could take them to some place for donation.

As I brought down the trophies, I'd occasionally show it to Stan and ask him how he won it. Sometimes he won trophies simply for having the oldest car on a tour (1917 Overland); other times it was for something that involved skill or luck. For instance, I noticed that he had a couple of dozen or more "Driving Award" trophies. I asked Stan how they judged his driving. Did they just like his looks as he drove by and waved at them? "No," came the dignified response. "It was by my driving skill and speed!" He then described one competition in which two-person teams per car were required to drive on a course, scoop up floating ping pong balls from buckets of water along the way while not stopping (presumably it was not the driver who did the scooping), and do other feats of automotive olympics. Whoever scooped the most ping pong balls in the shortest amount of time won the event. In this case, Stan was the passenger. Instead of scooping up ping pong balls, however, Stan simply grabbed the buckets by its handle and urged his driving companion to floor it! Those in the cars behind him didn't have a chance.

Another "Driving Award" trophy was for driving on a course with a full glass of "water" on the hood of the antique car. The goal was to have the best speed and the most "water" in the glass at the end of the race. Stan's 1917 Overland had a horizontally split windshield, so he instructed his teammate, Dick Brownlee, to open the windshield, extend a stick through it, and place it on top of the glass to hold it steady. They won that event. Stan still recalls with a laugh how a lady who was watching the race saw what they had done and shouted, "Hey! You can't do that!"

While most of the trophies had bases made of marble or wood with metal or plastic doodads on them, one base was made of aluminum. It was an empty beer can with a plastic car on top held in place by a threaded rod. Stan had ZERO recollection of how he won that trophy. I wanted to ask Ellen, but he urged me not to!

Not every award involved beer and driving, but they were often competitive. At one Texas Tour, Stan felt like he hadn't won his quota of trophies. So at the awards dinner, he made his move. The Hard Luck trophy was about to be awarded to someone else, but Stan stood up and said, "I've been driving my Checker cab all over town for three days and I've not gotten a single fare." That was enough. Stan won the award! And even though Stan is "Still Fareless", he admits that with Ellen as his wife, he's been more than amply compensated over the years.

Looking at all of the trophies Stan won, he must have commanded a lot of respect at the old car tours. I say this because one of his trophies had a plaque on it that

The Antique Automobile Club of America

Is a non-profit Organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of automobiles and automotive history. It is the country's oldest and largest automotive historical society.

**Meetings at
Tracy Gee Center
3599 West Center Dr.,
Houston, TX 77042**

**Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
2nd Monday of each month,
Except for February, July
and December, when
special activities are scheduled.**

The Antique Expression

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read, "Don't Know What For Award".

I mentioned earlier that I was taking Stan's trophies someplace to donate them, but sentiment got the better of me. I'm now in the middle of an art project for my study that involves recognition of Stan's many automotive achievements and a place to display some antique toy cars! I'll show you a picture of it when it's done. Thanks for the memories of your Checkered Past, Stan!

**On The Road Again* is a series that features stories from Gulf Coast Region AACA members about how a shared interest in cars and helping others can pave the way to friendship and adventure.

Down the Road

Underlined items are club (GCR AACA) sponsored activities.

- April 11** GCR AACA meeting in the Tracy Gee Center. 7:30 P.M.
- April 23-24** Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance, Seabrook
- April 22-24** Concours d'Elegance of Texas, La Torretta
- April 25** Deadline for mini Antique Expression news for May.
- Apr 28-May 1** PATE Swap Meet. See Sam or Robert to volunteer.
- May 9** GCR AACA meeting. 7:30 in the Tracy Gee Center unless otherwise notified.
- May 19-21** 63rd Texas Tour, Abilene, TX Hosted by Golden Crescent Region AACA.
- July 4th** Something will happen. Fear not!
- August 21** Your chance to go to the Hemi Hideout. Reservations required. Contact Ron Stein.
- Oct. 20-22** **Central Division National Fall Meet: Galveston**
See updates each edition.

Public Car Outings.....

Friday evenings Pearland Antique & Classic Auto Show Cruise
Night at Lowe's parking lot at FM 518 & Pearland Parkway, 6 PM

Saturday evenings cruise in at Chick-Fil-A in Home Depot's parking lot, 5 PM, Hwy 146 and FM 2094 in Kemah

Third Sat. of the month, Houston Ride 'N Shine sponsors free car meet from 8-10 AM. at La Centerra Mall in Katy. Facebook.com/houstonridenshine

FROM THE SPEEDSTER

Thank you for Celebrating the 80th Annual AACA Meeting With US!

*By Stacy Zimmerman
Speedster Editor*

Even with temperatures in the teens and random snow squalls here and there, almost 1,000 AACA members from all across the country showed up to help us celebrate the 80th AACA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. Thank you!

Attendees kept busy in the nice, warm hotel enjoying 2 full days of educational seminars, trade show exhibits, special breakfasts and banquets. AACA National Award winners were recognized during an Oscar-like evening, complete with a red carpet and spotlight. During the Annual Membership Meeting, attendees were updated on Club, Museum and Library activities. Attendees also got to meet, interact with and listen to the stars and producer of the new AACA-endorsed TV show, *The Appraisers*.

Thank you again to all of the members and their families who made the trek to join us for the Annual Meeting. The camaraderie and genuine enthusiasm for the hobby and AACA could be seen on all of your smiling faces the entire weekend. We hope you had as much fun attending as we did putting the event together! This event is a success year after year because of all of you!



Swap meet stuff in Chickasha



Parting With an Old "Friend" is Such Sweet Sorrow

By Nick Ferrantino

Dear all, The time has come this old man needs to see my 1993 Allante Pace car go to a new home. Please see listing below and pass it on to any and all Allante fans who might wish to have this historic Allante as part of their collection. If there is no one willing to pay its true value, then you all will pay an entry fee to view this Allante as it will be on display at the AACA Museum in Hershey, PA near my 1977 Cadillac Seville "Betty," the car once owned by the actress Betty White. That will happen if no buyer comes forward by this May 1st, 2016. I will consider all offers as stated in the ad below.

FOR SALE: 1993 Allante Pace/Parade Car pearl red, tan interior 36,941 original miles This is not 'a' Allante it is "THE ALLANTE" the only Allante to be at the 1992 Indy 500 and driven by the race winner Al Unser Jr, then two weeks after Indy to the Belle Isle Raceway in Detroit for the grand opening of that track. Here is the link to the news story of this Allante that was printed in the Houston, TX Chronicle: <http://blog.chron.com/heidispics/2014/05/this-caddy-outpaces-most-others/>

If no acceptable offer is made by April 30th, you can then view this Allante at The AACA Museum in Hershey, PA sometime in May 2016. Here is a link to their website: <http://www.aacamuseum.org/>

More Allante "Memories"

Please note the dash of this Allante was personally signed by Al Unser, Jr and his Uncle Bobby Unser who drove the Allante pace car for the Indy race and was the Cadillac spokesperson for Allantes. I will include in this sale many rare and costly display items like a model of Al Unser, Jr's winning race car and signed photos of Bobby Unser and Al Jr. No other Allante can claim the history this Allante has. I will consider all offers and if none is acceptable, then post this Allante on Ebay in April 2016. I can be contacted: by phone (713)802-9393. If no answer, leave message and call back number.

By email pregomio@outlook.com

By letter Nick Ferrantino, 2306 Willow Dr, Houston TX 77008-3004

HELP WANTED

For Pate Swap Meet: Contact Sam Romeo now! **For Central National Fall Meet** in Oct. contact Robert Wheelless or Jim Johnston.

Lincoln and Continental Owner's Club

April 15-17, 2016

The 28th Annual All Texas Salado Meet will be held at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel.

Activities include, early bird tour, Friday night BBQ, seminars, people's choice competition, Saturday night banquet & awards program.

Contact meet registrar, Gary Birk, gbirk10@yahoo.com or call 713-419-0212

The Forbes

Only fitting that our Continental owners be next to the Continental ad. But, here they are as our ambassadors to the 80th Annual Meet where they expounded on the glories of AACA members' coming to Galveston in October!! Thanks



Valentine's Day Celebration - 2016

Well, it all started out with being able to have our lunch on the actual date of this annual holiday. And, back by popular request, we went to The Café at Brookwood.

When we arrived, we were greeted by our ever cheerful Theresa Bartlett who presented us with our holiday appropriate nametags.

Eileen had our "order tickets" ready so that the wait staff knew exactly what we had ordered, thus making the serving faster. Our \$100 door prize went to Ricardo Rudolph. Don't you wish you had brought your antique?

Among the attendees we were glad that Jon Manning and Barbara were able to make it after his recent illness. It was also good to see the Bogus family. Also celebrating with us was Warner Banes and his niece. Old Thunderbird Club friends of the Hiessers, were Ron and Leah Mock, neighbors of Evelyn Timmins.

Eileen and Theresa Bartlett did a tremendous job of coordinating this event and we thank you.

Evelyn Timmins, Editor



The banner wall mentioned by the Forbes. At the Annual Meet They hang from the second floor stairs.

National Meet Potential?

We are not saying we will have one like this, but the merchandise area at the Annual Meet in PA looked like this. Thanks to the Forbes for their great pictures of the event.



Valentine's Day Lunch

Where the food is good, but the conversation is better!



Down the Road with Stan



The club display table as laid out by the Forbes. Notice the brochures in left corner.



Chickasha - 2016



So much "stuff." So little time.

Yes, that's Chuck Crane selling women's wear!



80th Annual National Meet in PA



Diana also enjoyed the First Lady's breakfast with Dot Parrish, wife of the AACA president.



Diana took her hat!