

FLORIDA REGION
ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

The Running Board

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Antique Motor Vehicles



1932 Ford V8 Model 18 August 2025

Coming Events:

Aug 9	Downtown Longwood Car Cruise In, 174 West Church Ave, Longwood	5:00 PM
August 11	Florida Region Club Board Meeting, All Saints Church, Winter Park FL, Thomas Center in the Bridal Parlour.	6:30 PM
August 11	Florida Region Club General Meeting, All Saints Church, Winter Park FL, Thomas Center in the Bridal Parlour	7:00 PM



For the latest Florida Region club news visit our website
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

August Birthdays

Gerri Cannizzaro	August 19
Matt Cannizzaro	August 19
Mickey Bryant	August 27
Angie Sprague	August 28

Board and General Meeting –

The Florida Region AACA Club general was held on July 14 at All Saints Church in the Bride's Parlour. Thirteen members attended the general meeting after the board meeting. The meeting was opened by the

club President Charlie Jones with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at 7:05PM. The minutes from the June meeting as presented in the TRB newsletter were accepted by the club. The Treasury report was presented by Treasurer Don Allen and was accepted by the club members.

Charlie opened the meeting's general business discussion by asking for the latest planning for the club's 2026 car show. Fliers are ready to be passed to the participants from the last show. The club members agreed that advertising for the show should be started now. It was observed that it is only 5 months before the show in Jan.

Charlie also stated that the club monthly cruise is not having success with participation. The Sunday scheduling does not attract anyone and was considered to be a problem. So Charlie suggested that Saturday may be a better time to have the monthly cruise dates or pursue another way to generate an increase in membership.

In addition Charlie proposed to organize a group of members to join him at Old Town Classic Car events on Saturdays to man a membership table. Dana added that the Old Town show crowds do not have the best behavior. So the DownTown Long Wood car show on the second Saturday may be a better choice. It was stated that Post Time Lounge at Longwood will have a classic car

show on September 22 which may be a good event to attend.

The discussion was expanded to coming events that the club members could attend. The American Muscle Car Museum event in February was mentioned as a good candidate. Also Lake Mirror Classic at Lakeland in October would be a good event to attend.

Charlie proposed a group of the club members should get together to attend specific events, perhaps once a month. A volunteer lead is needed to organize. These are the events that were suggested for members to attend:

Gateway Classic Cars monthly Caffeine and Chrome event on second saturday,

Longwood Downtown show on second Sat. (Aug 9 is next),

<https://flacarshows.com/events/event/downtown-longwood-cruise-in/>

American Muscle Car Museum in Feb Melbourne,

Lake Helen county in May,

Lake Mirror in Oct,

BOPC auburndale show oct 25,

Sanford Cars & Coffee at Henry's Depot and DJ Don event first sunday,

Club Christmas Party reservation was made by Charlie for Dec 8 (which is Charlie's Birthday).

Larry Mills volunteered to set up a computer calendar to notify members of these events.

At closing of the discussion, members were reminded that the president still has miscellaneous Model T parts donated to the club from Howard Gilkes for auction or sharing with the club.

Next the 50/50 drawing was performed and afterward club members had refreshments provided by Betsy Campbell.

Dana Sprague
Club Secretary

1961 Plymouth Valiant and the Plymouth Reliant- Plain cars used to Rescue Plymouth

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plymouth_Reliant
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plymouth_Reliant

<https://macsmotorcitygarage.com/the-cars-that-saved-chrysler-1981-plymouth-reliant-k-and-dodge-aries-k/>

Two times the Plymouth division of the Chrysler Corp relied on compact cars to provide the division a market share against its competitors. The first time Plymouth produced the compact 1961 Valiant design, the second time it produced the 1981 Plymouth Reliant K car model. The first time was to answer the challenge from GM Corvair and Ford's Falcon compact car models. The second was the last chance to stop Chrysler Corp from going out of business.

Both the Valiant and Reliant were not remembered because of their styling or sporty performance. For the Valiant, it was the slant 6 engine that was famous for its reliability and strength, and for the Reliant it was famous for the powerful marketing campaign by Lee Iacocca.

The Valiant boasted a radical design that continued Exner's "Forward Look" styling with "sleek, crisp lines which flow forward in a dart or wedge shape". But the forward look did not work with the Valiant which was considered a ugly car

for old folks. Some called it a can of sardines on wheels.



But the Valiant debuted an all-new six-cylinder overhead-valve engine, the famous slant-six. Its inline cylinders were uniquely canted 30° to the right (passenger side), permitting a lower hoodline. The water pump was shifted from front to side, shortening engine length. And an efficient long-branch individual-runner intake manifold was fitted, an advance that benefited from Chrysler's pioneering work in tuned intakes. The slant-six produced both more power and better economy than similar American made economy straight sixes, and it soon gained a reputation for dependability. Project engineer Willem Weertman and his team had designed a simple yet robust

workhorse, from its four-main forged crankshaft to a simplified "mechanical" valve train. Block and head castings were unusually thick because both were intended to be cast in either iron or aluminum with the same tooling. Although volume casting techniques of the era could not yet reliably produce complex head castings in aluminum, over 50,000 die-cast aluminum-block versions of the 225 cu in (3.7 L) engine were produced between late 1961 and early 1963 and sold as extra-cost options. The 1960 Valiant exemplified Chrysler's leadership in aluminum die casting.



It was one of Chrysler's best-selling automobiles during the 1960s and 1970s helping to keep the company solvent during an economic downturn. Road & Track magazine considered the

Valiant to be "one of the best all-around domestic cars".



The 1981 Plymouth Reliant K-car's popularity with the American public was due in no small part to Iacocca's powerful sales pitch. In a series of memorable commercials, he gazed straight into the camera and growled, "If you can find a better car, buy it." Chrysler even managed to make buying a K-car a patriotic mission with the import-baiting slogan, "America's not

going to be pushed around anymore." (had a double meaning since it was pulled by front front wheels). Initial advertisements for the Aries were done in red, white, and blue and emphasized American industry's desire to answer the challenge of Japanese products and also promoted the low \$5,880 base price.

Was the K-car a great car? It was the right car for economically challenging times, and it was definitely the right car for Chrysler. Between 1981 and 1987, it consistently sold more than 300,000 units annually, restored the company to profitability, and helped to make Iacocca a household name.

Both the Valiant and Reliant are not great classic cars but these two show an American car maker at its best in engineering and marketing.