

FLORIDA REGION – ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

# *The Running Board*

Published Monthly in the Interest of the Preservation of Antique Motor Vehicles

**December 2015**



*Alson & Andy Adkins'*  
**1937 Oldsmobile**  
*L-37 Convertible Coupe*

## **Coming Events:**

- |                    |  |                |
|--------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>December 6</b>  | Florida Region Sunday Breakfast, Bahia Shrine, 2300 Pembroke Drive, Orlando, FL          | <b>9:00 AM</b> |
| <b>December 7</b>  | Florida Region Christmas Party, Kress Memorial Church, 746 Formosa Ave., Winter Park, FL | <b>6:30 PM</b> |
| <b>December 14</b> | Florida Region Board Meeting, Kress Memorial Church, 746 Formosa Ave., Winter Park, FL   | <b>6:00 PM</b> |
| <b>December 14</b> | Florida Region General Meeting, Kress Memorial Church, 746 Formosa Ave., Winter Park, FL | <b>7:00 PM</b> |



For the latest Florida Region club news visit our web site

**[www.aacaFloridaRegion.com](http://www.aacaFloridaRegion.com)**



# The Running Board

December 2015

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**CLUB WEB SITE:**

[www.aacaFloridaRegion.com](http://www.aacaFloridaRegion.com)

**CLUB WEBMASTER**

Heather Trinh

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**Send your article submissions to:**

**EditorTRB@gmail.com**

**Deadline is the 20th of the month**

# President's Letter

It is that time of year when the temperatures are great for cruising around central Florida. We are planning a cruise with the wives to a park north of Ormond Beach, Tomoka Park. It would be great to have a good group of cars from our club to participate. This cruise is at the suggestion of Bob McMullen. A date will be forthcoming and will be sent out by Don Allen in e-mail and announced at our December meeting. Does December 16th or December 30th work? Let me know your thoughts.

Our last Club function was to the Apopka Calvary Church of the Nazarene Car Show at the invite of Ray and Annette Morrison. Good fellowship, good singing, and good eating was had by all that came. Thanks to Mickey Bryant for bringing his **1931 Cadillac Limousine**, Nelson Lawhorn with his **1948 Chevrolet Fleetmaster** and Ray and Annette Morrison with their **1950 Chevrolet pick-up**, **1955 Studebaker**, **1955 Packard** and **1969 Oldsmobile**.

We had a great success with our cars at the International Auto Show at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. this year. We had 15 cars from our club. (*Editor's Note: This year's participating cars ranged from the 1930's to the 1970's!*) Thanks to Mickey Bryant, Nelson Lawhorn, Bob McMullen, Walt Juergensen, Bill Morris, Steve Yancey, Larry Cole, Darrel Cole, Lee Dunkin, Wayne Bostak, Tom Holt, Mike Montague, Ray Eckhart, Mark Regnier and Al Atkins (*see car photos on the back page*) for bringing their cars. It is a money maker for our club and the time taken by those that brought there cars is much appreciated. Special thanks to Darrel Cole for his valuable time making things happen.

Our December club function is our Christmas Party, December 7 at our monthly meeting place. This is the first Monday of December at 6:30 pm. I understand we have a lot of members signed up and paid. If you have not paid you can pay at the door but please let Don Allen know that you are coming. If anyone brings a guest they can pay at the door also. Hope to see you all there.

**Nelson Lawhorn**

## **Minutes of the Florida Region AACA Board Meeting – November 9, 2015**

The Board of the Florida Region AACA met at the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park on November 9th, 2015. The meeting was called to order by President Nelson Lawhorn at 6:13 pm. Other Officers and Board Members present were Dick Gauchat, Don Allen, Jerry Eakins, Howard Gilkes, Tom Holt, Wayne Bostak, Darrel Cole, Matt Cannizzaro and KC Camp.

Don Allen presented the Treasurer's Report and it was filed.

The Minutes of the October 2015 Board Meeting were approved as published in 'The Running Board'.

Darrel Cole started recruiting cars from the Board for the International Car Show. The Club was invited to show fifteen (15) cars in the show. Cars move in on Wednesday, November 25th from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Cars move out on Sunday, November 29th after closing.

Howard Gilkes recruited existing members from the Board to fill some of the vacancies in our Slate of Officers and Board Members for 2016.

There was a general discussion of future events and dates:

Christmas Party	December 7
Voting Night	December 14
Club Awards Night	January 11
Pot Luck Supper	February 8

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

*Howard Gilkes,  
Florida Region AACA Secretary*

## **Minutes of the Florida Region AACA General Meeting – November 9, 2015**

The General Meeting of the Florida Region

AACA was held at the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park on November 9th, 2015. The meeting was called to order by President Nelson Lawhorn at 7:00 pm. Forty-two (42) members were in attendance.

The program was a video of the development and success of the '55, '56, '57 **Chevrolet**. Don Allen furnished the video and showed up in the video with his '55 **Chevy**.

Dick Gauchat led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Don Allen presented the Treasurer's Report and it was filed.

The Minutes of the October 2015 General Meeting were approved as published in 'The Running Board'.

Darrel recruited cars from the Membership for the International Car Show.

Howard requested volunteers from the Membership to fill the vacancies in our Slate of Officers and Board Members for 2016.

Nelson reported seven (7) antique cars in the College Park Tour of Homes.

Kendra reported participation in our Christmas Party was going well; thirty-eight (38) so far, more to come. Meal time is 6:30 pm on Monday, December 7th.

Gene Roy reported 680 cars participated in the Lakeland Lake Mirror Car Show.

Other show reports were given by Dick Gauchat, Charlie Steffy, Matt Cannizzaro and Mike Montague.

Dena Holt gave the Sunshine Report including the death of David Main on 10/14/15.

Dena also managed the 50/50 raffle which was won by Betty Hopkins. Green Dollar winners were

Peter Foley, Wayne Bostak and Robert Modesitt.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

*P.S. Howard Gilkes reports on the slate of nominees for the Executive Board for 2016:*

President... .. Howard Gilkes  
 Vice President... .. Dick Gauchat  
 Secretary... .. Jerry Eakins  
 Treasurer... .. Don Allen  
 Board... .. Alson Adkins  
 Board... .. Steve Tunney  
 Board... .. K.C. Camp

We vote at our December 14, 2015 General Meeting.

*Howard Gilkes  
Florida Region AACA Secretary*

## **December Birthdays**

Larry Cole	December 21
Barbara Golub	December 23
Maryann Joos	December 30
Arlene Mills	December 26
Jack Swain	December 16

Michael Zimmermann December 9

## **Club Membership Dues Reminder**

Your current club dues will expire on December 31, 2015. The annual dues for the Region are \$25, single or a joint membership. Remember, you must be a member of National to be a member of the Region and the National dues are \$35. Please make separate checks, but you can send them both to me and I will forward the check to National.

*Don Allen  
Membership Chairman*

## **Club Membership Roster Reminder**

Carole and I will be updating the club roster and hope to have it ready to bring to the March, 2016 meeting. If anything has changed since the 2015 directory. PLEASE let us know. This includes names, addresses, cell and home phone numbers, e-mail addresses and antique cars you own. If you have any changes and don't let us know, it will be shown as it was in 2015. Our e-mail address is [mrboti55@aol.com](mailto:mrboti55@aol.com)

*Don & Carole Allen,  
Membership Chairpersons*

## **Apopka Calvary Church of the Nazarene Car Show – Nov. 15, 2015**

Photos by Nelson Lawhorn



# **MY FATHER'S OLDSMOBILE**

**Text** by H. ALSON ADKINS

In this day and age, it is almost impossible to comprehend the poverty that permeated the Eastern Kentucky Appalachians during the early part of the twentieth century. The Wall Street collapse affected every aspect of life in almost every corner of America. My father, Mr. Herman Adkins was born March 12, 1921 and lived his younger life in Jackson County Kentucky in the Gray Hawk area. One of twelve children born to Frank and Sarah Adkins, he dropped out of school in the seventh grade. Basically, he was living anywhere he could find a few days work. He worked in coal mines, the log woods, and did numerous farm labor projects to have a little money. He once told me that during this time of his life, he could live on 25 cents a day. He mostly roamed the roads hitchhiking from place to place. He would have been glad to hobo on the railroads, but there were no railroads to ride in Jackson County. This was a rough time for younger people everywhere, especially in Eastern Kentucky.

One day in 1937, he was walking through the small town of Richmond, Kentucky toward the edge of town to hitchhike a ride south. As he walked through town, he noticed that there was some activity in front of the Canfield Motor Company which was the Oldsmobile dealership. Upon arriving on foot, he observed that the news media was there taking pictures of a special new Oldsmobile convertible. Oh well, it was just another expensive project he knew he could never afford for himself. The car was owned by the dealer owner/manager and his family was there. Dad found himself attracted to the situation and the car. He walked around the car observing all the details. Starting at the left front of the car, he noticed the large chrome plated hubcap. He said he actually could see his teeth reflected in the finish of the fender which had a spare tire mounted in it. He noticed the long sturdy running board that led back to the rear fender. There was a unique tail light mounted just above the fender on

each side of the car. Rumble seats were common in those days. But this car had a rumble seat AND a trunk fitted behind the seat. The rear bumper had a medallion in the center that had a large "8" to designate the engine as an eight cylinder. Around the back of the car to the right side, he noticed another spare on the right front fender. He peered into the inside of the car. There was a wonderful three toned painted dash with chrome strips across the entire dash. The radio had a interesting design for the speaker grill in that it looked like miniature horizontal grill bars. Few cars had radios in those days and if they did, they were tuned to ONE station at the factory for a local station where the car was first sold. All the control knobs had a small chrome center that coordinated well with the shift lever which also had the chrome center. As he came back to the front of the car, he noticed the Cadillac-like checkerboard grille. He walked around that car two or three times drinking in all the details.

He noticed the happiness of the owner's family, the nice clothes they wore and the nice Stetson hat the owner wore.. The more he observed, the more fascinated he became. Later, as he stood watching the people, he thought to himself maybe if he worked hard that possibly he could have things like that car. That man worked and had a wife and family; he worked and owned a fine car; he worked and was successful. For the first time in his life, he looked at his future in a positive way. This was a life-altering experience in his life. He would talk later about how he almost skipped down the street after that encounter. There was hope where earlier it was mostly despair. There was a internal happiness that he had not had before in his life. This day had prompted some very mature thoughts of a wife and family in a relatively immature sixteen year old boy. He never forgot the family and car he had seen that day.

I had heard that story many times as he described the double deck lid convertible with dual side mount spares on the front fenders. Actually, we all heard so many times that it became a bit boring. As he told the story, it was very obvious that he

*Continued on Page 7*

# COVER VEHICLE FEATURE ARTICLE

## 1937 Oldsmobile Convertible Coupe

**Owners:** Alson & Andy Adkins,  
Florida Region Members

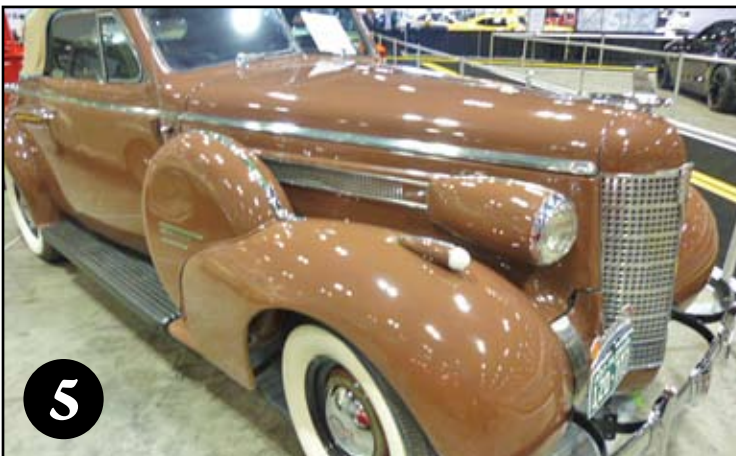
1) Al's father bought this car in April 1970 after a very long search. This top-of-the-line Oldsmobile is known as the L-37 model because of its straight 8 engine. The paint color is known as Agate.

2) The car features a floor mounted 3-speed manual gearbox. The one-year only stylish dash features 2 large dials directly in front of the driver and a glovebox with a large round ashtray (on the left) and a rare optional clock.

3) The inline L-head (flat head) eight-cylinder engine (257 cubic inches or 4.2 liters) makes 110 horsepower at 3,600 rpms. It has a dual downdraft carburetor, 4-wheel hydraulic drum brakes, independent front suspension and leaf spring rear suspension. Wheelbase is 124 inches.

4) An interesting feature of this convertible model was the rumble seat AND a separate trunk. This car was designed by a young Harley Earl.

5) In 1937 Oldsmobile built just 728 of the L-Series Convertibles with only a reported 95 convertible models built with the dual enclosed sidemounts. Only 6 of this model are still known to exist. The Adkins love to drive this car as evidenced by the over 250,000 miles showing on the odometer.



had intentions of finding and buying a car like the one he saw in Richmond. As the years went by, Dad and us three sons were on the lookout for a six wheel L37 convertible coupe. And, after many years of watching, it became obvious that we were not going to find one. Some time in the mid to late sixties, my younger brother Wayne told me he had doubts about what our father 'thought' he saw. Wayne had traveled up north where he had access to a good library. After only a short time, he determined why we could not find another car. It turns out that only ninety-eight of these cars were produced and three of them were shipped abroad to England. Also, during about this same time period a magazine called *Special Interest Autos* featured **1937 Oldsmobiles** and confirmed the low production of this car. We were looking for a needle in a haystack. At that point, we basically forgot about finding the **1937 Oldsmobile eight cylinder convertible**.

On a Saturday in early 1970, I was driving through Lexington, Kentucky along the north side of the University of Kentucky on Maxwell street. The traffic stopped abruptly and I happened to look to my right. Of all things, there was parked a maroon **1937 Oldsmobile** double deck lid convertible with dual side mounts. My pickup truck almost parked itself and I walked back to the car just as its owner, a UK student, was coming out of a restaurant. We talked shortly about the car. He was looking for some few parts and was having little luck. I assured him that the parts were available at my Father's salvage yard as he had been collecting this year parts for some time. He and I made plans to travel to McKee, KY to my father's place and procure the parts needed for the old car. That day was a bad traveling day as it was pouring rain. After procuring the parts, we got in the truck to return back to the Bluegrass and home. As we were about to drive out on the road, he asked Dad if he would be interested in buying the **1937 Oldsmobile convertible**. Dad's reply was interesting. He did not want to appear too interested. But that day, the young student agreed to contact Dad if he wanted to sell the car.

After several conversations, my father was able to procure the car as the young owner was dedicated to an out-of-the-country project that would have

him away for several years. One day in late spring of 1970, the college student and his car showed up at my parents house. He had determined that due to my father's dedication to this particular car, that he wanted my father to own and care for his old car. A price was mentioned at which time my father quickly wrote a check. My mother used to laugh and tell that was the only time ever that Dad took the seller up on the first price.

It turns out the car was technically owned by a lady in Leola, Pennsylvania who was an older sister to the student. We, therefore know the car spent at least the 1960's in Pennsylvania. From 1970 it has been in the Adkins family. When my father passed on in June 2004, it was his wishes for his oldest son, your humble writer, to have the car. It would be good to point out that the next son got a really nice (near perfect) **1931 Ford Model A sport roadster** which was one of Dad's favorite cars also. Our youngest brother Wayne passed on some years ago and his sons were willed a really nice **1951 Cadillac** and another **1937 Oldsmobile sedan**.

The maroon **1937, 6-wheel convertible coupe, 8-cylinder Olds** resided in my garage out behind my house for five years while I went through several surgeries. In 2010, with the help of some really good friends, I started the process of refurbishing the old car. The car has been repainted a factory color that was eyeball matched to color "Agate". I determined that it was a little too red to suit me and we added green to kill the red. The color can only be described as "milk chocolate" and it looks great to me. It is not flashy and could easily be described as a bit mundane in color. That is fine with me as Dad would like the color choice. The frame has undergone a complete refurbish and repaint with the front suspension being completely rebuilt. The engine was rebuilt before it was put back into the car. There are several other items including a total interior and a new convertible top were installed.

The car title is in my name and the car is parked at my shop behind my house. But, it will forever and always be "MY FATHER'S OLDSMOBILE".

# Central Florida International Auto Show Orlando, FL November 26-29, 2015



Group photo by  
Andy Adkins