

FLORIDA REGION  
ANTIQUÉ AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

# *The Running Board*

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



**1934 Packard Twelve Dietrich Convertible**

**December 2024**

Coming Events:

Dec 9	Florida Region Club Christmas Dinner and General Meeting, 989 West OBT (US441) Apopka 32703	1 PM
Dec 21	Old Car Cruise-in, Perkins, 989 West OBT (US441) Apopka 32703	2 to 5PM



For the latest Florida Region club news visit our website

[www.FloridaRegion.aaca.com](http://www.FloridaRegion.aaca.com)



THE RUNNING BOARD	
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Send your article submissions to:  
boardeditorfl@gmail.com  
Deadline is the 20th of the month

### December Birthdays

Faren LeJeune	December 7
Charles Jones	December 12
Shaun Sweeney	December 12
Craig Minegar	December 16
Jack Swain	December 16
Larry Cole	December 21
Arlene Mills	December 26

## Board and General Meeting –

The Florida Region AACA Club general meeting was held on November 11 at the All Saints Episcopal Church in the Mary Martha Room.

President Charlie Jones called the meeting to order. Fifteen members attended the meeting. Minutes from October 9 as presented in the TRB newsletter were accepted by the club. The Treasury report was presented by Don Allen and accepted by the club members.

Charlie reported on the tour of NPD on Nov 9.. There was good attendance by our club. Then Charlie asked who would be at the next cruise next Sunday. The cruise last month had an attendance increase.

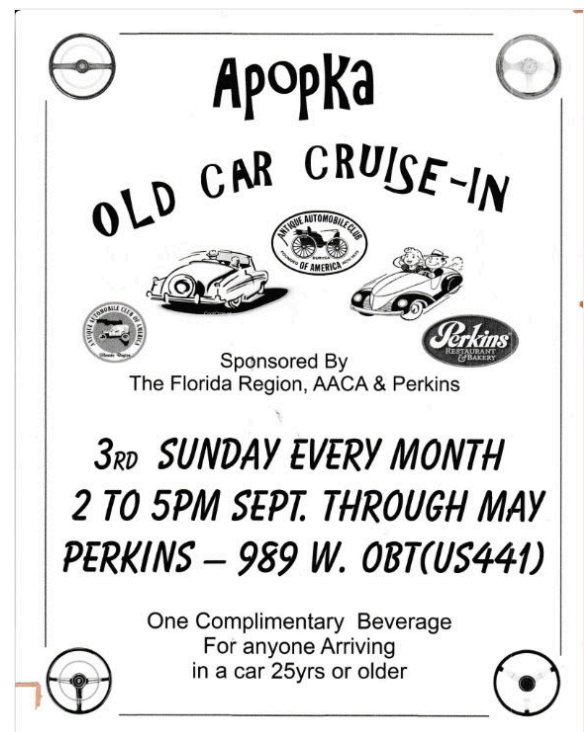
Bud Bernier announced the annual Mayflower at Winter Park cruise on Dec 10. A breakfast box will be provided. An email will be sent out with the cruise details. Darrell Cole and Bud plan to attend the cruise.

There was an interesting discussion on crashbox and Pontiacs transmission that started with Charlie talking about manual gearboxes. Don Reinhart described his 1954 Nash brake pedal with a starter button below the brake pedal. Also Larry Mills encouraged the club members to visit the club web site for interesting info links <https://floridaregion.aaca.com/>.

Next Charlie started the discussion for club 2025 officers. Volunteers were requested.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting after the discussion. The motion was accepted the the meeting closed

Glenn Harris/Larry Mills, Secretary



### Hi Florida Region members,

As you know, the Florida Region has a Christmas dinner every year in place of having a December meeting. As was shown in the November Running board, it will be on December 9th at 1 PM at Perkins in Apopka, as it was last year. The address is 989 West Orange Blossom Trail, or US

441. You will order from the menu. Perkins has a good variety of food selections. We must have a head count to give Perkins in advance so they can have extra help to take care of us. Please let me know within the next few days if you are coming and how many will be in your party. Do not put this off as I don't want to have to follow up on this. You can bring a spouse, partner, friend or relative, just let me know how many. My e-mail address is mrboti55@aol.com and my phone is 863-604-3148.

Don Allen

### **This Playboy Car Came Before the Magazine**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YklzBSeiezY>

Right after World War II ended in 1945, there was quite a pent-up demand for new automobiles since auto manufacturers had shifted their efforts to manufacturing vehicles and equipment for the war effort during the period of 1941-1945.



Louis Horwitz, a former Packard dealer, Charles D. Thomas, a former Pontiac engineer, and Norman Richardson, a talented garage mechanic, founded the Playboy Motor Corporation with the intention of creating a small, second car priced at less than \$1000 for around-the-town errands. This Playboy car was designed with the intention of being that around-the-town second car, and it featured America's first retractable hardtop convertible.

The problem was that most of the trio's money went into a prototype, which



debuted in the autumn of 1946 at the Statler Hotel in Buffalo. The car had a rear-mounted 2.6-liter four-cylinder built by military supplier Hercules, and a three-passenger cabin with a canvas top. This prototype lives at the Saratoga Automobile Museum today.



By the summer of 1947, the design was changed to a front end engine layout with engines made by Continental, and a manually operated retractable hard top. This concept became the 1948 Playboy A48, of which 91 were finished before a failed sale to Kaiser resulted in all assets being auctioned off in 1950. What is a Playboy A48? It's an American microcar with a 1.5-liter, 40-horsepower four-cylinder, a three-speed gearbox with optional overdrive, an independent front suspension, and GM-sourced electronics.



The company only made a reported 97 prototype cars prior to closing up shop. None were ever originally offered for sale to the public. The cars were exposed to heavy publicity and were shipped around the country and even around the world in the hopes of generating interest and possible dealer franchise investors. A stock offering that would have provided capital to begin full scale production failed in the wake of the unrelated Tucker automobile scandal. The Tucker scandal scared off potential investors who were then, albeit

unjustifiably, worried about any new start-up car manufacturer.



In early 1950, after failed negotiations with industrialist Henry J. Kaiser to buy out the company, and after a second stock offering didn't work either, the assets of the company were auctioned. Most were bought by a Chinese businessman who produced one larger prototype of the Playboy in 1951 before he went belly-up as well. Another businessman, Alvin Trumbull, from Connecticut, tried again to revive the car's interest over the next few years, but, eventually, he also gave up. Finally the remaining inventory was sold in 1964 to Donald Moore from Massachusetts, a collector and previously proposed Playboy dealer.



There are currently only 51 Playboy cars known to still exist in the world. Of those, only about 15 are known to be in roadworthy condition, and fewer than 5 are known to have the optional windshield-mounted spotlights.

### **INTERESTING TRIVIA ABOUT THE PLAYBOY CAR**

<https://www.playboymotorcars.com/>

A woman who worked for Playboy Motor Cars at the time they shut down suggested to her son's friend that he use the Playboy name for his new magazine. That friend's name was Hugh Hefner! Hefner did NOT ever own a



Playboy car.