

FLORIDA REGION – ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

# *The Running Board*

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

**January 2018**

## **Steve Tunney's 1961 Ford Thunderbird Hardtop**



### **Coming Events:**

- January 7** First Sunday Breakfast, Denny's Restaurant, 351 East Main Street, Apopka, FL **8:00 AM**
- January 8** Florida Region Board Meeting, Kress Memorial Church, 746 Formosa Ave., Winter Park, FL **6:00 PM**
- January 8** Florida Region General Meeting, Awards Night & Installation of 2018 Officers  
Kress Memorial Church, 746 Formosa Ave., Winter Park, FL **7:00 PM**



For the latest Florida Region club news visit our website

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



# The Running Board

January 2018

Volume 42 / Issue 1

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**CLUB WEB SITE:**

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

# President's Letter

Hi All,

As I ready myself for a trip up to NY/NJ it is quite busy here for me. The holidays are always a busy time for all of us and I hope you are all keeping up with the madness. It's also a good time to follow our religious teachings and seek peace and happiness for all the world. I think, that begins on a local level, with those around us.

Ok, back to cars and the club. My **1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Convertible** is now running and stopping again but I am committed to move on from it. I am excited about the prospects of finding something new. With Mecum Auctions beginning on Friday, January 5, 2018 in Kissimmee, FL there will be plenty of cars available in the near future. I do need to sell the Chevy first, so timing there may not work out. I encourage folks to check out Mecum even if you don't want to buy or sell. It is an entertaining event over 10 days. The excitement in an auction environment is great. Lots of cars to preview as well. Bring your walking shoes.

We had a very nice turnout at our holiday gathering at the Golden Corral restaurant in Altamonte Springs, FL. We had 30 people, most of whom brought unwrapped toys for children undergoing treatment in the Winnie Palmer Hospital. Thanks to Howard and Kendra Gilkes for arranging the party and to Tom Tart for arranging the donation of the toys. It was nice to see all the interaction of all members in attendance. I ended staying with 5 other members till 9 PM, just talking with friends.

So, onto 2018. Our January meeting will lay out an agenda for the year and we will give awards to deserving members of the club for their service.

## FLORIDA REGION AACA

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Howard Gilkes 407-425-6409

**Send your article submissions to:**  
**EditorTRB@gmail.com**  
**Deadline is the 20th of the month**

Have a safe and merry holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Regards,  
Steve

## **Minutes of the Florida Region AACA General Meeting – December 14, 2017**

The General Meeting of the Florida Region AACA met at the Golden Coral restaurant, 897 West Town Parkway, Altamonte Springs, FL on December 14th, 2017. The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Christmas Party and Dinner and was called to order by President Steve Tunney at 7:03 PM.

Thirty-six members and guests were present.

President Tunney welcomed the group. He then offered the slate of officers for 2018 and asked for volunteers or nominations from the floor. There were none and the slate was approved as offered.

Thomas Tart explained where the presents donated by members were to be distributed. They will go to the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando.

Members expressed a liking for the party location and the private room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

*Jerry Eakins, Secretary  
Florida Region AACA*

## **Workshop Ideas**

Here are some ideas for the workshop...



Instead of having all your tape (duct, blue painter's, wide masking tape, etc.) all scattered in a box or drawer, just build a tape dispenser like the one pictured above. Use a 12 inch hacksaw blade as a tape cutter. It already has two holes on each end to nail into the wood.



If the wiring on an electrical cable, such as on a corded drill, is worn or frayed, use a glue gun to seal the break. First, make a thin layer, let it cool completely. Add another larger, thicker layer on top of that layer.



# COVER VEHICLE FEATURE ARTICLE

## 1961 Ford Thunderbird Hardtop

**Owner:** Steve Tunney  
Florida Region member

1) Steve bought this car at a local car auction in 2015. The 1961 to 1963 Thunderbirds are sometimes called “Bullet Birds”. The car styling uses the “jet rocket age” look of the early 1960’s, both in the exterior (jet engine exhaust for taillights) and the interior (airplane style cockpit). The car was marketed toward the personal luxury car segment.

2) The front of the car features horizontal quad headlights with the aerodynamic front bumpers integrated into the front grill. The 14 inch white wall tires are modern radials.

3) The engine is a 390 cubic inch (6.4 liter) overhead valve 8-cylinder (300 horsepower (HP) at 4,600 rpms, 427 ft/lbs torque at 2,800 rpms) with a single four-barrel carburetor and a 3-speed Cruise-O-Matic automatic transmission. The engine compartment is stock.

4) The wrap-around cockpit and the levers on the dash are evocative of aircraft design. The two round gauges in the instrument panel feature the speedometer on the left and a large clock on the right. This car has the “swing-away” steering wheel (\$25 factory option in 1961, standard in 1962-63). When the car is placed in PARK, the steering column can be pushed horizontally to the right for ease of entry and exit of the front seat.

5) Steve says it is a “very reliable car” that does not overheat. It cruises easily at 75 miles per hour. At 3,800 pounds in weight, 113 inch wheelbase and 300 HP the car rides /accelerates comfortably on the open road.



# 1912 Commercial Truck

## Electric Powered

The Commercial Truck Company operated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and produced large electric trucks from approximately 1908 to 1927. They sold twenty-two electric powered vehicles to Curtis Publishing, two of which were used to haul coal to fire boilers for plant operations. The other twenty were randomly used daily to haul paper and to distribute magazines such as Jack and Jill, Ladies Home Journal, and The Saturday Evening Post. These vehicles slipped silently into the streets each day in the early morning hours never awakening their customers. They were charged approximately six hours per day.

This truck was Old Number 8 and one of the first delivered to the publishing company. The Model **F-5 flatbed** was rated at five tons but regularly carried in excess of ten tons, well beyond its stated capacity. Each wood spoke wheel has its own motor and used a solid-rubber tire that lasted for an extremely long time. Unloaded, the truck could travel at 12 miles per hour, which was two miles over the speed limit at that time. There are less than 15 of these electric trucks left in the world and very few have been restored because of the complexity of the electrical system.

### Specs For the 1912 Commercial Truck

Company Model F-5 flatbed electric truck:

Type: 4x4 Cab Forward

Serial No.: 3632

Wheelbase: 132"

Maximum Load: Regularly carried 9-10 tons of paper

Electric Motors: 4 G.E. Model 36-A-102: One at each wheel.

Batteries: 42 cells. 382 amps.

Clutch: None

Transmission: None (Forward and reverse controlled by wheel)

Axles: Double square beam with diagonal cross bracing

Springs: Semi-elliptic front and rear

Brakes: Mechanical - external contracting on rear wheels

Steering: Left/center steering wheel

Wheels: Wood spoke

Tires: Solid rubber - 36" x 30"

Weight: 15,700 lbs

Top speed: 10-12 mph empty, 6 mph loaded

Price (new): \$4,400 (without batteries)





# AUCTION RESULTS

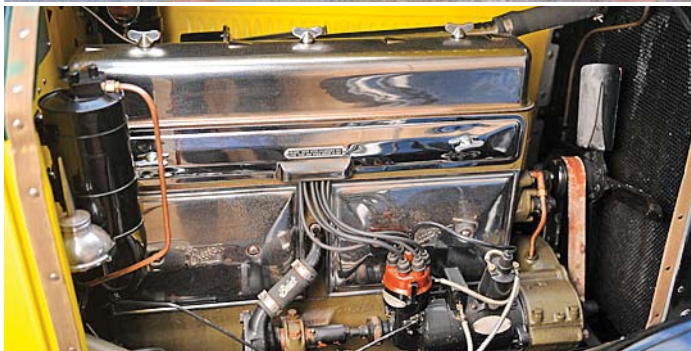
Bonhams Auction, December 6, 2017  
London Olympia  
Collector's Motor Cars and Automobilia

Lot 215

**1927 Buick Model 27X54 Master Six Roadster**  
Sold for £23,000 (US\$ 31,089) inc. premium

Extremely rare right-hand drive roadster  
4½-litre engine (274 cubic inch, straight  
6-cylinder), Imported from New Zealand

*“Finished in eye-catching green over yellow with  
black wings and chestnut brown leather interior,  
the car boasts a commodious side locker capable of  
accommodating a set of golf clubs; indeed, this model  
is sometimes referred to as the ‘golf roadster’.*



Lot 282

**1964 Aston Martin DB5 Sports Saloon**  
Sold for £462,940 (US\$ 625,772) inc. premium

“Introduced in July 1963, the **Aston Martin DB5** boasted a 4.0-litre engine, this enlarged unit having been seen first in the **Lagonda Rapide** of 1961. Equipped with three SU carburetors, the ‘400’ engine produced 282bhp at 5,500rpm and was mated to a four-speed/overdrive gearbox, a ‘proper’ ZF five-speed unit being standardised later.

The **DB5** was the first and remains the most famous of all the ‘James Bond’ **Aston Martins**, having appeared in no fewer than five movies of the series, beginning with *Goldfinger* in 1964.”

