



South Jersey Region AACA

Club Website www.sjraaca.com

March, 2018



82nd AACA Annual Meeting

Philadelphia, PA

By Linda McFarland



Friday, February 8, 2018 started early for us. We left home at 7 am, picking up Dave & Sue Birchmire, so we could arrive early in time for Friday registration, seminars and First Lady's Breakfast.

We originally were to bring a antique automobile to display in the Annual Meeting trade show area. But, with the chaos that took place in the Philadelphia area due to the Philadelphia Eagles Super Bowl Parade on Thursday, we were advised to leave the antique automobiles home.

Many of our friends who dared to arrive on Thursday found that they faced a traffic jam like no other. Philadelphia Eagles Fans had taken over the city. The Sheraton Hotel is within walking distance to the Art Museum and the final destination of the Eagles players and all the fans. Thousands of fans everywhere.

Sue Birchmire and I attended the "First Lady's Breakfast from 9:00-11:00 am. First Lady, Tammy Cox, presided over the breakfast and the breakfast and entertainment were great. It was so nice to connect with our friends from all over the country that we see during the year at Meets and Tours.

While we were at the breakfast, Ray and Dave attended several seminars. Ray really enjoyed a seminar on Repair, Restoration & Maintenance by Jim Cross and also a seminar on History of the Ford Flathead V-8 Engine by Dain King.



Ray & Arthur

Pennsylvania College of Technology had a trade show booth and several students were in attendance. Ray met Arthur Wright, our scholarship recipient. Arthur once again thanked us and our club for our scholarship donation. Arthur and Ray spent much of Friday afternoon together. Ray introduced Arthur to many National Directors, past AACA presidents and club officers and he received much encouragement toward his future in the automotive field.

That afternoon I attended the Publications Seminar and the Webmaster Forum and gleaned much information regarding our Newsletter and Website.

Friday evening was the Regions & Chapters Presidents' Dinner. Ray and I had a wonderful meal and the our own Chuck Gibson was the Master of Ceremonies. He conducted the remainder of the evening where the many regions and chapter presidents introduced themselves and told of their region's upcoming events. This was also the time where many regions and chapters gave donations to the AACA Library. Ray presented our club donation to the Library Endowment Fund. After the Regions & Chapters Presidents' Dinner, there was a special interview with Dr. Fred Simeone of the world-renowned Simeone Museum. Dr. Simeone presented a wonderful slide show about his museum and the amazing cars on display. (Continued on Pg. 5)

Chuck Gibson as Master of Ceremonies



March Headlights



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Questions?? Feel free to contact any officer or board member and they will be glad to help.

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 **4th of July & 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
 Mens Golf Shirts: S-XL \$22; 2X & 3X \$24
 Ladies Golf Shirts: same as above
 Spring Jackets: S-XL \$46; 2X \$48 & 3X \$48
 Winter Jackets S-XL \$70



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! March Birthdays



3-8 Janet Gaunt	3-10 Frank Heiss Jr
3-8 Collin Brayerton	3-20 Ken Rehrig
3-9 Janet Erdner	3-23 Karen Smith

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

Bonnie Green reported that fruit baskets were delivered to John Shore & Russ Shipman and a get well card was sent to Judy Fischer.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ray McFarland



Hello Friends!

March is here and I hope you are getting your car ready for the spring drives. Our Swap Meet set for March 25th is fast approaching. It is our one and only fund raiser. Your help is needed on Saturday, March 24th when we will meet for breakfast at the

Woodstown Diner at 8:30 am and then travel over to the fair grounds for set up at approximately 9:30 am. And of course on Sunday, March 25th. Please note this is a rain or shine event. Please help both days if possible.

We toured to the National Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem PA and Allentown's America on Wheels Museum last month. Check out our March newsletter for a look at what you missed.

Saturday, March 10 we are planning to visit the Simeone Auto Museum in Philadelphia just a few miles away.

We are looking for more ideas for one or two day tours that would be of interest to everyone. Please send your suggestions to our club email sjraaca@gmail.com

Your input to make the 2018 touring season is needed. We live in an area steep in history. Lets enjoy it.

Drive that car, it needs the exercise.

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Linda McFarland



Spring is just around the corner. And so is our upcoming Swap Meet scheduled for March 25th.

I certainly hope you enjoy the March newsletter. This newsletter includes the our members who received accolades at the AACA National Meeting, including Dave Birchmire, Fran Shore and yours truly. Chuck Gibson was also master of ceremonies for the Annual Presidents' Dinner. It was a wonderful and informative weekend.

The Winter tour to Bethlehem and Allentown was also lots of fun.

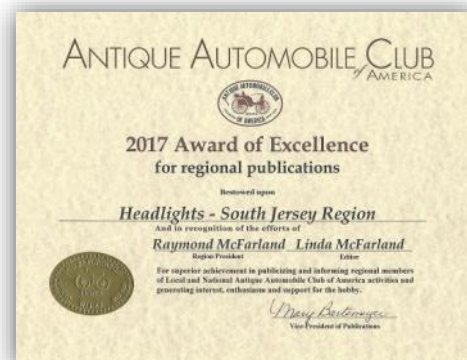
And we are looking forward to another day trip to the Simeone Museum in Philadelphia. I hope you can join us for this one.

I am still looking for articles from our members on your special ride. Just give me the information and I will help you with writing the article. Send photos also.

I am always trying to give you something interesting to read in our newsletters. So if you find an article that I can get permission to reprint for everyone, please send that to me. I will endeavor to get clearance to publish it in our newsletter.

LADIES—how about those recipes. I know you have some new ones you would like to share.

Looking forward to spring. So dust off those classics and get them ready to drive.



South Jersey Region Events & Activities

MARCH

- 4 7:00am-2:00 pm Hamburg Swap Meet, Hamburg PA
Ontelaunee Region AACA
- 5 7:00 PM CLUB MEETING Woodstown Borough Hall
- 10 9:30 AM TOUR to the Simeone Automotive Museum
- 22 6:30 PM FRIENDSHIP & FOOD—Chobani Restaurant
719 S. Broadway (Rt. 49), Pennsville, NJ
- 24 8:30 AM SWAP MEET SETUP BREAKFAST
Woodstown Diner
- 25 8 am-3 pm SJRAACA SWAP MEET Salem County
Fair Grounds

APRIL

- 2 7:00 PM CLUB MEETING Woodstown Borough Hall
- 12 6:30 PM FRIENDSHIP & FOOD NIGHT OUT
- 14 8am-3pm BRANDYWINE REGION AACA SWAP MEET
New Garden Twp Hall, 299 Starr Rd.
Landenberg, PA 19350 (tlg56vet@comcast.net)

FRIENDSHIP & FOOD
March 22, 2018 - 6:30 PM
Chobani Restaurant,
719 S. Broadway (Rt. 49) Pennsville
Walmart Shopping Center





**SATURDAY,
MARCH 10, 2018
TOUR to SIMEONE
AUTOMOTIVE
MUSEUM**
6825 Norwich Dr.,
Philadelphia, PA

We will be meeting at **9:30 am**

at the base of the Barry Bridge and traveling up to Philadelphia for a visit to this unique automotive museum.

Make sure to bring your AACA Membership Card as it will get you into the museum for FREE.

Along with the many antique race cars and other antique autos on display, there will be a special model car show taking place at the museum this day. So there will be something for the younger set.



Photos from Simeone Museum Website

AACA CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

- **March 23-24, 2018** Winter Meet, Mobile, Alabama
- **April 5-7, 2018** Southeastern Spring Meet-Hornets Nest Region, Charlotte, North Carolina
- **April 20-21, 2018** AACA Western Spring Meet-Tucson Region Tucson, Arizona
- **May 11-12, 2018** Central Spring Meet, Auburn, Indiana
- **May 31-June 2, 2018** Annual Grand National Meet-Western PA Region, Greensburg, PA
- **June 25-29, 2018** Eastern Divisional Tour, Lock Haven, PA
- **July 11-14, 2018** AACA Eastern Spring Meet, Gettysburg, PA
- **Sept. 12-15, 2018** AACA Central Divisional Tour-Amarillo Region, Texas Panhandle
- **October 10-13, 2018** Eastern Fall Meet-Hershey Region, PA
- **October 21-26, 2018** Founders Tour—S. Illinois Region, Ohio Valley Chapter, Metropolis, Illinois
- **November 5-9, 2018** AACA Sentimental Tour—Louisiana Region, Natchez, Mississippi

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE www.SJRAACA.com for more information on our Swap Meet and a full page pdf of the flyer that you can download.

Tailgaters Welcome! Plenty of parking. Police directing traffic from parking lot. Over 350 vendors last year.

Sunday, March 25, 2018 Rain or Shine
at the SALEM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Show Time: 8 AM to 3 PM
Vendor Set-up: 6 AM to 8 AM

735 Harding Highway (Route 40), Woodstown, NJ 08098
5 miles west of Woodstown or 1/4 mile west of Cowtown

Covered Spaces: 10' x 12'
Tailgate Spaces: 12' x 35'
Automotive Related Items Only

47th
Annual Swap Meet & Car Corral

Food Vendors by invitation only. Vendors and Campers using electric will be charged \$25 extra. Food Vendors must have all applicable certificates and permits. All Vendors are responsible for the removal of merchandise and trash. We will attempt to give you the same space as previous year, if payment is received by March 16, 2018.

Contributor:

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Chuck Gibson: 609.221.5435 / gibsonegtr@out.com • Gary Green: 856.575.5547 / 19chevy57@comcast.net
Day of Show: 609.221.5435 • No Soliciting or Cars for Sale in Parking Lot or Vendor Area - CAR CORRAL ONLY

Please Print Clearly If you want confirmation, send self-addressed stamped envelope

Company Name _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Swap Meet Space - \$35.00
Number of covered spaces: _____ Number of tailgate spaces: _____ Number of indoor spaces: _____ Amt. Enc. \$ _____

Car Corral Space - \$20.00
Number of Spaces: _____ Amt. Enc. \$ _____

Food Vendor Spaces - \$50.00 Amt. Enc. \$ _____

Mail this form with check or money order to:
S.J.R.A.A.C.A.
Gary M. Green
572 Quinton Marlboro Road
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

**ON DAY OF SWAP MEET
ALL SPACES ARE \$50.00**

Online registration and all major credit cards accepted via PayPal on our website at www.sjraaca.com

**Meeting Highlights of the
South Jersey Region
Monday, March 5, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Ray McFarland at 7:05 pm. All stood for the flag salute and pledge of allegiance.

Ray then asked for guests and new members. There were no guests or new members.

A membership request was received from Jim & Margie Craven of Pennsville. Jim & Margie have a '37 Plymouth PTO Truck and a '57 Chevy Truck.

Ray then asked for a motion to accept them into membership. The motion was made and approved.

Becky Counsellor then read the minutes of the last meeting. They were approved as read.

Edna Norris gave the treasurer's report. This was approved as read and bills were approved for payment.

Bonnie Green, sunshine chairperson, reported that a fruit basket was delivered to John Shore and Russ Shipman for their recent hospitalizations. A get well card was also sent to Judy Fischer.

Becky Counsellor read thank you notes from John Shore, Russ Shipman and the AACA Library.

Ray spoke on the AACA National Meeting in Philadelphia. He noted that we spent part of Friday with our scholarship recipient, Arthur Wright from Pennsylvania College of Technology.

He also spoke on the recent Winter Tour to Bethlehem and Allentown.

Gary Green spoke regarding the Swap Meet. He said registrations were coming in and that there will be breakfast at 8:30 am at the Woodstown Diner on Saturday, March 24th prior to set up at the fair grounds.

Chuck Gibson noted that we will have police presence starting at 5:00 am the day of the Swap Meet.

Gary noted that we need everyone's help.

Friendship & Food Night Out will be on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm the Chobani Restaurant, 719 S. Broadway, Rt. 49, Pennsville, NJ. The restaurant is on the highway just in front of the Walmart shopping center.

Saturday, March 10, 2018 will be a tour to the Simeone Auto Museum. We will be meeting at the base of the Barry Bridge at 9:30 am and then traveling over to Philadelphia.

Ray noted that we need ideas for tours. We are possibly planning a tour to the Strasburg Railroad and the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.

We are also in need of recipes and articles about your cars for our newsletter. Please send these to Linda.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:45 pm.

**DID YOU GET
A NEW VEHICLE ?
Send your photo to Linda and let
everyone know about your new
find.**

sjraaca@gmail.com



**You just never know where our hobby
will take us.**

Recently, one of our members helped with decorating their church platform with parts of a '29 Ford Pick-up Truck. Member Bill Flitcraft was asked to help out with decorating his church for the season, with the help of his good friend Neil Neal and his '29 Ford. Neil owns the truck and plans to restore it in the near future.



**AUTOMOTIVE
TRIVIA
(Answers below)**



1. How many auto manufacturers are there in the United States at the beginning of 2018?
2. How many auto manufacturers were there in the United States from 1894 to 1930?

TRIVIA ANSWERS
1. 10 Auto Manufacturers in 2018
2. 1,800 Auto Manufacturers from 1894 to 1930

Thank you to Larry Irwin for his trivia contribution

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**James & Margie
Craven
Of Pennsville, NJ**

AACA Annual Meeting (Continued)

Saturday's seminars at the annual meeting were also very educational. Dave Birchmire went to the National Judging School by Dain King while Sue and I attended the Chair Yoga seminar for ladies by Debbie Nolan. There were also many other seminars that dealt with many automotive issues.

The Trade Show with its many automotive vendors also included many booths for upcoming Meets and Tours.

That evening was the National Awards Reception and Banquet. This is always the highlight of the National Meeting where many awards are given out to recognize excellence for special automobiles, newsletters, websites and more.

Fran Shore received the Master Newsletter Award for the Buzzards Breath Region Newsletter.

Dave Birchmire received recognition for his 1985 Corvette.

Dave Birchmire receiving his award from AACA President Tom Cox



Linda McFarland receiving her award from AACA President Tom Cox



Trophy received by Linda McFarland

I received the Master Webmaster Award for our South Jersey Region Website.

This is the 4th year in a row I have received this award.

It was a wonderful evening and certainly a very eventful and fruitful weekend for everyone.



NEW AACA BROCHURE

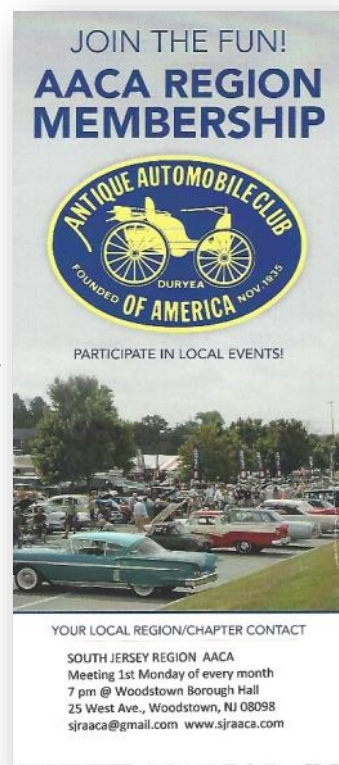
AACA National has just developed a brand new brochure to promote membership in AACA Regions and Chapters.

This new brochure focuses on all of the benefits of belonging to a local AACA Region or Chapter. The photos are engaging, the text clear and concise, and the design professional.

The front of the brochure contains an area specifically for you to adhere a label with your local region or chapter's contact information.

This will make a great handout at cruise nights, car shows, touring events or when any opportunity arises to promote your club.

Why not keep a couple handy in your glove box, too?!



REPAIR, RESTORATION & MAINTENANCE

Highlights from AACA Annual Meeting Seminar

By James Cross

The following are some notes from a seminar that was given by Jim Cross. This will be continued in future issues of this newsletter.

RADIATORS (NOT FOR ALUMINUM RADIATORS)

- Always use distilled water with Antifreeze
- Check for cracked blocks & blown head gaskets
4. NAPA BK-700-1006
- Nitrate, Freeze Point, & PH
 1. WIX Filtration Corp
 2. Pen Ray Universal
3-way test strips
Part #: T5200
- Add Supplemental Coolant Additive at oil changes
- A water wetter can also be added
- Clean Radiator per 1928 Buick manual.
 1. First drain the system thoroughly and after dissolving a pound of **SAL SODA** or a half-pound of lye in five gallons of water, pour mixture in the radiator after straining through a cloth. Run the engine slowly for five minutes and then drain the cleansing mixture. Again fill the system with clean water, running the engine as before; and after draining this thoroughly, the radiator may be refilled for use. Thorough flushing of the system after using the cleansing mixture is essential in view of the detrimental action of such mixtures on the hose connections.
 2. **SAL SODA/Soda Ash** is sodium carbonate
Arm and Hammer Super Washing Soda
- If the radiator is dead it will have to be replaced
- Can be checked with OHM Meter (To be continued)

WINTER TOUR

National Museum of Industrial History America on Wheels Museum

South Jersey Region members and friends ventured out on a cold February day to travel up to Bethlehem PA and visit the National Museum of Industrial History (NMIH).

The museum is in a building that once housed part of the Bethlehem Steel company. It is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution and has many of the machines from the 1876 Centennial Exhibition.

The museum is very new, just opening in August 2016 and is adding new exhibits on a regular basis.

The iron and steel section on display helped make the industrial revolution come to life.

The textile industry machinery on display was extremely interesting to the ladies in our group.

There was also a large display regarding the propane industry.

Larry Lang was our docent and gave us a wonderful tour of each display, explaining in detail how everything worked.

After our visit to the NMIH, we all had lunch at a nearby Perkins Restaurant and then traveled a few miles away to the America on Wheels Museum, where we were surprised to see 2 of Chuck & Joyce Gibson's 1942 Chevys on display.



Our group in front of the antique steam engine.

With docent Larry Lang.



Viewing the many displays at the NMIH.



America On Wheels Museum
Gary, Martin & Ray

Chuck Gibson with his '42 Chevys

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

From the Kitchen of Marge & Larry Irwin



CHOCOLATE POUND CAKE

1/2 lb. butter
1/2 cup shortening
3 cups sugar
5 eggs
1/4 tsp. baking powder
1/2 cup cocoa
1 tsp vanilla
1 1/4 cup milk
3 cups cake flour

Sift dry ingredients together. Cream butter, shortening and sugar. Add eggs one at a time and beat after each one. Add other ingredients and bake 1 hour 25 minutes at 300 degrees.

Have a recipe you would like to share?

Send your recipe to Linda

at sjraaca@gmail.com

* * * * *

WINTER TOUR (Continued)



America On Wheels Museum
Janet Erdner found a phone !!



Larry & Marge Irwin in the
Museum's 50's Cafe



Martin Erdner, Louis Berger and
Josh Kearney taking a break while
looking at the beautiful autos.



Many more photos of this tour are
on our website www.sjraaca.com

SJRAACA CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE- 1966 THUNDERBIRD \$9,500

- 390auto/PS/PW
- 58,500 original miles California car.
- Mostly orig except wheels and body side molding.
- One small chip on hood and small seam open on back of passenger seat.
- Many pictures available.
- Asking \$9,500!



Contact: Natalie [609-517-5648](tel:609-517-5648)

FOR SALE:

- Tools,
- Auto Parts,
- Engines,
- Trailers, etc.



CONTACT: Ron Allen allen61@comcast.net

[856-794-8357](tel:856-794-8357) Contact Ron and he will send you a list and photos of all the items he has available.



FOR SALE: 1965 DODGE CORONET CONVERTIBLE - \$13,500

- Chrysler 400 big block
- Amateur restoration
- Bought from it's original owner 27 years ago
- Many extras. More photos available
- Asking \$13,500
- Under 2000 miles on upgraded engine.
- Call Fred Coffin—[215-370-4740](tel:215-370-4740).
- All inquiries answered. Salem, N.J. area.



FOR SALE - 1983 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham \$1,000

- 4 Door
- Runs OK
- Body needs some work
- \$1,000 Open to reasonable offer

Contact Vasile Williams 610-299-6208

SJRAACA CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE—1966 AMC AMBASSADOR

- \$5,000
- Nash 327 - 94,600 miles
- No Rust
- Super Clean
- New Battery & Wiring
- Extra Hubcaps

Contact Shanonn @856-264-7005



FOR SALE 1941 FORD COUPE \$8,000 negotiable

- Car is on frame, Stripped
- almost all N.O.S. Parts.
- Rebuilt Mercury flathead V-8 engine never ran.
- New Tires

For Info call Henry at # [609 364 0996](tel:609-364-0996)

or 856-696-0643



FOR SALE: 1980 CORVETTE - \$12,000 OBO

- 36,000 Miles
- Big Block 454
- Chrome side pipes
- Fresh 4 wheel alignment
- Many new parts, too much to list
- Fun car to drive



CONTACT: Ed 856-362-0001



FOR SALE: 1962 PONTIAC STAR CHIEF - \$12,500 OBO

- Low mileage
- Excellent Condition, garage kept
- Original Owner
- Excellent interior
- Starts right up

CONTACT: Durland Weale, New York
601-350-2179 (Ask for Alice)

**ADVERTISE YOUR AUTOMOTIVE
ITEMS FOR SALE HERE**

SJRAACA CLASSIFIEDS

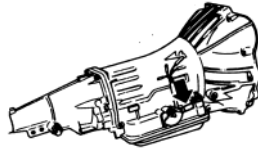
FOR SALE - SPEEDAIR COMPRESSOR \$200 obo

- 2 hp
 - 30 gallon vertical tank
 - \$200 or best offer
- Contact: Bob Harris 856-935-2971



FOR SALE - TRANSMISSION \$100 obo

- From a '67 Ford Galaxie w/289 engine
 - Worked good when taken out of car
 - Probably needs front and rear seals
- Contact: Bob Harris 856-935-2971





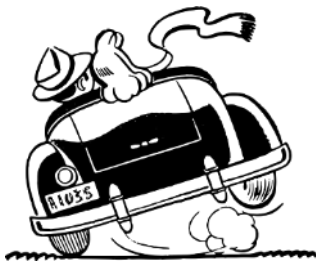
FOR SALE: HUNTER WHEEL ALIGNMENT MACHINE - \$325

- Will measure Caster, Camber and Toe-in and Toe-out
- Contact: Rich Faunce 609-502-4276



If you are in need of automotive batteries call Ed Counsellor at 856-362-0001. He carries Interstate Batteries





How to have more fun with old cars

Marty Roth Vice President,
Development and Support
Central Division

Is there anything more enjoyable than getting out with our old cars, and with other folks who enjoy them? Other than time with the kids and grandkids - maybe, but not much else. Our old car friends are our second family. AACA activities with them are a great way for local Regions to share with like-minded folks from all over.

Your annual region show was fun, and the one-day, or weekend tours brought out memories which really last, right? When was the last time you attended a national meet or drove on a national tour? Not in a while? Never? They bring together an even wider and more diverse group, bring recognition, and even a modest profit to your region, and can generally even help your club make a significant charitable donation. The smallest of clubs can host excellent national activities, and any advice, planning assistance, and support you might need is available from your National Directors and AACA Headquarters in Hershey.

Having been involved for many years in scheduling, planning, and hosting National Meets, as well as National and Divisional Tours, I can assure you that you'll develop life-long friendships, and you'll retain a feeling of satisfaction that you and your club have had a positive effect for the club and for your community. Additionally, members from all over will remind their friend of what a great time they had because you and your region hosted a national activity. Email me any time with your questions and ideas. I would really like to share your thoughts and concerns, and want to help you host a meet of tour in the coming years.

From Fall 2017 AACA Rummage Box

Streamline Test Car The McQuay-Norris Tear Droppers



McQuay-Norris was a manufacturer of high-quality aftermarket engine and chassis and chassis parts located in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1932 the Company had a series of six "Tear Drop" Test Cars built on either Model "A" Ford or 1932 Ford chassis by the Hill Auto Body Metal Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The attention-getting-egg-shaped McQuay-Norris tear droppers purpose was two-fold; for on the road testing by its Test Engineers of the Companies products, and the promotion of these auto parts around the country by the new hires.

All six of the machines were outfitted with General Tire "Balloon Jumbo" 14-inch wheels and tires that the Tire Co. Engineers designed in the late 1920's. The low-pressure General "Balloon Jumbos" revolutionized tire and wheel design and manufacture. Requiring only 12-pounds of air pressure, the Balloon Jumbos promised a much smoother ride than conventional tires of the day.

Theoldmotor.com

Anarchy of the Early Auto

by Ruby Rae Scalera
Carshowsafari.com

This was going to be a factual article. I had it all planned out – the history of early auto racing, where the first race was run, who competed, how fast the cars ran, if anyone was able to complete the race. It was going to be factual.

But the thing is, the history of the automobile doesn't fit nicely and neatly into a box. It is a short history, arguably less than 150 years old, and runs horizontally across automakers, countries, inventors and, yes, races. To make a list of "the first five auto races" you would have to answer questions like: *Are the cars gasoline-powered? Did anyone complete the race? Did more than one person compete? Was it legal for them to race?* And other odd, nearly incomparable queries that scratch the surface of just how complicated the early

age of autos really was.

After all, the early cars were so incredibly new that they didn't yet have a name – *horseless carriage* ring any bells? And the idea of the Internet and the smartphone was more akin to a 1960s science fiction story than reality until mere years ago. Humans have been creating the new, wild and unexpected forever, but I do believe the difference is that now we are accustomed to it, whereas back then, no one knew what to think.

And for that reason, and many more, I've come to a deep and abiding love and respect for early autos, not dissimilar from the love and respect you might feel for a child attempting to learn to walk. It is chaotic and insane and goes against every natural instinct, but miracle upon miracle, they might actually succeed.

Because in addition to sharing some years with the age of the Wild West, the early automotive industry was a Wild West itself. Take for instance the [Duryea Motor Wagon](#) story I shared recently, where the original race date had to be pushed back because not a single car was *completed* in time to qualify. After that, only 6 of the original 93 cars registered made it to the starting line and only 2 to the finish line.



For a moment, let's forget the era of '53 Corvettes and '64 ½ Mustangs and even Ford Model Ts. Go earlier. Think bigger. Tune your mind to the era where the auto industry wasn't an industry at all but *thousands* of inventors hacking away at ideas in their garages and barns. Think of an era where electric cars might have succeeded, only there wasn't enough electricity between the cities to go very far. Remember that the first cross-country auto race included nearly as much time digging wheels out of the mud as it did driving, as *roads* in their long-distance and truest sense, would not come about until nearly two decades into the 20th century.

Those early years of cars were made up of calamity and near catastrophe, of police officers pulling over new-fangled contraptions they had never seen before, of laws made after they had been broken, of car crashes and drunk drivers because hell, they honestly didn't know better.

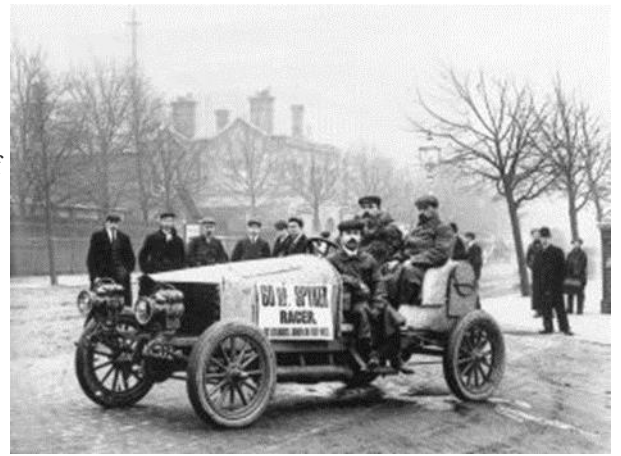
As of late, I've become quite a sucker for the anarchy of the early auto. Could you imagine having a car world today with two thousand individual automakers? Think about the concept of using your license plate as your driver's license and taking it off if you were going to drive another car. Think, terrifyingly, of the idea that you didn't need to pass any sort of exam to drive on the open roads. (This is actually scarier than you think, as many states didn't require you to pass a driver's exam until the 1950s, ending with South Dakota in 1959...)

And the truth is, the car industry hasn't stopped being a little wild and a little insane. No, it's not quite the nihilistic age of runaway horseless carriages on muddy streets with no blinkers, windshield wipers or seatbelts. But cars have gone through eras and waves that no one could have ever predicted before, just as no one could have ever predicted their birth. Hot rods? Madness. Muscle cars. Call an exorcist. Green technology? A phasing out of manual transmissions? Government-issued safety standards?

And yes, every time a new wave of the weird and unpredictable comes along, someone is bound to throw up their hands and say *that ain't the way a car is supposed to be*. But really, how can we possibly say the way a car is supposed to be when cars have changed so very many times since those early barns and garages and *stables*?

Am I a fan of the self-driving auto? Not particularly. But I wouldn't call myself a car enthusiast if I didn't recognize that autonomous cars are not a deviation from classics of yesteryear, but an homage, a kin, the great, great grandchild of horseless carriages, mixed in along the lines with sports cars and supercars and muscle cars and family cars and sedans and all the rest. In order to survive, classic cars have to be just a little bit wild, a little bit weird and a little bit off the beaten track.

After all, when cars were first invented, there weren't any tracks at all. 🍌



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SOUTH JERSEY REGION ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

DATES TO REMEMBER



MARCH

- 4 7:00 am-2:00 pm Ontelauntee Region AACA
Hamburg Swap Meet, Hamburg, PA
- 5 7:00 PM CLUB MEETING, Woodstown Borough Hall
- 10 9:30 AM SIMEONE MUSEUM TOUR Page 3
- 22 6:30 PM FRIENDSHIP & FOOD NIGHT OUT, Chobani Restaurant, Pennsville
- 24 8:30 am SWAP MEET SETUP BREAKFAST, Woodstown Diner
- 24 9:30-10:00 AM SWAP MEET SETUP—Salem County Fair Grounds
- 25 8 AM-3 PM SJRAACA SWAP MEET
Salem County Fair Grounds



APRIL

- 2 7:00 PM CLUB MEETING, Woodstown Borough Hall
- 12 6:30 PM FRIENDSHIP & FOOD NIGHT OUT (To be announced)
- 14 8am-3pm—BRANDYWINE REGION AACA SWAP MEET
New Garden Twp Hall, 299 Starr Rd., Landenberg, PA 19350

