



HEADLIGHTS



South Jersey Region AACA

Club Website www.sjraaca.com

November, 2015

Martin & Janet Erdner's 1964 Chrysler Crown Imperial

Written by Linda McFarland



For Martin & Janet Erdner, this was the 1st of their antique automobiles.

The 1964 Chrysler Crown Imperial was bought at an estate sale from Chas Finlaw in Alloway in 1989. Chas Finlaw's aunt had bought it new.

Everything on the car is original. It has a 413 engine with push button shift, factory air conditioning, power windows, power locks, cruise control, tilt steering wheel, automatic headlight dimmer and AM/FM radio. All are factory installed.

In 1996 we drove the car to Detroit for the 100 Year of the Automobile.

We love our Crown Imperial says Martin & Janet. We have taken the car on many car tours, shows and trips. As a matter of fact, Ray & I first met Martin & Janet on an AACA tour in Massachusetts in 2007. They were traveling with Bill & Valerie Wynne in the '64 Crown Imperial. Thanks Martin & Janet for sharing

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER

- 2 7:00 PM CLUB MEETING**
Woodstown Borough Hall
- 7 Salute the Troops Car Show**
10 am-3 pm Rose Tree Park
1671 N. Providence Rd.
Media, PA
- 12 6:30 PM FRIENDSHIP & FOOD**
Bridgeport Holiday Inn, Exit 10
Off 295.
- 15 AMERICAN TREASURE TOUR**
9:00 am meeting at Harrison
House Diner, Mullica Hill

DECEMBER

- 5 8:30 AM SALEM CHRISTMAS**
PARADE Breakfast at
Salem Oak Diner, Salem, NJ
- 6 1-5 PM ANNUAL CLUB**
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Tilbury VFW Post 253
20 Phillip Dr., Elsinboro, NJ
- 7 7:00 PM CLUB MEETING**
Woodstown Borough Hall

JANUARY

- 4 7:00 PM CLUB MEETING**
Woodstown Borough Hall
- ?? Winter Tour to be announced



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
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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**
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

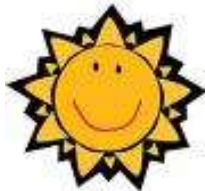


HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



Nov. 1 Angela Kinsey
Nov. 2 Wm Powell
Nov. 25 Dave Birchmire
Nov. 25 Theresa Chalow
Nov. 26 Teresa McCann
Nov. 26 Tom Cobb

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 she has been trying to get in touch with Donna Shimp but has been unable to reach her.

ELECTIONS

Ray McFarland and Ron Scott have been elected to the Board of Directors.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dave Birchmire



As I sit here composing this month's article I am sad that we will lose an hour of daylight with daylight savings time ending at 2:00 am November 1st. This always means our car activities are about over. There is one more event on November 7th in Media PA which is the "Salute the Troops" Car Show. The setting is just beautiful this time of year in Rose Tree Park.

Vice President Terry Shelton will be in charge of our November meeting as Sue and I and our family will be in Disney World that week. Sorry about that folks.

Our last Bobbitt's cruise was huge success. With it being on a different day and time you all came together to help the Toys for Tots fill up two large boxes. The Marines and the children THANK YOU!

Our next tri-region tour is set for November 15th. We will be leaving at 9:00 am at the Harrison House diner to head up to the American Treasure Tour. If you are planning on having breakfast there, I would arrive by 8:00 am.

This year's Christmas Party will be held on December 6th from 1:00-5:00 pm at the Elsinboro VFW. The cost will be \$20 per person which will be refunded when you attend. This year's club donation for the Sunshine Foundation will be \$400. There will be a donation box at the event for those that would like to add to the club's contribution.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.



YOUR RECIPES WANTED

The 50th Anniversary Committee is creating a Recipe Book of some of our members' favorite recipes.

This Recipe Book will be given out at our Banquet to be scheduled for sometime in the fall of 2016.

Please send your recipes to Valerie Wynne along with your name and phone number (if she has any questions).

You can email or mail to Valerie Wynne:
popwynne@yahoo.com
or mail to:

741 Heritage Rd., Sewell, NJ 08080

**Meeting Highlights of the
South Jersey Region
Monday, November 2, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by past President, Chuck Gibson. Dave Birchmire is on vacation and Vice President Terry Shelton was working out of town. All present stood for the flag salute.

Chuck then asked for new members Don & Maria Symonds to introduce themselves. The Symonds are from Westhampton and they own a 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme.

Leon Erdner gave the Secretary's Report and Edna Norris gave the Treasurer's report. Both were approved as read and bills were approved for payment.

Linda McFarland reported that she still is looking for articles on member's cars for the newsletter.

Election Results—Doretta Scott reported that Les Sutton and she counted all the ballots and Ron Scott & Ray McFarland are the two new board members.

Chuck reminded everyone about the December 6th Christmas party and that we should mail our money (\$20 per person) to Edna Norris as soon as possible, since there will not be another meeting until after the party. He noted that the money is refunded upon attendance.

New Business—Chuck & Ron Scott reported on the 2016 Eastern Spring Meet. We are expecting between 500-700 automobiles for the Meet.

Friendship & Food will be on Thursday, November 12th at the Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, Exit 10 off of 295 at 6:30.

Those attending the American Treasure Tour, on Sunday, November 15th, please meet at the Harrison House in Mullica Hill at 9:00 am unless you are eating breakfast then arrive by 8:00 am.

Saturday, December 5th is the Salem Christmas Parade and we will be meeting for breakfast at 8:30 am at the Salem Oak Diner.

Harry Burton reminded everyone about the "Salute the Troops" Car show on Saturday, November 7th, at Rose Tree Park, Media, PA from 10am-3pm.

Fran Shore also wanted to remind members about the "Frostbite Run" car show at the Massey House in Broomall, PA from 8 am to 11 am. The Massey House is located at Lawrence Road & Springhouse Road, Broomall PA.

Chuck also noted that we will be planning a winter tour, possibly to Margate NJ to see Lucy the Elephant and maybe another visit to Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.



NEW MEMBERS
Donald & Maria Symonds
Westhampton, NJ

**Don & Maria have a 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass
Supreme**

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 19-21, 2016
EASTERN DIVISION
NATIONAL SPRING
MEET



**Hosted by the South Jersey Region
AACA**

The meet will take place at the
New Jersey Motorsports Park, Millville, NJ

This will definitely be a large show on
Saturday, May 21st

We are expecting anywhere from 500-700 cars.
Please mark your calendars and plan to help.



A little over one hundred years ago, on May 2, 1915 Effie Hotchkiss and her mother Avis left Brooklyn, New York on the adventure of a lifetime. The mother and daughter duo were bound for San Francisco, California on a new 1915 Harley-Davidson V-twin Effie had recently bought. After arriving in the *City by the Bay* in August, the pair became the first women to ride cross-country on a motorcycle.

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AACAA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- **November 5-7, 2015** Central Fall Meet—Lagniappe Chapter, Louisiana Region, Houma, Louisiana
- **February 11-13, 2016** AACAA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia
- **March 17-19, 2016** Winter Meet, Naples/Marco Island Region, Naples, Florida
- **April 7-10, 2016** Southeastern Spring Meet, Hornets Nest Region, Charlotte, North Carolina
- **May 5-7, 2016** Special Spring Meet, Auburn Indiana
- **May 19-21, 2016** Eastern Spring Meet, South Jersey Region, Vineland, New Jersey
- **June 2-4, 2016** Annual Grand National Meet, Susquehannock Region, Williamsport, Penna.
- **June 10-12, 2016** The Elegance at Hershey & Grand Ascent Hillclimb, Hershey, Pennsylvania
- **June 12-17, 2016** Sentimental Tour (1928-1958) Hornets Nest Region, Salisbury, North Carolina
- **July 14-16, 2016** Central Spring Meet, Minnesota Region, Mankato, Minnesota
- **July 17-21, 2016** Founders Tour (Post-'31) Allegheny Mountain Region, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania
- **August 11-13, 2016** Southeastern Fall Meet, Fall Capital Chapter, NC Region, New Bern, North Carolina
- **September 1-3, 2016** Western Fall Meet, High Plains Region, Cheyenne, Wyoming
- **September 11-16, 2016** AAA Revival Glidden Tour (pre-1943) VMCCA hosted, North Conway, N.H.
- **October 5-8, 2016** Eastern Fall Meet, Hershey Region, Hershey, Pennsylvania
- **October 20-22, 2016** Central Fall Meet, Gulf Coast Region, Galveston, Texas



**FRIENDSHIP & FOOD
NIGHT OUT**
Thursday, November 12th
6:30 PM
Bridgeport Holiday Inn
Exit 10 off 295

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 5TH
SALEM CHRISTMAS
PARADE**
**8:30 am Breakfast at the
Oak Diner, Salem, NJ**



**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 6TH
ANNUAL CLUB
CHRISTMAS PARTY**
1-5 PM Tilbury VFW Post 253
20 Phillip Dr., Elsinboro, NJ
\$20 per person, refunded upon attendance.



Just a reminder that we will be giving Christmas Gift Cards to several needy Sunshine Foundation Families again this year.

Our club will be donating \$400 toward these gift cards but we will have a special basket available at our Christmas Party on December 6th for those who wish to donate additional monies toward this worthy cause.



This entry was posted in [Auto photos 1921 - 1942](#), [Gasoline stations](#) and tagged [1933-'34 Ford convertible](#), [Signal Gas and Oil](#), [Signal Gasoline Company](#), [Willys "Model 77"](#).

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Pictured above are some of the children who benefited from our gifts last Christmas.

Michael Torowus, Jr. 1936-2015

I have written many obituaries over the last 30 years and have attended the funerals of so many wonderful friends and family, but the "Home Going Celebration" of Mike Torowus was the most unique and well planned one I have ever seen.



Submitted by: Valerie Wynne

Mike's garage, adjacent to his home, was his favorite place to be and that was the backdrop for Mike's viewing and service. His coffin was strategically placed right there in the garage he built, surrounded by his beloved Model A cars. Mike has 10 or 15 Model A's and they were all on display for those who came to pay their last respects to see.

Long Street in Pitman was Mike's last car show, it was lined with 12 Model A's from roadsters to pick-up trucks. Coffee and donuts were served to attendees since that too, was another thing he enjoyed. Lining the driveway and the garage were his family, friends and neighbors. At least 3 antique car clubs were represented and they were sharing stories and renewing friendships. There were tears and smiles as people passed by the casket. Mike was wearing his brown leather jacket and holding on to, what else...a steering wheel. How natural for someone who spent most of his whole adult life behind one.

Mike was either repairing or restoring his own antique Model A Fords or helping others glue theirs back together. He loved scouring the swap meets and flea markets in an effort to find that elusive missing part of the puzzle for, his or other people's cars.

South Jersey Region knew Mike as a Model A "car guy" willing to share his vast knowledge of this vehicle with anyone interested or seeking his help. But his other passion was his beloved wife of 51 years Diane, who preceded him in death, his two sons Steven and Mark, their wives and his 7 grandchildren. We probably know Mike's grandson Steven best because he accompanied Mike on many of our club events.

Family and friends conducted their own informal



service in lieu of the traditional one and gave testimony to their personal relationship to this quiet, gentle man. THEY were the center of his world not his acquisitions or hobby. It was especially moving when one of Mike's grandsons, who is disabled and in a wheelchair, chose not to have his mother read his memories of his Pop Pop but read them himself. A tearful teenage granddaughter gave her account of her relationship with Mike and another sang the beautiful song "Smile" as her tribute. South Jersey Region President Dave Birchmire and Frank Heiss, Jr. shared some memories of Mike and a supervisor from the South Jersey Gas Company, where Mike worked for 42 years, also eulogized him. At the conclusion we joined in Mike's last Pitman Parade to the Hillcrest Cemetery with a police escort taking that same route enjoyed for many years by Mike. Family members drove Mike's Model A's including Steven who, now is not only old enough to drive but is entering the military to become a Navy Seal. Mike liked the TV show "Little House on the Prairie" so at the cemetery the theme song was played.

Mike was a friend to everyone and enjoyed life. Some people leave footprints on your life, I guess Mike left tire tracks on those of us who were privileged to know him. Start the Heavenly parade Mike we will all eventually join you along the route. Rest in Peace.



Mike's Cars in his driveway at the funeral

Some of the cars brought for the funeral parade.



SJRAACA CLASSIFIEDS



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

**No Photo
Available**

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

350 AUTO TRANSMISSION

- For Sale OR Trade - 350 Auto Transmission with Pontiac bolt up.
- Call Dave at 856-542-0569



1930 Ford Model A Murray Town Sedan

- Nice complete original restoration project
 - Includes 6 19" wheels and title
 - \$4,900 or best offer
- Contact John 856-468-5107

SJRAACA CLASSIFIEDS



FOR SALE 1957 Chevy Bel Air Convertible \$90,000

- * Red w/white top
 - * Continental kit
 - * Garage kept
 - * Calif made car/rust free
 - * Fender skirts
 - * Wide white wall tires
 - * Undercarriage detailed
 - * Spinner wheel caps
 - * 83,500 miles (Condition 2)
 - * 283 V8-4 barrel
 - * Power Steering & Brakes
 - * Power Glide transmission—dual exhaust
 - * Interior Red & Silver
 - * Original AM Radio
- Contact: Dave 1-717-464-9394

**No Photo
Available**

FOR SALE 1979 El Camino "Conquisa" \$9,800

- 305 V8 4-Barrel Carb. 42,000 original miles
- Auto Trans, Power Brakes, Power Steering
- 4 new tires, FM Radio w/cassette player
- New heavy duty battery, new starter
- Oil change & filter, new spark plugs
- Heated & Air Condition since new (2nd owner)
- Remote mirrors, Tilt wheel

For more information contact Jeff Williams 856-589-6165

LET US HELP YOU SELL YOUR CAR AND/OR PARTS.

Contact Linda McFarland with your items for sale.
sjraaca@gmail.com

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Time to renew your AACA
Dues and your South
Jersey Region Dues.



Please send your \$35 to
AACA before December 31
Send \$10 to Edna Norris
for your SJRAACA Dues.



You Can't Get There From Where You Are

Submitted by: Valerie Wynne
I have to share a recent incident with you concerning my sense of direction, or lack of one.

A friend of Bill's and mine from Bensalem, PA, Ted Etling, wanted to attend the service for Mike Torowus and bring his beautiful yellow Model A roadster. He was concerned about getting lost though, so I volunteered to meet him at the WaWa on Route 322 in Richwood off Route 55. I told him that I knew how to get him to Alcyon Lake but didn't know how to get to Mike's street from there. (He was warned!) I was doing great at first and I DID have written directions from Map Quest. Well I couldn't find the street, so we pulled over and another car pulled behind the roadster and refused to go around it even though I was feverously waving for her to do so. I went back and said, "I'm sorry but we are lost so you better go around us." She said, "Are you looking for Lake Street? I said, "Yes, we are but don't know where it is." She said, "So am I."

So now we have a parade of THREE lost people.

Not knowing what else to do, I decided to "phone a friend" and called Linda McFarland, who I figured was at the house by then. Well...Linda tried to help and so did Doretta Scott, using a GPS, but we were lost. I now figured out, I think, they were directing me coming from one direction while I was heading the other way.

My friend Ted, in the roadster, being very tolerant...(Remember he's the one I met so HE wouldn't get lost?) said, "You must be talking to another woman!" to which I replied, "Actually I am talking to two of them." He said, "That explains a lot!"

While we were anticipating our next move Rich and Elaine Faunce came along, then I spotted a policeman. I flagged him over and explained that, my caravan, and I were lost and told him where we wanted to go. He knew exactly where it was but said, "It's too complicated to explain to you, (He's telling me?) so just follow me."

Long story-short, we all arrived at Mike's viewing with a police escort greeted with the hand clapping of my "phone-a-friends." I was sooo embarrassed, but who would have enjoyed that escapade better than Mike Torowus, himself?

I guess the moral of this story is that if you are following me you must be lost too!



Your First Car

By Bob Parrish, AACA Executive VP

Did anyone ever think that their first car would become a collectible or better yet, a classic, probably not. I bought my first car in the summer of 1957 from a man that worked for the Virginian Railroad coal piers in Norfolk, VA. The \$700.00 I paid for this car had been saved from my paper route earnings and various grass cutting jobs. The car was a sporty 1951 Ford Victoria, which was Ford's first year for a 2 door hardtop. It was painted a yucky two-tone green with a flathead V8 engine and 3 speed transmission and plenty of coal dust. The cost of the car was not the only expense; my dad would not let me purchase a car until I could pay for the liability insurance attached to his policy. Can anyone relate to this?

This car was my first attempt at car restoration. My dad had a beautiful 1953 Olds 98 Holiday Coupe painted dark blue roof and light blue bottom. I liked it so much that I painted the Ford the exact same colors. I also added the usual custom items of the day, fender skirts, spinner hub caps, the all essential dual exhaust with glass pack mufflers, new seat covers and something special. A new 1954 Pontiac grill bar would fit perfectly in the Ford grill area, so I had to have one on this now modified car. Who said modified cars were a new trend? The car to have when I was in high school was a 1949 – 1951 Ford or Mercury and now I was in the groove in my senior year at Maury High School.

How about telling your own story to your Region or Chapter? Your Editor will love you for it and maybe help with your next restoration!

From AACA Fall Rummage Box



**E. Benjamin Shimp
Had his home-going on
Sunday, October 4, 2015**

Submitted by: Valerie Wynne

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of South Jersey Region Charter Member, E. Benjamin Shimp on October 4th at his Salem home.

Ben was a Veteran of the Korean War and a member of the St. Petersburg Police Department. He was also a charter member of the Veteran Motor Club of America, the Society for the Preservation & Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America and others.

Ben is survived by his wife Donna who commented that she referred to their Roadster and Overland as her “boys” since they did not have children. Ben’s Antique cars and firefighting memorabilia including his 1924 Willys Overland Sedan, Model 91 with original “Fat Man” steering wheel and 1927 Ford Model TT with an extended bed and Ruxstel rear, were auctioned off at a one-of-a-kind auction held at Bob Brooks Auction.



Pictured above on the left is the 1924 Willys Overland Sedan (now owned by member Gary Green, Sr.). Pictured above on the right is the 1927 Ford Model TT.



The Hat Women of 1928 above.
From *theoldmotor.com*



**NOVEMBER 10, 1903
Mary Anderson patents
windshield wiper**

On this day, the patent office awards U.S. Patent No. 743,801 to a Birmingham, Alabama woman named Mary Anderson for her “window cleaning device for electric cars and other vehicles to remove snow, ice or sleet from the window.” When she received her patent, Anderson tried to sell it to a Canadian manufacturing firm, but the company refused: The device had no practical value, it said, and so was not worth any money. Though mechanical windshield wipers were standard equipment in passenger cars by around 1913, Anderson never profited from the invention.

As the story goes, on a freezing, wet winter day around the turn of the century, Mary Anderson was riding a streetcar on a visit to New York City when she noticed that the driver could hardly see through his sleet-encrusted front windshield. Although the trolley’s front window was designed for bad-weather visibility—it was split into parts so that the driver could open it, moving the snow-or rain-covered section out of his line of vision—in fact the multi-pane windshield system worked very poorly. It exposed the driver’s uncovered face (not to mention all the passengers sitting in the front of the trolley) to the inclement weather, and did not improve his ability to see where he was going in any case.

Anderson began to sketch her wiper device right there on the streetcar. After a number of false starts, she came up with a prototype that worked: a set of wiper arms that were made of wood and rubber and attached to a lever near the steering wheel of the drivers’ side. When the driver pulled the lever, she dragged the spring-loaded arm across the window and back again, clearing away raindrops, snowflakes or other debris. When winter was over, Anderson’s wipers could be removed and stored until the next year. (This feature was presumably designed to appeal to people who lived in places where it did not rain in the summertime.)

People scoffed at Anderson’s invention, saying that the wipers’ movement would distract the driver and cause accidents. Her patent expired before she could entice anyone to use her idea.

In 1917, a woman named Charlotte Bridgwood patented the “Electric Storm Windshield Cleaner,” an automatic wiper system that used rollers instead of blades. (Bridgwood’s daughter, the actress Florence Lawrence, had invented the turn signal.) Like Anderson, Bridgwood never made any money from her invention.

From: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/mary-anderson-patents-windshield-wiper>