

FLORIDA REGION – ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

# *The Running Board*

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

**August 2016**



*Photo from www.bonhams.com*

## ***Coming Events:***

- August 7** First Sunday Breakfast, Denny's Restaurant, 351 East Main Street, Apopka, FL 8:00 AM
- August 8** Florida Region Board Meeting, Kress Memorial Church, 746 Formosa Ave., Winter Park, FL 6:00 PM
- August 8** Florida Region General Meeting, Kress Memorial Church, 746 Formosa Ave., Winter Park, FL 7:00 PM



For the latest Florida Region club news visit our web site

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



# The Running Board

**August 2016**

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**CLUB WEB SITE:**

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

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**Send your article submissions to:**

**EditorTRB@gmail.com**

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

# President's Letter

Thanks to Dick Gauchat for his Old Car Related Story about how he enjoyed his early years on roller skates, motorcycles and cars. And to Howard for his Show 'N Tell of his Mom's prescription bi-focal magnifier eye glasses issued in 1946. He uses them daily when he encounters real small print. August's volunteer for the Show 'N Tell segment is Carole Allen. We still need one volunteer for the Old Car Related Story segment. If no one comes forth, it will have to be me. What do you say ?

Last month Jerry Eakins called me and said he broke his arm just above his right wrist and wouldn't be able to attend the Meeting. Jerry is right handed. This month he called and said he would be attending the Meeting, but wasn't sure if he could take notes as Secretary or not. He said inputting it into 'Word' wouldn't be a problem since he types with just one finger anyway. I told him if he had any problems that I'd be glad to assist. So I called the Meeting to order. I saw him place his pencil between three (3) fingers at the end of his wrist support and start writing something down. I asked him what he was doing. He said the Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm. I never heard from him again. I guess he was able to take notes after all. We'll know when 'The Running Board' is published. I hope he took some short cuts.

Speaking of Jerry, he drove his newly restored **1955 Pontiac Star Chief Hard Top** to our July 2016 General Meeting.



This car satisfies a dream that Jerry has had for a long time.

Not only is it a beautiful restoration inside and out, but he even added air-conditioning (now even his wife Jan will ride in it). Many members viewed this beautiful automobile and appreciated what Jerry had accomplished.

Just maybe Jerry will volunteer his story of the trials and tribulations (and successes) of the process it took to restore this car. It is partly a horror story, but more importantly a story of determination. This could be our Old Car Related Story for August.

### **Howard Gilkes**



*P.S. The above picture is a preview of September's "President's Letter".*

## **Minutes of the Florida Region AACA Board Meeting – July 11, 2016**

The Board met at the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, Florida. Present were Howard Gilkes, Jerry Eakins, Dick Gauchat, Don Allen, Al Atkins, Wayne Bostak, Kerry Camp, Matt Cannizzaro, Darrel Cole, Larry Cole, Nelson Lawhorn, Mickey Bryant, and Steve Tunney.

President Gilkes called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

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

The June Board Minutes were approved as published in *The Running Board*.

Mickey Bryant reported on updates to the Floirda Region's website.

Matt Cannizzaro reported on the Membership Drive. More magazines will be available at the General Membership Meeting and more stickers will be printed.

Discussion pertaining to upcoming events led by President Gilkes ensued. President Gilkes suggested dropping or moving events in July and August because of the hot weather. Darrel Cole agreed to move the July tour of Larry Cole's warehouse in Mt. Dora to October 29. Larry suggested the Region hold an auction at the General Membership Meeting on August 8. President Gilkes will present this to the general membership. Nelson Lawhorn will coordinate the College Park Parade of Homes in November.

Don Allen told the Board he felt the free memberships given by National and the Region were not producing participating members. Discussion by the Board resulted in a motion by President Gilkes and seconded by Darrel Cole that the Region forgo free memberships entirely and only provide free National memberships (four memberships are given to the Region annually) to new Region members who have paid the Region membership dues. The motion carried.

Darrel Cole told the Board that the October Warehouse tour would also include a tour of Bill Morris' garage and lunch at Jeremiah's. He also suggested a tour of the Mt. Dora Car Museum after lunch. The cost will be \$15 per person. Darrel would like a head count for the museum owner so President Gilkes will present the proposed tour to the general membership.

Jerry Eakins discussed the First Sunday Breakfast. Some Board members felt the current Apopka restaurant is too far to travel. Others suggested changing the day of the week or changing the meal to lunch or dinner. President Gilkes will ask the general membership for suggestions.

Darrel Cole will bring old Antique Automobile magazines from his collection for the Membership Drive.

President Gilkes adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.

*Jerry Eakins*  
*Florida Region AACA Secretary*

## **Minutes of the Florida Region AACA General Meeting – July 11, 2016**

President Howard Gilkes called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM at the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, Florida. Thirty two members and guests were present.

Dick Gauchat led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dick Gauchat told a story about wheels from street cars, roller skates, a motorcycle and several old cars he has owned, particularly a **1938 Ford Tudor** and a **1940 Buick sedan**.

Howard Gilkes' Show 'N Tell involved a pair of glasses his mother purchased in 1946 and he still uses.

Millie Gauchat told a story about her mother who drove a **Model T** and then bought a **Model A**.

Carole Allen Volunteered to do a Show 'n Tell at the August meeting.

Don Allen presented the Treasurer's Report.

Minutes of the June General Membership

Meeting were approved as printed in the July 2016 issue of *The Running Board*.

Mickey Bryant discussed the updating of our web site with current "The Running Board" and asked members to submit material to include.

Matt Cannizzaro reported on the Membership Drive. He has magazines to use for distribution.

President Gilkes told us about changes to upcoming Club Events.

**July 2016** will not have an event.

**August 8** – Auction at the General Membership meeting

**September 12** – Potluck Dinner

**October 29** – a tour of Larry Cole's warehouse in Mt. Dora and Bill Morris' garage. Lunch will follow. Several members want to go to the Mount Dora Car Museum.

**November 23**– we will participate in the New Car Showcase at the Orange County Convention Center and the College Park Parade of Homes.

**December 5** – Club's Christmas Party

President Gilkes reported on the motion passed by the board concerning the free National memberships that are issued by the Region. Charlie Steffy made a motion to accept, seconded by Don Allen. The motion passed.

Tom Holt told us the 2017 Winter National will be in Ocala on February 25.

Don Allen spoke about the South Eastern Fall Meet in New Bern NC.

President Gilkes asked members for any suggestions about the First Sunday Breakfast. It

was decided to stay at Apopka for the present.

Dena Holt's Sunshine Report has Gene Roy improving.

Wayne Bostak won the 50/50 drawing and a dollar. Jerry Eakins and Larry Mills also won a dollar.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

*Jerry Eakins*  
*Florida Region AACA Secretary*

## ***On the Back Roads in July***



On July 20, 2016 (Wednesday), a group of Florida Region members met in the morning for a little drive through the back roads of Orange and Lake counties. Nelson Lawhorn reports he met with Larry Mills, Tom Holt, Wayne Bostak, Ray Morrison and Jerry Eakins for breakfast at Denny's in Apopka, FL Then a group of them went to the car cruise held in Eustis, FL that morning. Afterwards, they took the back roads to the Carriage Museum in Weirsdale, FL. Larry and Nelson then had lunch at the HWY 441 Diner in Tavares, FL. Nelson said "it was a beautiful day for a car cruise".

## ***Car Auction Result***

*Mecum Auctions / Harrisburg, PA / July 22, 2016*  
**1948 Pontiac Silver Streak Convertible**  
Lot F31, SOLD for \$30,500

AACA Senior, 2014, 239/90 HP engine. 3-speed transmission, Professional restoration using NOS parts completed in 1994. From private collection.



# COVER VEHICLE FEATURE ARTICLE

## 1937 Bentley 3.5 Litre Torpedo Roadster

The Goodwood Festival of Speed Sale  
Bonhams Collector's Motor Cars and Automobilia  
June 24, 2016  
Chichester, Goodwood

Lot 278, Sold for US\$ 163,501 inc. premium

“ The stunning Derby Bentley-based ‘special’ offered here is the product of the Devon-based Petersen Engineering, a firm that has built up an unrivalled reputation for its work in rebuilding and restoring Bentley motor cars. Over the past 25 years the company has built more than 60 ‘Petersen Specials’ - classic re-creations constructed using period parts and coachwork of authentic 1920s patterns and dimensions. Thus the Petersen cars enable enthusiasts to enjoy the ‘Vintage Bentley’ experience with the additional benefits of more modern technology and improved materials.

Although Rolls-Royce’s acquisition of Bentley Motors in 1931 had robbed the latter of its independence, it did at least ensure the survival of the Bentley name. Launched in 1933, the first of what would become known as the ‘Derby’ Bentleys continued the marque’s sporting associations but in a manner even more refined than before. Even W O Bentley himself acknowledged that the 3½-Litre model was the finest ever to bear his name.

Based on the contemporary Rolls-Royce 20/25, the 3½-Litre Bentley was slightly shorter in the wheelbase at 10’ 6” and employed a tuned (115bhp), twin-SU-carburettor version of the former’s 3,669cc overhead-valve six-cylinder engine. Add to this already remarkable package an all-synchromesh four-speed gearbox and servo assisted brakes, and the result was a vehicle offering the driver effortless high performance in almost absolute silence. ‘The Silent Sports Car’, as it was quickly dubbed, had few peers as a tireless long-distance tourer, combining as it did traditional Rolls-Royce refinement with Bentley performance and handling. ”

### Photos & Text from:

<https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/23593/lot/278/?category=result&length=90&page=2#/aa8=1&w8=results&m8=8>



# Sold on eBay

This **1925 Pierce-Arrow Series 80 Roadster** (34,000 miles) with a 6 cylinder engine, manual transmission, located in Verona, Wisconsin sold for \$44,544.00 on 7/13/16 (16 bids). Seller's states...

*"Over this past winter the car was repainted, re-nickel plated and upholstered. The undercarriage was highly detailed and the dash restored to show quality I even painstakingly replaced the leather boots that hold the grease for all four shocks just as it would have come from the factory. The windshield glass and surrounding nickel plated frames are brand new... Every piece of this car has been restored to show quality, except the archer hood ornament which I left with it's original patina. It is in perfect condition"*



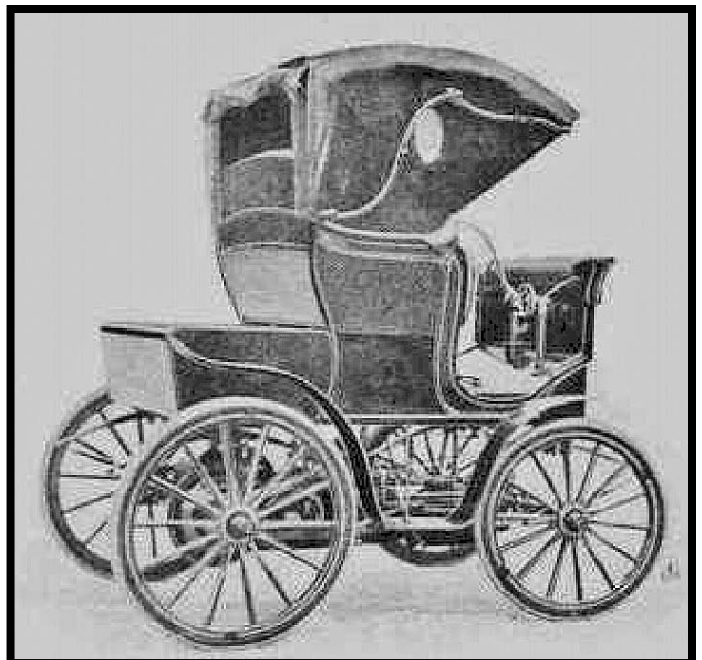
# 1898 Munson Electric-Gasoline Hybrid

" On April 25, 1898, the Munson Company of La Porte, Indiana, is recognized as the first to produce a workable gasoline-electric car in America. ..It used the battery to start the gasoline engine to drive the vehicle and the generator would keep the battery charged. When more power was needed on uphill or braking power downhill grades, a switch would engage the battery power. With a ten gallon tank, there was enough fuel to go for 120 miles... All of the mechanical and electrical components were carried under the vehicle on a frame between the front and rear axles. A two- or four-cylinder gasoline engine, depending on the service of the vehicle, drove what Munson called the electric machine. The electric machine automatically operated, either as a generator or a motor, according to the speed of the engine. The armature or revolving part of the electrical machine was the fly wheel of the engine. The engine and electric machine were slow speed units ranging from 250 to 500 revolutions per minute. Adjacent to the machine was a two-speed gearbox with a friction type clutch activated by a lever in front of the driver to provide a slow speed when needed and a high speed for good roads. A secondary shaft from this transmission provided direct drive by spur gears to the differential gear on the rear axle. "

## Text and Photos from:

<http://cruise-in.com/munson-americas-first-hybrid/>

<http://www.earlyamericanautomobiles.com/americanautomobiles2.htm>



# Henry Ford's Prototype 1941 Soybean Car

“ In the 1930s, chemists doing research at Ford’s Greenfield Village laboratory discovered that soy-based plastics could be molded into thick, hard sheets. The scientists created prototypes of automobile body parts, like trunk lids. Soon, they envisioned a car with a complete soy-plastic body. Henry Ford unveiled this experimental vehicle in 1941. The “Soybean Car” was abandoned with the U.S. entry into World War II.



Robert Boyer, a chemist, oversaw a series of experiments at Greenfield Village’s Soybean Laboratory. The undertaking resulted in this plastic-bodied car. Henry Ford had a strong interest in plastic automobile parts. Always partial to projects combining industry with agriculture, Ford hoped plastic made from soybeans might be developed into a safe, strong substitute for traditional metals. “



**Photos & Text from:**

<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/artifact/393871#slide=gs-309956>

