



The Antique Expression

Gulf Coast Region, Houston, Texas

Our New One- 1949 Cadillac Club Coupe



By John Sweney

This was Cadillac's first post-war design (by Harley Earl and Frank Hershey) and was the first car with FINS - inspired by the WWII Lockheed P-38 Lightning. As we know, fins grew quite absurdly through the 1950's before disappearing in the mid-1960's. It was also the first post-war GM V-8, a very sturdy engine that continued with few changes through 1962.

This particular car was originally sold to "Mrs. Estes" in Houston in 1949 and was painted at the factory in "Triumph Blue" with a grey interior. The second owner was a pilot in the Korean War and bought it in 1953. He modified the car and used it until about 1970 as a glider winch launch vehicle in Hollister, California. It was fitted with wheel locks, a transfer case and winch reel fabricated from a cement mixer. (Google "glider winch launch" and you'll see what that is; I had no idea this is how gliders were launched until now...)

There was a third owner in Washington from 1996, then it was bought in 2005 and restored by a 79-year-old raspberry farmer -- a veteran -- in Watsonville, CA. He wanted a "project car" and sure found it. It took him three years to take it all apart and put it back together.

(Cont on pg 2.)

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Notice: Mike and Caroline Calistrat have moved. They are living in the same residence as Stan Ericksen. Their new phone number is 346-335-8088.
Address to follow.

(Continued from pg. 1)

His task list:

- * Rebuild the original engine
- * Convert to 12 volts
- * Add a later 4-speed Cadillac automatic transmission and new differential
- * Replace the wiring harness
- * Add full insulation and air-conditioning
- * Refinish in "Maple Red" a Cadillac color from 2000
- * Add power steering from a 1953 Packard
- * Add power brakes from a 1953 Cadillac
- * Add a temperature-controlled cooling fan just in case (but radiator is new, so it cools well without fan)
- * Restore the interior with period-correct leather and cloth
- * Add FM stereo circuitry and speakers to the original AM radio

Now almost 94, he decided it was time to "thin the herd" as he was "starting to get on in years" and he sold it to me in June. I returned it "home" to Houston and added a pair of original 1949 Texas license plates! I also have a checklist of things to do, including some mechanical improvements, some additional engine work, and replacing the old radials with the new original-appearance bias-look radials that become available in 2015.

I have actually not owned a coupe since the 1969 Lincoln Mark III I had 35 years ago! I am proud to be the new custodian of such a milestone in American car design.

July 4th on the 11th Lunch



Do you think Barbara and Paul Byrd and Kat D'Ambrosio are talking about cars?

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**Don't forget to come to Tracy Gee on Aug. 9
for our next Meeting.**

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

AUGUST

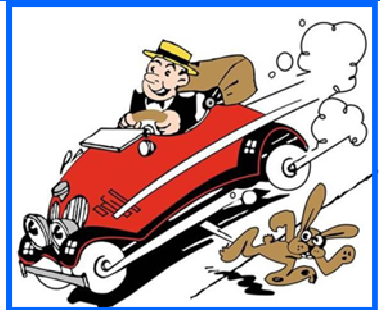
Pam Ahlers	8/2
Amberly Kolby	8/2
Mike Stargel	8/3
Mary Boyd	8/5
Bea Irwin	8/9
Thomas Kidd	8/9
Stephen Morris	8/23
Sherry Sheldon	8/25
Norma Moore	8/26
Linda Tucker	8/28
Leslie Broyles	8/30
Mike Peterson	8/31

SEPTEMBER

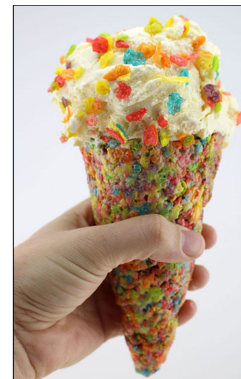
Ronald Stein	9/3
Bill Seward	9/6
Mary Ann Derby	9/9
Jim Johnston	9/11



Let's Hit the Road!!



Don't forget our next trip—
ICE CREAM! :
See next page for info.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

AUGUST

Charles & Patricia Logan	8/8 (51 years!!!!)
Robert & Elaine Bullard	8/10 (48 years!!!!)
Ray & Debra Amos	8/16 (47 years!!!!)
Bill & Victoria Seward	8/19/67 (54 years!!!!)
John & Mary Ann Dalton	8/21 (Shy)
Michael & Caroline Calistrat	8/26 (64 years!!!!)
Patrick & Lydia Fant	8/26 (21 years!!)

SEPTEMBER

Herb & Barbara A Wahlberg	9/8 (47 years!!!!)
Ollin & Nell Willis	9/12 (63 years!!!!)
Mike & Bonnie Peterson	9/30 (67 years!!!!)

If I do not have your celebration date, or have it
incorrectly given, please let me know.



==== GULF COAST REGION AACA ====

 **HOT DOG &** 

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

END OF SUMMER

18 SEPT 2021 | FROM 11AM-3PM



For questions or concerns call 979-525-3459

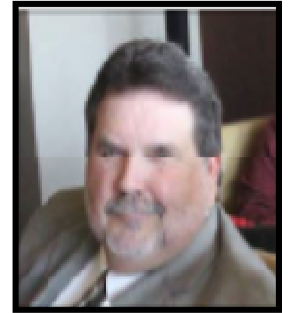


==== **RAIN OR SHINE** ====

SPRING CREEK PARK | 15012 BROWN ROAD | TOMBALL TX 77377

HOSTED BY GULF COAST REGION AACA

Moving on Down the Road..... with Pres. Jim Johnston



Our agenda looking forward for 2021 and beyond

As an update to all, here are some future items we need to address as a Board and Club. Back in 2020 we began looking at our club hosting a National Tour in 2022. Well, working with Mark McAlpine the then National AACA National Activities Chair, we were penciled in on the 2022 calendar for the Central Division National Tour. Which we got provisional approval. That is not to be confused with a final decision to host a 2022 National Driving tour. But it did mean that we as a club needed to form our committee to begin working toward the final approval process from the National Board of Directors.

Now jump forward to August 4th, 2021. Sandra and I found in our mailbox the July/August edition of the Antique Automobile National AACA magazine. As I usually do, I ripped off the plastic and started browsing through the pages and found the usual calendar of events on page 10. But I then found a big surprise. There in what seemed like huge, big black font I read THAT IN April 17-23, 2022, there would be a Central Division Tour hosted by the Gulf Coast Region AACA from San Antonio to LaPorte, Texas. Could not believe what I was seeing and wondered how this could be. Well to make a long story short, my first call was to Mark McAlpine who I found was no longer the National Activities Chair. Then looking in the Magazine I see Mark's replacement is David Anspach who lives in Florida. I found his email in the magazine, but I needed his phone number. So, I called the National office to get his number. The National would not provide me his number but they sent him an email to give me a call. As of August 6th I still had not gotten in touch with David, so I called my back-up go to person, Chuck Crane. Chuck sent me David's number via email. I called his number and left a message for him to call me. I finally was able to talk to David on the 7th and he told me, with huge apologies what had happened. Seems that Wes Peterson, the editor of the Antique Automobile Magazine had made a mistake and had entered our club as hosting the Central Division Tour as printed in the magazine on the dates as printed. So, as I said, I really am making this a short story, though it may not seem that way. But the short of it, and this will be short, our club is NOT FINALIZED in the hosting of a Central Division Tour in 2022. Should our Board continue with the due Diligence in working up a plan to host the 2022 Central Division National Tour, I think we should proceed, but I'll have that as an agenda item for our August Board and Club meetings. But I do think it would be great for our club to proceed in the discussion for a National Tour.

Next is another item on the National AACA calendar of events. We also had our club penciled into the National Calendar to host a National Meet (now just called a National) in 2025 with our PENCILED IN DATES of October 20-25, 2025. Our Board did vote to approve obtaining provisional approval from the National Board to replicate the tour we hosted in 2016 in Galveston at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Spa. We did get approved to proceed with the planning process for the 2025 National Tour. So that topic will also be on the agenda for Board and Club discussion at the August meeting.

Now moving along, we also have a scheduled "End of Summer Ice Cream Social" in September which Ashley Griffin is organizing at a Park in Tomball. Look for more on that event in Ashley's contribution to this newsletter. Another Item which is also being organized by Ashley, is working on securing our club a spot at this year's Auto Rama where we can have cars on display and the ability to possibly drum up more members for the club as we did the last time we attended as a club at the Auto Rama. Look for more on that.

One last thing for all of us to think about. Sandra and I were talking about our club doing a feasibility study on our club to focus on having driving and touring events on a regular monthly basis and maybe moving in the direction of having formal club and Board meetings once a quarter. We could also have Club Board meetings as needed via conference call or video zoom meetings. Just something to think about in the interest of moving our club in the direction of regular scheduled fun activities that may help generate membership growth.

(Cont. on pg. 6)

Cotinued from pg. 5

I ran this idea past Ev Timmins our Treasurer, and it turns she and Tom had suggested the same thing maybe 20 years ago. So, everyone put your thinking caps on for that discussion on Monday night.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON AUGUST 9th AT THE TRACY GEE CENTER!!

Keep on “Moving on Down the Road”.

Minutes, continued from pg. 7

- Robert Wheelless reported that he is working with his friend Mike Kennedy to schedule a mini tour to Whitehall to visit his car collection. The proposed date is October. More to follow.
- Tahl addressed the club by saying he was SO Glad to be here with our group after enduring 2020. He is celebrating the forty-year anniversary of purchasing his dad’s 1976 Oldsmobile Cutlass.

The attendance ticket drawing for \$10 was awarded to Julie Palmer. The member drawing for \$20 was awarded to Dean Forbes.

Norma and Ferrell, who are preparing to move from their home of 46 years, brought a set of eight AACA glasses for a special drawing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Johnston.

Meeting Minutes From June 14, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Jim Johnston at 7:30 PM. The prayer was offered by Diana Forbes; the pledge was led by Dean Forbes.

Jim covered the issues discussed by the board:

- Discussed the receipt of a K! tax form from PATE, that we had not received regularly in the past. This is a profit and loss document, and hopefully Phyllis Davis, AACA member and CPA, will be able to attend our next meeting and explain why we received it and whether it require action by our club. The issue has been tabled by the board until we receive further information.
- Discussion of possibly moving the monthly meeting to a restaurant. They would appreciate ideas from club members.
- Our club has been approached about hosting a National AACA Driving Tour in 2022. David Anspach, new VP of National Activities called Jim to discuss specifics. Discussion will follow in August. We would need to form a committee to investigate. They are generally 3 to5 days, no car judging, just a fun gathering of old car fiend touring. The available dates are either Feb. 28-Mar. 5 or April 17 -23, probably a more desirable date. More details to follow.
- Our club committed some years ago to host the 2025 National Meet. One proposal is to host in Galveston, similar to the 2010 meet. More discussion to follow.
- June 26th will be our gathering at Terry Williams' car collection, followed by lunch. Evelyn is mailing out the flyer for sign-up. She needs everyone's reservation no later than June 20th for lunch reservations.
- Robert discussed an impromptu gathering at the Kenny Store, in Kenny, TX, on Sunday June 26th. The Easy Money Band will be performing from noon to 2 PM. They have great hamburgers.
- Our 4th of July lunch will be held at the Northampton Community Center, thanks to Julie Palmer. This event will be held on Sunday, July 11th. Ev provided sign-up sheets at the meeting and will be sending them via email this week. Get your reservation in as soon as possible. We will be in an air-conditioned facility.
- Ashley is arrange for and End of Summer mini-tour and Ice Cream Social to be held at Spring Creek Park located at 15012 Brown Rd., Tomball. He has reserved the pavilion and plans are under way. Contact Ashley if you can volunteer to help with this fun event. Reserve the date, Saturday, Sept. 18th. Stay tuned for the time.
- Veterans' Day picnic will be on Saturday, Nov. 13th. More details to follows. Resertve the date.
- Christmas lunch will be held at the Monument Inn on Saturday, Dec. 4th. Again, more details to follow, but save the date.

Continued on pg. 6

Down the Road

Underlined items are club (GCR AACA) sponsored activities.

- July 26 Last day to submit information/content for the August-September issue of the Antique Expression.
- Aug. 9 Regular meeting of GCR AACA at Tracy Gee Center. Meeting begins at 7:30.
- Sept. 18 Hot dog and ice cream social (see pg. 4)
- Sept. 20 Last day to submit information/content for the Oct./Nov. issue of the Antique Expression.
- Oct. Mini tour to Whitehall. More to follow.
- Nov. 13 Annual Veterans' Day Celebration. TBD
- Nov. 25-28 Autaorama—Houston. Contact Ashley Griffin for participation information.
- Dec. 4 Annual Christmas Lunch

The items below have not been checked as to their current availability. You might call in advance to confirm or check Showplace Classics.

Public Car Outings.....

Sunday, 8-12 Prince's Hamburgers, near Sharpstown Golf. Kicking tires with friends.

Friday evenings Pearland Antique & Classic Auto Show (PACA) Cruise Night at parking lot behind Freddy's Hamburgers, 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

Last Sat. morning of the month: Coffee, Cars, and Books from 8 - 10 AM in Barnes & Noble parking lot on Bay Area Blvd.

Last Sat. morning of the month: Coffee and pastries at Gateway Classic Cars, 71 Esplanade Blvd., Houston, 77060

Third Sat. of the month: Tailpipes and Tacos, 8-11 AM. 99 & Kingsland.

Send me any recurring items you wish to advertise here.

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.

Gulf Coast Regional Meetings at Tracy Gee Center 3599 West Center Dr., Houston, TX 77042

Meetings begin 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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August REFRESHMENTS

Lisa & Ashley Griffin

THANK YOU!!

Out and About with Members and Friends

NEW Club Cover Car!



Want Details?



Elaine is happy they won the \$100 drawing, and no, Robert did not bribe Evelyn!



Dean keeping people distanced in line: the Baccaros, the Byrds, the Ahlers and guest, Lynda Varnell.



Ashley with that look, I didn't do what you said I did! But he probably did; he does a lot for us!



THE END view of John's beautiful cover car!

Pictures from John Sweney and other members. Thank you!



Robert McLellan sneaking a peak at Conrad Doss' beautiful Corvette fresh from the Great Race.