

FLORIDA REGION  
ANTIQUÉ AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

# *The Running Board*

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



## 1953 Futurliner Convoy In Lakeland Florida

**September 2023**

### Coming Events:

Sept 11	Florida Region Board Meeting, All Saints Episcopal Church, Mary Martha Room, 338 East Lyman Avenue, Winter Park FL	6:00PM
Sept 11	Florida Region General Meeting, All Saints Episcopal Church, Mary Martha Room, 338 East Lyman Avenue, Winter Park FL	7:00PM
Sept 30	Ultimate Car Show by Meals on Wheels, Rieter Park, 311 W Warren Ave, Longwood, FL 32750	10:00AM



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

### September Birthdays

Lee Dunkin	September 3
Sally Cole	September 5
Debra Palmer	September 6
Carole Allen	September 8
Toni Foley	September 25
Billie Jo Elliot	September 28
Julie Lane	September 29
Bob McMullen	September 29

William Morris

September 29

### Board and General Meeting –

The Florida Region AACA Club Board was held August 14th at the All Saints Episcopal Church in the Mary Martha Room.

The club general meeting started after the club Board meeting. Sixteen members attended the general meeting. President Charlie Jones called the meeting to order at 7:18PM. After the pledge of Allegiance, Don Allen presented the treasurer’s report and the members accepted the report. The July meeting minutes were accepted as shown in the August newsletter.

The club members welcomed back Larry Mills after recovery from illness. Bud Benier introduced a new member, Dana Sprague. Dana is the proud owner of a 1985 Corvette and

1991 Delorean.



Jack Scott announced that a car show, Ultimate Car Show sponsored by Meals on Wheels will occur on Sept 30 and encouraged members to attend with their cars. Prize money will be awarded.

**LIQUID TECH**  
**Change a Life!**  
**CAR SHOW & FUNDRAISER**  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023  
10:00 AM - 2:00 P.M.  
AT REITER PARK

**THE ULTIMATE CAR SHOW**  
LONGWOOD, FLORIDA

**CLASSIC CARS**  
**SPORT, MUSCLE & EXOTIC CARS**  
**NEW CARS**  
**TRUCKS & TRAILERS**  
**ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV)**

**ABOUT MEALS ON WHEELS, ETC.**  
Meals on Wheels, Etc. is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Seminole County residents ages 60 and up by providing critical services which enables them to maintain their independence and dignity. Their services include Home-Delivered Meals, Neighborhood Dining Centers, Transportation, Homemaking, Electric bill assistance (low income), Home Weatherization (low income, all ages), and CHORE (yard clean up, pressure washing, exterior painting, installation of grab bars).

**MEALS ON WHEELS ETC.**

**FEATURING**

- Free to attend
- 5 Car Pavilions (Categories)
- Farmer's Market
- Gourmet Food Trucks
- Beer Garden
- Music
- 50/50 Raffle
- \$25 Car Registration/ \$35 on day of event
- Cash Prizes **\$150, \$75, \$25** - for each car category
- Plus, Best of Show Awards
- Plus, Dash Plaques
- Goodie Bags to attendees

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Interested in sponsoring or questions, about the event? contact Candako Amreich 407-595-4100, or ultimatecarshow@liquidtech.net

**REGISTER AT: WWW.THEULTIMATECARSHOW.ORG**

<https://theultimatecarshow.org/#hometop>

Charlie Jones mentioned the Gasparilla Concours d' Elegance at Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg will occur Jan 21 2024.



Carole Allen noted that the Lake Mirror Classic will occur on October 21. As a special feature , the event will feature the Parade of Progress Futurliner vehicle. Club members were urged to participate with their cars.

Schedule for Lake Mirror Classic

Friday, Oct 20th Starting at 5:00PM  
Hot Rod Rendezvous, Street Rods and  
Customs as the centerpiece of the event.  
Downtown Lakeland

Saturday, Oct 21st - Opens at 9:00AM  
Lake Mirror Classic Concours d'Elegance  
and Open Car Show  
Downtown Lakeland

Sunday, Oct 22nd - Starts at 8:00AM  
Lake Mirror Classic Road Rally

[Register Now.](#)

Questions contact Concours Director Robert  
D'Angelo

[robert@lakemirrorclassic.com](mailto:robert@lakemirrorclassic.com)

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

The planning for the 2024 car show in Mt Dora was discussed. The plan for judging by show participants was confirmed by Charlie Jones. Mickey Bryant asked for models for trophies. Dana Sprague volunteered to provide goodies from AAA for the show gift bags. The status of arrangements for the DJ and food truck were given by Don Allen.

For the program this meeting, Mickey Bryant presented a list of automotive events that happened in August. Matt Cannizzaro volunteered a story about judging that involved a 1929 Packard owned by Larry Cole.

Next, the 50/50 drawing was held. Jack Scott won the pot and Betsy Campbell won the Silver Dollars.

Afterward, Betsy Campbell served some great cookies.

Glenn Harris, Secretary

**Parade of Progress Tour with  
the Futurliner at Lake Mirror  
Classic Oct 21**



Futurliners visited 251 towns across the USA, Canada, Mexico and Cuba covering over 1,000,000 miles / 1,600,000 km.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gybow5Jr6O8>

<https://lakemirrorclassic.com/parade/>



Experience the 70th anniversary of this famous Motorama display with the Futurliner on Saturday, October 21 at the Lake Mirror Concours d'Elegance around the beautiful setting of the Lake Mirror Promenade in Lakeland, FL.

The Futurliner will serve as the centerpiece of a very special display recreating the 1953 GM Motorama featuring these very limited production vehicles:

1953 Cadillac Eldorado

1953 Buick Skylark

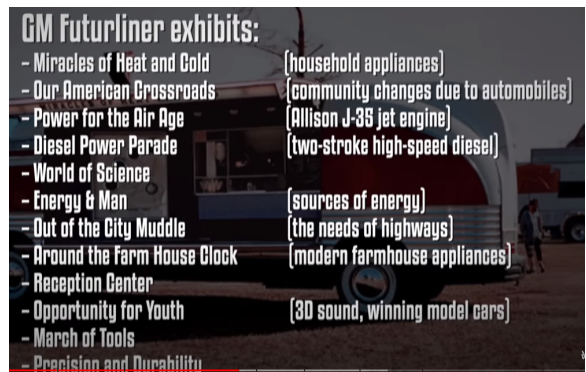
1953 Oldsmobile Fiesta

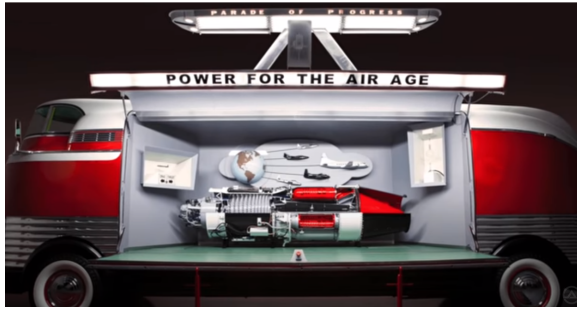
## 1953 Chevrolet Corvette



Originally manufactured for the 1939 New York World's Fair,[5] the Futurliners were later featured in GM's Parade of Progress, a promotional caravan traveling a 150-stop route across the United States and Canada

Interrupted by World War II, the Futurliner vehicles were refurbished by GM and the Parade of Progress resumed in 1953. The reborn parade was discontinued in 1956 for the last time, displaced by increasing popularity of network television—one of the very technologies the Futurliners themselves had once promoted





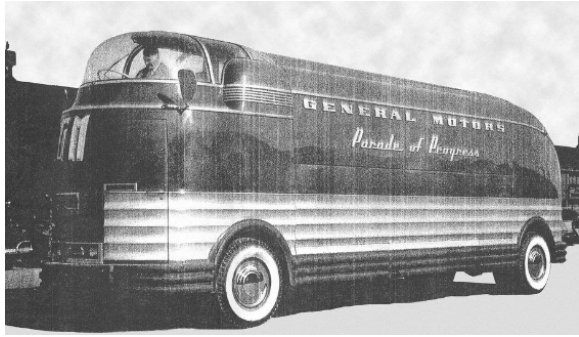
This is one of only two Futurliners restored to their original glory. Experts from the National Auto and Truck Museum in Auburn, Indiana will host tours of the vehicle, answer questions and allow guests inside the Futurliner as well as allow photos and help take pictures for people as they experience this once in a lifetime opportunity!

At 33 feet long, 8 feet wide, more than 11 feet tall, and weighing more than 12 tons, each Futurliner featured heavily stylized art deco, streamlined bodywork, deep red side and white roof paint, large articulated chrome side panels, a military-grade 302 cubic inch GMC straight-six gasoline engine, whitewall tires and a prominent, high-mounted, centrally located driver command position with a panoramic windshield. A rarely seen technical feature was that the front wheels, in addition to rear

wheels, were also dual wheels.



The Futurliner that will be at the Lake Mirror Classic in Lakeland is owned by the NATMUS Museum in Auburn, Indiana. They had it in outside storage behind their museum for many years. It was #10 of 12 built.



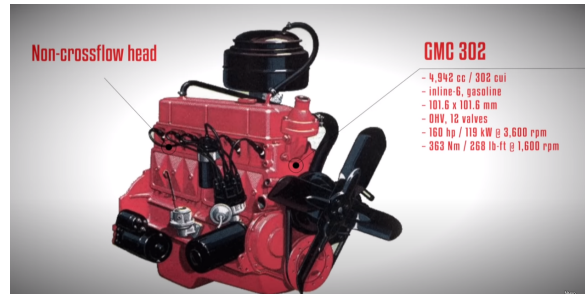
It is true that the parade of progress made its first stop ever in Lakeland, FL in February, 1936. But the vehicles were not the same and were not called Futurliners. We have pictures of the originals, but none are known to exist. The one in the picture on the cover is one of the reconfigured ones after WW2. The big differences were the glass roof over the driver's compartment. with no ventilation and no A/C. The sun coming in made it a bake oven. They removed the glass and replaced it with metal. Still it was very hot.







\* 1953 General Motors Futurliner \*



Later version used a 6 cylinder gasoline with top speed of about 45 mph.

It did not have an automatic transmission. It had 3 transmissions, but the third one was actually a power take off unit and not used for moving the bus. For motivation it had a 4 speed transmission and a 2 speed that was like a two speed rear axle, but it was not in the rear axle. This gave them 8 forward speeds.

Don and Carole Allen



Original version used a 4 cylinder Detroit Diesel that had a top speed of about 35 mph.