

FLORIDA REGION  
ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

# *The Running Board*

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



## **1952 Packard Special Speedster January 2026**

### Coming Events:

January 12	Florida Region Club Board Meeting, All Saints Church, Winter Park FL, Thomas Center in the Mary Martha Room	6:30 PM
January 12	Florida Region Club General Meeting, All Saints Church, Winter Park FL, Thomas Center in the Mary Martha Room	7:00 PM
January 31	Florida Region AACA Winter Classic Car Show, 1000 East 1st Ave, Mt Dora, FL	10:00 AM to 3:00 PM



For the latest Florida Region club news visit our website  
**[www.FloridaRegion.aaca.com](http://www.FloridaRegion.aaca.com)**



## THE RUNNING BOARD

January 2026  
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Send your article submissions to:  
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Deadline is the 20th of the month

## January Birthdays

Dana Sprague	January 1
Betsy Campbell	January 16
Walt Juergensen	January 21
Joyce Harris	January 27

## Board and General Meeting –

The Florida Region AACA Club general was held on December 8 after the Christmas Lunch at the Apopka Perkins Diner. The meeting was started by the club President Charlie Jones by welcoming a guest of Jack Scott at the luncheon. Jack introduced his

friend, Gene Showers whom he has known and worked with at Gene's Chevy Shop in Apopka. Gene drove John Ruff's 56 Chevy to the luncheon.



Bud Bernier with John Ruff's 56 Chevy at the lunch

The minutes from the November meeting as presented in the TRB newsletter were accepted by the club. Don Allen presented the Treasurer's budget report for November. The report was accepted by the club.

Next Charlie opened the floor for nominations of 2026 club officers. Charlie asked for volunteers for the club offices in 2026. But the club members agreed to keep the current 2025 officers for the 2026 year. Don Alenn as Treasurer, Dana Sprague as secretary, Mickey Bryant as Vice President, Charlie Jones as President.

Car status show fliers and AACA Antique Automobile magazines were distributed to

members for passing to promote the show.

FLORIDA REGION AACA  
**Winter Classic CAR SHOW**  
**JANUARY 31, 2026**  
Rain date: Saturday, February 14, 2026  
**First Baptist Church of Mount Dora**  
Show Hours 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Check in starts at 8:00am  
Location: 1000 E. 1st Ave.  
Mount Dora, FL 32757  
**FREE TO THE PUBLIC!**  
Fun for the whole family!  
**Live DJ • 50/50 • Food  
Door Prizes • Trophies**  
Early Registration - \$20.00 (deadline 01/24/26) • Day of Show - \$25.00

Charlie Jones

President

**Dues are Due Jan.**

Our Region and National dues are due to be paid by Jan. 1, 2026. The Region dues are \$25 and this is for a single person or a married person or someone with a significant partner. Send your check to me, Don Allen, 153 Poe Dr., Winter Haven, FL 33884. Make the check out to the Florida Region, AACA. You can also give me cash or a check at the November meeting or the club Christmas dinner on December 8. The national dues are \$45 and you can pay that by check or call in and pay by credit card. If mailing a check, make it out to AACA and mail to AACA, 800 West Hersheypark

Drive, Hershey, PA 17033. Be sure to include your membership number.

Club Treasurer

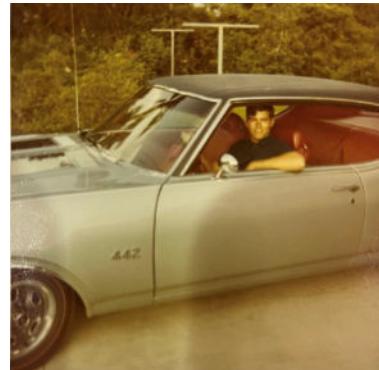
Don Allen

## **1969 Oldsmobile 442 Holiday Coupe:**

### **Owned by Laurie and Bob Kelsey A Love Story**



Bob and I met in the fall of 1970 when I was a freshman at Furman University in Greenville, SC and Bob was a junior. Bob had a 1969 Olds holiday coupe 442. It was quite the muscle car! We started dating in the spring of 1972 before Bob graduated. He still had this car. I went back to Furman in the fall of 1972, and we continued to date.



Bob Kelsey in his original Oldsmobile 442 Holiday Coupe circa 1970

In December of 1972, Bob proposed and surprised me with an engagement ring in this car. We married on July 21, 1973 and we went on our honeymoon in this car. Not long after, he sold his beautiful car to get a truck for work in his family's construction company in Orlando, FL.



Bob and Laurie Kelsey's wedding in 1973

### **Nostalgia:**

For many years Bob talked about that car; first to me, then to our children, and then to our grandchildren but especially to the boys. Whenever they would watch car shows or auctions, he would always mention it and wonder if he would ever see his car on there and how he wished he had kept it.

### **The Search:**

In 2020, when Bob was turning 70, I decided to try and find a car like his. I did not have the VIN number so I knew I could not find the exact car. However, I thought maybe I could find one similar and surprise him with it. I searched on the internet and found quite a few that were 1969 but none with his color combination, (silver exterior/red interior). I found silver ones, but they all had black interiors. I finally found one with a red interior, but it was black outside. I figured it could be painted to look like what he had. A client of ours deals in used cars so I asked him to look at the one I had found. It was in rough shape, and it was too much money for all the

work that had to be done on it so I let it go. Up to this point, I had not shared with anyone what I was wanting to do but I asked our son, Brock, to help me.

The Covid pandemic hit and I was about to give up. Bob's birthday came and went but I did not tell him what I had planned. I told him I had ordered something for him, but it hadn't come yet. I was about to give up, but I just felt like God was telling me to keep looking. So, I asked God to find it because I did not know where else to go. I had been searching for over 2 years to find the color combo. The next week I got an email and there was the car I had been looking for! It did not have the vinyl black roof as Bob's original car had, nor AC, but those were things I figured I could add.

### **Success!**

By now, all our family knew about this car including our 5 grandchildren, but no one said a thing to Bob. We had it shipped down from Michigan. The inspector who looked it over told us the paint job was pristine, and the car was in amazing shape. It had been kept inside a garage in Michigan and Bob would be just the third owner. The

inspector told our son “If your mom doesn’t buy this car I will!” After it got down here, I had to do a lot of sneaking around getting the insurance, the license plate, storing it at our client’s car lot, going to inspect it, etc. Finally, in September of 2021, we surprised Bob with the car. He was shocked but it has been such fun to see how proud he is of the car and telling our love story of the original car and the one he has now.



Bob and Laurie Kelsey with their new Oldsmobile 442 Holiday Coupe



Bob and Laurie Kelsey in their new Oldsmobile 442 Holiday Coupe

This current car has led to meeting and working with new friends that share the passion of classic muscle cars. The car is still in Laurie’s name!

Laurie and Bob Kelsey