



# HEADLIGHTS



## South Jersey Region AACA

Club Website [www.sjraaca.com](http://www.sjraaca.com)

August, 2015

**1965:** A very clean and chrome-bright 1958 Pontiac Star Chief rolled into my parents' Pontiac dealership, Vertolli Pontiac, located in Vineland, NJ. The car was being traded-in by a very nice young couple, Tony and Sarah Scalfo, who were ready to buy a newer Pontiac. I was just 18 years old. When I saw this beauty sitting in the front of the showroom, I knew it wouldn't be around for long. I knew that I wanted it, but I also knew that my grades in school were not great, and my father warned me, "no car until your grades improve."

Approaching Pop, I got the courage to ask if this one could be mine. He thought carefully, making me wait for his answer. After a bit, he gave his permission if I promised to buckle down with schoolwork and work evenings at the dealership to pay off the \$750 price tag.

Forty-nine years later, I still own the very same car! Somehow I managed to keep it through two marriages, raising two sons (Jimmy and Travis-one from each marriage), two homes, various jobs, a growing business, and all that comes about in life for nearly 50 years. And, other than the night it was stolen (more on that later), my 1958 Pontiac Star Chief has been with me all the way!

(Continued on page 6)

## Jim & Donna Vertolli's 1958 Pontiac Star Chief



## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### AUGUST

- 3 7:00 PM CLUB MEETING**  
Woodstown Borough Hall
- 13 6:30 PM Friendship & Food**  
Green Olive Restaurant  
610 Shiloh Pike (Rt. 49)  
Bridgeton, NJ
- 21-22 Bloomsburg PA tour to**  
"Bills Bike Barn"
- 19 5-8 PM CRUISE NIGHT**  
Bobbitt Auto



### SEPTEMBER

- 14 7:00 PM CLUB MEETING**  
Woodstown Borough Hall
- 13 Noon-4 PM ANNUAL CLUB**  
PICNIC - Ft. Mott State Park
- 16 5-8 PM CRUISE NIGHT**  
Bobbitt Auto
- 19 4-8 KOUNTRY KITCHEN CRUISE**
- 21 7:00 PM Board Meeting**  
Woodstown Borough Hall



### OCTOBER

- 5 7:00 PM CLUB MEETING**  
Woodstown Borough Hall
- 7-10 HERSHEY FALL MEET**
- 17 3-6 PM TOYS FOR TOTS**  
CRUISE AT BOBBITT AUTO



## SJRAACA OFFICERS

**President:** Dave Birchmire - 856-371-9304  
birchmiresr@hotmail.com  
**Vice President:** Terry Shelton  
**Secretary:** Leon Erdner  
**Treasurer:** Edna Norris  
**Editor:** Linda McFarland - 609-202-3907  
sjraaca@gmail.com

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## CLUB MEMBERSHIP

- **SJRAACA dues are \$10 per year (due by Jan 1st).**
- **Must be a member of AACA National.**
- Meetings are at Woodstown Borough Hall at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of every month except **September then it is the following Monday.** Call any board member for meeting cancellation notices during weather emergency.
- **CLUB WEBSITE: [www.SJRAACA.com](http://www.SJRAACA.com)**  
**There is always more to see on our Website.**

## CLUB JACKETS OR SHIRTS??

Placing a shirt & jackets order soon.  
The cost is on the members. See Linda  
Golf Shirts: S-XL \$22; 2X & 3X \$24  
Spring Jackets: S-XL \$38; 2X \$40 & 3X \$42  
Winter Jackets S-XL \$60; 2X & 3X \$63



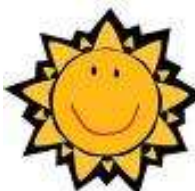
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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



8-4 Mark Wood  
8-6 Cindi Erdner  
8-7 Valerie Wynne  
8-8 Terry Shelton  
8-14 John Shore  
8-15 Bryan Lewis  
8-16 Gary Green Jr  
8-17 Sue Birchmire  
8-24 Grace Zuest  
8-24 Maryjane Shipman  
8-25 Betty Christos  
8-26 Ed Bouvier  
8-27 Miriam Willis

**BIRTHDAYS NEEDED!** If you haven't been to a meeting lately and never gave me your birthday, then I don't have it. E-mail or mail your birthday to me so I can make sure it's in the newsletter.



## SUNSHINE

Becky Counsellor reported that a fruit basket was delivered to John Tumolo.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Dave Birchmire*



With the car season in full swing we have been very active as a region of AACA going here and there. It sure has been fun and exciting. Our Bobbitt's monthly cruise are always well attended and we have been known to add a member or two. Last month we tried a new venue at the Kountry Kitchen outside of Elmer. Hoping to draw 50 or so vehicles we were pleased to have 87 cars come out to this location.

As in the past we have been known to pay a long time member a visit to his or her house. On July 20th we went to visit charter member Tom Cobb. We had 18 members attend this evening of fun and fellowship. There was coffee and donuts to enjoy as well. Tom and Nancy were very thankful for our visit.

Our club was very well represented at the AACA Vintage Tour which took place last week in Lancaster PA. We had 12 members in all with some driving 1931 and older vehicles and some like myself riding along in the back seat. Thanks Linda and Ray it was a blast. Some started out driving but ended up as passengers as well. There was also a couple free spirit members that rode in a rumble seat all week. Great job Fran & Joyce.

We will be doing an overnight tour on August 21st in Bloomsburg PA at Bill's Old Bike Barn & Car Museum. We will drive up on Friday and tour and sight see on Saturday. It's not too late to attend. Contact myself or Linda for motel information.

With next year being our 50th Anniversary we are thinking about doing a cookbook as we have done in the past. We are in the discussing stage for 50 year mementos. And a banquet is also being talked about. Stay tuned.

As always stay safe and have fun.

## August 21-22, 2015

### Overnight Tour to "Bills Bike Barn" Bloomsburg, PA

Meeting at 10 am Friday, for breakfast at "Café 7", 510 Heron Drive S. #209, Swedesboro, NJ. (Just off 295 Exit 10)  
Traveling to Bloomsburg PA  
Staying at the Budget Host Patriot Inn  
6305 Columbus Blvd, Bloomsburg  
Phone: 570-387-1776

**Make your reservation ASAP**  
**\$87 + tax**

Call Chuck Gibson if you have any Questions (609-221-5435)

## Meeting Highlights of the South Jersey Region Monday, August 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Birchmire at 7:00 pm. All stood for the flag salute.

Dave asked if there were any visitors or new members. Bob Harris introduced himself. He is a new member to the club.

Leon Erdner then gave the secretary's report and Edna Norris gave the treasurer's report. Both were approved as read and bills were approved for payment.

Sunshine: Becky Counsellor reported that a fruit basket was delivered to John Tumolo for his recent hospital stay and surgery.

Correspondence: Leon Erdner read a thank you note from John Tumolo. A thank you note was also read from Frank Heiss & family.

Club Picnic: Janet Erdner reported that everything is set for the picnic on September 13th. Italian Kitchen is catering once again and providing the entrée, sides and beverages. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert to share. You must give Edna Norris \$10 per person (to be refunded upon attendance). Janet also noted that you must turn in your money to Edna as soon as possible since our next meeting, scheduled for September 14th, is after the picnic, since Labor Day is September 7th.

Chuck Gibson reported on the tour to Bloomsburg PA, and Bills Bike Barn, scheduled for August 21-22nd. If anyone was planning to attend and hasn't done so yet, they must make their own hotel reservation at the Budget Host Patriot Inn. Flyers are available for information.

Dave noted that the visit with Tom Cobb was very well attended. 18 members showed up at the Cobb residence for a nice visit.

It was suggested that we schedule a visit with Janet Gaunt and Carlton & Audrey Holladay. We will be contacting them to schedule a date.

Dave reported that the Kountry Kitchen Cruise went very well and we are looking to schedule another cruise possibly on September 19th from 4-8 pm. We are just waiting to hear a confirmation from Kountry Kitchen. They will be doing something a little different with food, possibly a buffet.

Fran Shore reported on the recent Vintage Tour that was attended by several of our members. She noted that it was one of the largest Vintage Tours with 62 vehicles from 1908 to 1931.

New Business: Dave asked for suggestions for this month's Friendship & Food. It was suggested that we go to The Green Olive in Bridgeton on August 13th. Janet Erdner will call them to confirm. September

Friendship & Food will be at the Millville Motorsports Park.

At our recent Board Meeting there was an Anniversary Committee chosen in order to plan a banquet for members. Valerie Wynne noted that she would like to do another club cookbook like one that was done for the club's 25th anniversary, to be given out at the banquet.

Dave noted that the September Club Meeting will be one week late since Labor Day is September 7th. The Club will meet on September 14th. We will also be having a Board meeting on September 21st.

Nominating Committee: Dave asked for volunteers to head up a nominating committee. Doretta Scott & Sue Birchmire volunteered and said they would check with Les Sutton who served last year. Two board positions are up for election.

Dave read a note regarding a 1939 Ford Sedan for sale. Linda will post in the newsletter and on the website.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 pm.

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Bob & Linda Harris  
Salem, NJ

Bob & Linda have a 1931  
Ford Coupe

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?????

**Trivia Question:** What was the last company to stop production of civilian vehicles in the United States in 1942, and why?

**Answer:** Crosley, partly to increase sales of the car to help fuel conservation, and partly because the government needed time to figure a use for its small factories.







**FRIENDSHIP & FOOD  
NIGHT OUT  
Thurs. August 13 - 6:30 PM  
THE GREEN OLIVE  
RESTAURANT  
610 Shiloh Pike (Rt. 49)  
Bridgeton, NJ**

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**Save the Date!  
Annual Club Picnic  
Sept. 13th Noon—4 PM  
\$10 per person in advance  
Refunded when you arrive.**

**Please RSVP to Edna Norris, 410 Rt. 45,  
Mannington, NJ 08079  
Place: Ft. Mott State Park  
454 Ft. Mott Rd., Pennsville, NJ  
(Take first left after entering park onto path to  
pavilions)  
ONLY ANTIQUE AUTOS AT PAVILLION.  
PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE**

\* \* \* \* \*



**COULD THIS HAPPEN  
TO YOU?**

The other day I just got done putting new power steering lines on my Corvette, added fluid, bled the lines, and walked around to the driver's side of the car.

What happened next was something that I had always heard could happen. But many times as I have done this, and I bet you have done it too. My shop instructors had always told me not to do this, BUT.....

I reached in between the spokes on the steering wheel and started the car.....

All at once the wheel turned sharply to the right and caught my arm in between the spokes and the wheel kept pulsating to the right.....UNTIL I shut the car off.

When I looked at my arm, there were scrape marks on my arm and the vein that runs up to my wrist was turning blue and protruding out about 1/2 inch. Definitely not a pretty sight.

I closed and locked the shop, walked into the house, went to the cupboard and got the ice bag and filled it with ice and told my wife, "I think we better go to the hospital". I then showed her my arm.

My wife is used to my little cuts and bruises that I get, but this was a little more than I have ever done to myself.

Thank goodness, after x-rays and a doctor's visit, nothing was broken, just bruised and sore.

So, the next time you want to start your car from the outside, just think of the stupid mistake I made.

You betcha, I will!

Ed Counsellor



**ACA CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Listed below are some upcoming National tours and meets you may be interested in attending:

- **August 24-28, 2015** Western Tour—Redwood Empire Region, Northern California
- **August 30-September 4, 2015** AAA Revival Glidden Tour—AACA Hosted, Oklahoma City, OK
- **September 14-18, 2015** Founders Tour (Post '31 Vehicles) Canton & Meander Chapters of the Ohio Region, Northeast Ohio
- **October 7-10, 2015** Eastern Fall Meet—Hershey Region, Hershey PA
- **November 5-7, 2015** Central Fall Meet—Lagniappe Chapter, Louisiana Region, Houma, Louisiana

## SJRAACA CLASSIFIEDS



### FOR SALE 1955 Ford T-Bird - \$34,000 (Negotiable)

- Professionally restored body
- Detailed engine/trunk
- Car sand blasted and painted golden rod yellow
- Restored port hole top and new black canvas top and frame
- 4 new tires, new battery
- No rust runs and drives nice
- Continental kit available needs interior

Contact: Bill Wynne (856) 478-6103

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### FOR SALE 1970 Lincoln Mark III - \$8,900 (Negotiable)

- Nice white paint
- No rust
- Vinyl top
- New tires
- Runs good

Contact: Bill Wynne (856) 478-6103

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### FOR SALE 1976 Alfa Romeo Spider \$3,800 OBO

- 78,000 Original miles **NEW PRICE**
- 5 speed, fuel injected
- New water pump, new radiator
- New fan shroud, new shocks
- New convertible top with separate hard top
- Runs well - Extremely fun to drive

Contact: Ray McFarland 609-202-3906

**LET US HELP YOU SELL YOUR CAR AND/OR PARTS.** Contact Linda McFarland with your items for sale. [sjraaca@gmail.com](mailto:sjraaca@gmail.com)

## SJRAACA CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR SALE 1939 Ford Sedan - Price Negotiable

- Unassembled
- Engine almost Finished (owner was creating a rod)
- Color blue with grey interior
- Has all or most parts needed to complete

For more information call 856-468-6315

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### 350 AUTO TRANSMISSION

- For Sale OR Trade - 350 Auto Transmission with Pontiac bolt up.

Call Dave at 856-542-0569



## SOUTH JERSEY REGION AACA CRUISE NIGHT

**Bobbitt Auto**

**595 Salem Quinton Rd. Salem, NJ**

**WEDNESDAYS 5:00-8:00 PM**

**April 15th**

**July 22nd**

**May 20th**

**August 19th**

**June 17th**

**September 16th**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th 3:00-**

**6:00 PM**



**TOYS FOR TOTS CRUISE**

**Bring a NEW unwrapped TOY**

**Hot Dogs & Beverage for all drivers  
who bring out their antique auto  
Come on out and enjoy the music by  
Ed Counsellor and see old friends.**



**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Dave Birchmire 856-371-9304**

**Martin Erdner 856-935-0537**

## Vertolli's 1958 Pontiac Star Chief (Cont'd)



Now, in 2014, after six years of replacing and refurbishing, I am at last very near to finishing a complete restoration! My Star Chief is now named "Ellie" after my mother Eleanor and my granddaughter Ellie, whose father will inherit the car someday.

These days, I've got the '58 out on the car-show circuit! It's so much fun to tell my story and see folks really enjoy the Star Chief's unique style (it is very big), elaborate chrome (outside and in), and unusual original paint color scheme of Deauville Blue and white. Many people walk up to me at shows and cruises and the first thing they say is: She sure is pretty! Pretty—not cool, not hot—but pretty. Hummmm...interesting, but that's what they say!

Now for the technical stuff that you Pontiac guys will find interesting. In 1992, the lower rear quarter panels were replaced by South Side Auto Body of Vineland. The Star Chief replacement panels were shipped from Black Canyon, Arizona. Along with these panels, the roof, doors, and all but the front end of the car were re-painted. The paint lasted nearly 20 years.

My oldest son, James Jr., who was young at the time, helped with the rebuild. In fact, Jimmy contributed much time and talent to the Star Chief over the years including installing both flooring and a new wiring harness. He is now an accomplished mechanic.

More than 20 years later as I approached my 60th birthday, I knew it was time to get serious about my Star Chief. With some mortgages paid off and my second son, Travis, off to college, I began my journey to do the complete restoration.

The motor is a Pontiac Strato Streak Tempest 370 cubic inch V-8 engine. It now has a 4-1/8 bore and a 3-9/16 stroke with a 10 to 1 compression ratio. This motor was the Pontiac racers' choice of engines in the late '50s and early '60s because of its storter stroke.

In 2008, restoration of the motor began. I engaged the talents of long-time friend Rich Graiff of Graiff Motors in Vineland, NJ. As a young man, Rick pulled and rebuilt the original engine that had 170,000 miles on it.

Doug's Machine Shop, also of Vineland, did the machine work on the engine including blueprinting

and balancing, and boring the cylinders to .060 oversize. He also installed heavy duty valves and springs in the heads.

At my business, Vertol Machine, I was able to do some of the mechanical work myself. I installed roller rocker arms to make the valve train adjustable, which also increased horsepower.

Rich installed a GTO-type camshaft with a .477 lift to finish off the engine rebuild. The transmission was rebuilt by Norcross VSM Transmissions, Inc., of Vineland, NJ. While the motor and transmission were being rebuilt, it was time to tackle the undercarriage of the car.

The entire front and rear ends were removed, cleaned, and many parts were powder coated before being reassembled. It was at this time we discovered that the floorboards needed replacement. Ransom Motorcycles, owned and operated by Wayne Ransom of Egg Harbor City, NJ, built and installed floor pans that were just like new. He also repaired rusted areas in the trunk.

Meanwhile, more than 60 pieces of chrome and 20 pieces of stainless steel trim also needed restoration and were sent off to DGM Chrome Plating in Northeast Philadelphia. With all this happening simultaneously, it was now time to have my Star Chief prepped and repainted.

Butch Jillson, owner and operator of a highly recommended classic car restoration shop in Upper Deerfield, NJ, was chosen to do the finishing bodywork and final repainting. Butch had the car for four months and the outcome was first-rate. Butch and his close friend Ralph Delbuono helped me reassemble the interior components, windows, and all the replacement rubber.

The leather interior was produced by SMS Upholstery in Canby, Oregon. Taking more than a year to complete, the leather is a perfect duplication of the original, right down to the detailed raised embossing.

By spring of 2013, my Pontiac Star Chief restoration was complete; well, almost. I was delighted to be able to take it to many car shows and cruises that summer, and was proud to show it off and even accept a dozen or more trophies. The car was well received wherever it was displayed because of its unique color, chrome and style.

Of course, there is always more that can be done. As of this writing, during the winter of 2013-14, "Ellie" had her steering wheel recast, the front bumper and grille rechromed, stainless steel brake lines added, and the *coup de grace*, original 1958 Pontiac Tri-Power carburetors installed to the engine.

(Continued on Page 7)



## Vertolli's 1958 Pontiac (Continued)



By now you are ready to hear how my 1958 Pontiac Star Chief was stolen. It was back in 1972. I was taking night classes at Glassboro State College, now Rowan University. I came out of class one night to find that my car was missing...stolen!

Quickly calling the local police, the search began. The car was found a couple of hours later in nearby Clayton, NJ. A bunch of young hoodlums had already stripped parts off the car and were about to set it on fire!

The Clayton Police got to it in the nick of time, apprehending one of the juveniles in the trunk! The one thief ratted on the others and all five were rounded up.

The police told me that two other cars had been stolen and set afire on the same site a week before. Thankfully that wasn't the demise of my '58 and all of the damage was repairable.

There are so many people to thank, especially all of the restoration specialists who provided their creative talent and outstanding craftsmanship for the restoration of my Star Chief.

A special thanks goes to my brother Skip, an automotive genius who is always there when I need him. He is a humble, knowledgeable, caring brother who I depend on for many technical answers

Lastly I thank my wife, Donna. She has been more than patient with this time-consuming and expensive project. Only once or twice did she raise her eyebrows. Her support was always there.

Now, after nearly 50 years with my 1958 Star Chief, I look forward to many car shows and cruises! "Ellie" and I (and Donna) will be out there, checking out the competition and enjoying the many fine classic cars with all of you!

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**WANTED!!!!**

**Your article about your favorite auto.**

**Send me your photo and a short story about your car and look for it here!**

## 2015 AACA Vintage Tour

### Buzzards & Buggies

Ray and I, along with 10 other SJRAACA members attended the 2015 AACA Vintage Tour in Lancaster PA, July 27-31st. We had beautiful weather, a little warm but nice, none the less.

We trailered our 1929 Model 'A'



to Lancaster and Dave & Sue Birchmire were our passengers for the tour. Gary & Bonnie Green



trailed their 1924 Overland Model 90 and Janet & Martin Erdner were their passengers. Chuck & Joyce Gibson road with Franklin Gage in his 1927 Chevrolet Cabriolet. And Fran & John Shore road in their daughter & son-in-law's 1931 Chevrolet Roadster. Brenda & Dave Kaiser brought the 31 Chevy from Katy Texas for this tour.

The tour was hosted by the Buzzard's Breath Touring Region, of which Brenda Kaiser (Fran & John's daughter) is the President. Tracy & Jeff Leshner were our tour Chairpersons and they did a wonderful job organizing this tour, together with the many members of the Buzzard's Breath Region who helped make sure everything went well each day.

There were 62 vintage cars on the tour and folks from as far as Ontario participated. What a beautiful group of cars and people.

(Continued on Page 8)

## 2015 Vintage Tour (Continued)

We went to some very nice places each day and saw some wonderful collections and learned a little history of several areas, Litiz, Pottsville, Wrightsville, Poole Forge in Narvon and Strasburg.

We even visited the Yuengling Brewery. What a treat.

We had some younger folks who really amazed us each day. The Lowenthal family from Connecticut

brought 2 cars and 3 teen agers on the tour. The 1912 Crawford 5-Passenger Touring Car was driven by 20 year old Jared Lowenthal and the 1908 Buick Touring car was driven by 17 year old Hannah Lowenthal with her sister Ariel as passenger. What a great job these young people did each day. They took care of these vehicles maintaining and driving them each day.



never had the privilege to ride in a vintage rumble seat, all I can say is that it is a real challenge trying

to get in and out gracefully. But Joyce Gibson did her best each day, although Chuck gave her a reprieve a couple of days and rode in the back. Joyce you are really a good sport.



Some of us had to ride in the rumble seat of a couple of cars. For those of you who have

Fran and Brenda rode in the 31 Chevy rumble seat each day. The mornings were cool and Fran was usually bundled up for the ride.



We even celebrated John Shore's 80th Birthday in style with a beautiful, delicious cake.

Of course when you drive a vintage auto you have to expect problems once in a while. Gary & Bonnie Green's 1924 Overland did wonderfully on the first day of the tour, but as luck would have it, the car had problems the following day and the repairs were something that would have to wait until the car got home. So Greens and Erdners road in the Erdner truck for the remainder of the week.



A lot of fun was had by all and we all look forward to touring again soon.