

FLORIDA REGION
ANTIQUÉ AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

The Running Board

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



1966 Royal Bobcat Pontiac GTO

April 2023

Coming Events:

Apr 10	Florida Region Board Meeting, All Saints Episcopal Church, Mary Martha Room, 338 East Lyman Avenue, Winter Park FL	6:00PM
Apr 10	Florida Region General Meeting, All Saints Episcopal Church, Mary Martha Room, 338 East Lyman Avenue, Winter Park FL	7:00PM
Apr 29	47th Heritage Classic and Antique Car Show, Blake Park, Lake Helen, FL	8:00AM



For the latest Florida Region club news visit our website

www.FloridaRegion.aaca.com



THE RUNNING BOARD		
April 2023 Volume 47 / Issue 4 Editor/Designer: Glenn Harris		
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Send your article submissions to:
boardeditorfl@gmail.com
Deadline is the 20th of the month

April Birthdays

Linda Bryant	April 1
Bob Rader	April 6
Perry Lynn Rader	April 6
Jan Lawhorn	April 23

Board and General Meeting –

The Florida Region AACA Club Board was held March 13th at the All Saints Episcopal Church in the Mary Martha Room.

Vice president Mickey Bryant presented a revised club logo. The board agreed to accept Mickey's modified logo as the official club log.



The club general meeting started after the club Board meeting. Club President Charlie Jones opened the meeting at 7:15PM. Fourteen members attended the general meeting. Treasurer Don Allen presented the budget report.

The club agreed that the businesses that sponsored and provided show prizes would be honored in the March club newsletter. Their support was greatly appreciated for helping make the February show a success.

The next subject discussed was planning for the 2024 car show. The members agreed that the Mt Dora Baptist Church location was an excellent location for show. Also it was pointed out that having the car show on the same weekend as the Mt Dora art show would benefit the car show attendance too. Choosing the art show timeline would mean the car 2024 car show

could be around February 3-4 2024. This initial plan was approved by the club members

The next club discussion was focused on holding events to promote more new club membership. Mickey Bryant proposed holding events like Car and Coffee type with location in the Floor & Decor (Floor & Decor, 355 FL-436, Fern Park, FL 32730) parking lot.

In addition Charlie Jones proposed a club cruise event for April 14. It would be a club drive to the Lake Ridge Winery at 19239 US Hwy 27, Clermont, FL. The club members showed good support for the cruise. The details for the cruise will be provided in future club emails.

The club board then encouraged club members to submit subjects for the meeting programs. Also members were encouraged to submit articles and items of interest for the newsletter too.

After the club discussions, the auction of items donated by Russ and Shirley Dawson, and Kendra Gilkes was held.

Betsy Campbell provided excellent cookies and drinks afterward.

Glenn Harris, Secretary



Here is the AACA Antique Automobile notice for David Berndt and Karen Parker have a 1996 Rolls Royce Silver Spur Springfield that was awarded the Foo Dog award at the AACA Annual Convention.

Unsung Engineer: Bill Collins-Father of the Pontiac GTO

William Thaw Collins, Jr. died peacefully at his home on March 5, 2023. His wife and sweetheart Nina was at his side. Bill was an automotive engineer with a storied career, an entrepreneur, and philanthropist. People made movies about things he did. He was 90.

In the early 1960s he was a member of Pontiac's advanced engineering group. Of his many accomplishments, Bill was most recognized as the "father" of the Pontiac GTO. He conceived of the GTO at a meeting organized by Pontiac's chief engineer at the time, John Delorean. Bill pointed out that the husky V-8 from a Bonneville or Grand Prix would fit into the same space occupied by the Tempest's tame engine. That was the genesis of the American muscle

car. The 2019 documentary "Framing John Delorean" included a reenactment of their legendary meeting. Collins also noted that he was the one who suggested that the GTO be killed off after it moved to the X-body platform in 1974. "The 1974 GTO was based off the cheap Chevrolet--it wasn't a GTO anymore," he said. "I guess you could say that I was both the 'father' and 'executioner' of the GTO!"



In addition to the GTO, Bill was instrumental in developing some of Pontiac's most iconic vehicles, including the Firebird and Grand Am. As Bill told Hemmings Motor News in 2018, "that was the fun of Pontiac in that era, a single person could make major things happen."



In 1974, Delorean asked Bill to leave General Motors to lead the development of his new concept vehicle, the Delorean DMC, a car later

immortalized in the Back to the Future movie franchise.



Five years later Bill resigned from DMC and began his next innovative project. He envisioned a 21-foot motorhome with streamlined, modern styling and a BMW engine that could fit into an ordinary garage. Beginning with a full-size prototype of the vehicle's interior — which he built with Nina in their own garage — Bill started the Vixen Motor Company in 1981. The Vixen 21 was a radical standout in the industry. Alas, Bill was too far ahead of his time. Only 587 Vixen 21s were produced at the Vixen factory in Pontiac, Michigan. Many remain on the road today (including in Cocoa, FL), supported by a passionate owners' community.



<https://www.hemmings.com/stories/rip-bill-collins-gto-engineer/>

<https://www.martinson.info/obituaries/William-T-Collins-Jr?obId=27475310#/obituaryInfo>

Auction Results



1975 Chrysler Imperial LeBaron sold for \$6,600 at Hemmings Online Auction March 2023



1964 Studebaker Avanti sold for \$24,413 at Hemmings Online Auction March 2023



1949 Oldsmobile Futuramic 98 sold for \$54,600 at Hemmings Online Auction March 2023



1957 Chevrolet Corvette sold for \$86,625 at Hemmings Online Auction March 2023



1932 Plymouth PB sold for \$20,475 at Hemmings Online Auction March 2023



1946 Mercury Two-Door Sedan Coupe sold for \$19,425 at Hemmings Online Auction March 2023



1972 Cadillac Eldorado sold for \$23,100 at Hemmings Online Auction March 2023



1923 Nash Four Series 40 Sport Touring sold for \$11,078 at Hemmings Online Auction March 2023