

MID-JERSEY REGION



FEBRUARY 2011

Volume IX Number 2

OFFICERS

President----- Jim Spence
Vice President---- John K. Tiene
Secretary----- Carl Christiansen
Treasurer----- Bruce Bird
Director 1 Year--- Larry Myers
Director 2 Year--- Jim Bowers
Director 3 Year--- Mike Dachille

FEBRUARY MEETING

Monday, February 14, 2011
8 PM
Crosswicks Community House
Crosswicks, NJ

JANUARY MEETING

The January Meeting was held at the Crosswicks Community House on January 10, 2011. President, Jim Spence, called the meeting to order at 8:05, and started the meeting with a moment of silence. Jim next introduced the Officers for 2011 - himself as President, John Tiene as Vice President, Carl Christiansen as Secretary and Bruce Bird as Treasurer. The Directors were also announced – Larry Myers, Jim Bowers and Mike Dachille. Jim also wished a happy birthday to Bob Majors.

Next, there was a speaker on the topic of Steering Wheel Restoration. Larry Myers

introduced Bob Monetti, who is known as Steering Wheel Bob. He indicated he has been involved in antique auto restoration for about 50 years, with an early example of his steering wheel work being on a 1930 Franklin, where he repaired the wheel back in 1963. Most of his restoration business is for Bakelite wheels, but he also does plastic wheels and some wood wheels. He feels Bakelite wheels are best, as they do not dry out over time. On plastic steering wheels, the oil in them will dry out. Bob stated he uses a “graft system” where he will put on a new rim. Epoxy is used for the finish. He will also “downsize” wheels from something like 18 inches to 15 inches in diameter. Mr. Monetti had a section of a broken wheel to show as a sample. He will cut open cracks and add metal bracing inside as part of the repair. On plastic wheels, they need to be sealed in order to be painted. He uses an alcohol based primer and then 4 coats of acrylic enamel as the final color. He designed a spray booth with a rotisserie in it for steering wheel painting. He also will straighten bent wheels as part of his service. He mentioned that plastic wheels from the 1960s and 1970s will shrink. He recommended not to use bondo, but to use 2 part epoxy. Another service he provides is wood graining. He has restored wheels for customers in many countries including Mexico, France, Sweden and Belgium.

After the Steering Wheel presentation, the normal meeting commenced. Carl Christiansen read the November 2010 and December 2010 minutes and they were accepted.

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For Old Business, John Tiene said he would follow up with the possible display or cruise at Nathan's Hot Dogs to see if it is feasible. The Princeton P'Rade is in May and we need 5 cars, but also want a few beyond that number. There are still AACA Mid-Jersey Region buttons for sale, and members can get them at the meetings.

For New Business, it was decided that references to the Treasurer's Report month end balance will not be put in the Newsletter as it is now posted online and available for public view. The amount will be stated in the monthly meeting minutes, but not in the Newsletter. Jim Spence asked the membership for ideas on how the club can make money. It is more difficult to find paid events due to the poor economy, so we need other ideas. Getting more cars to attend the Haldeman Show would be one way to raise additional funds. The Haldeman Show will attempt to be scheduled for the week before Father's Day. Sid Olson obtained 35 Hess Trucks and it was suggested that some could be used as trophies for Haldeman. Bob Sakson suggested that we advertise that the Hess Trucks will be used as trophies at Haldeman if that's what is decided. Sid's son in law also has a number of other items which could be used for goodie bags. It was mentioned that the officers and directors went to visit Ron Dunster at his house, after his operation, and presented him with a "get well" calendar from the club. It was brought up that we should invite Sid's son in law to our Installation Dinner to show appreciation for the items he provides for Haldeman. The club voted in favor of that.

John Tiene had options for the Installation Dinner:

1. Go back to Villa Mannino.
2. Rent a hall such as the Burlington County Meeting House and have it catered. This would be about \$28 per person and the club would bring alcoholic beverages independently of the caterer.

3. The Boat House at Mercer County Park. This would range between \$21 to \$30 per person depending on if alcohol is included or if a cash bar is used instead.

There is still an effort to figure out some type of gift to commemorate the 40th Anniversary. The membership felt Villa Mannino was the best choice. John will try to work with local politicians to have a resolution made since it is our 40th Anniversary.

There was also discussion on how to bring attention to our club. One idea was to sponsor a model car contest. Another was to have a booth or table at local community events (like a Home Show).

We need a volunteer for the "Sunshine Committee" to send Get Well Cards and other such gestures. Mike Dachille volunteered to be the person. Jim Spence said we need someone to write an article for the AACA National Magazine about our Region.

Upcoming events were run down:

Haldeman Show
Bordentown is not 100% committed yet.
Princeton P'Rade
Crosswicks Community Day is not 100% committed yet, but probably will happen.

John Tiene will coordinate with Show Finder for the Haldeman Show. There will be a speaker at the February Meeting. His name is Jack Fritsch and he restores horns. The AACA Annual Meeting will be held in February in Philadelphia. Our next meeting is February 14th. Jim Spence suggested that everyone should try to bring an old member or a new member. Sid Olson made a motion to adjourn at 9:33. Jim Bowers won the 50/50 and donated it back to the club.

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CLUB BUTTONS



Buttons with our Region's Logo are available. Get yours at the next meeting. The cost is \$3 for 1 button or \$5 for 2 buttons.

AACA Mid Jersey Region, Inc.
P.O. Box 127
Crosswicks, NJ 08515

CAR CALENDAR

February 14, 2011 – February Meeting
February 18–20, 2011 – Atlantic City Auction etc.
March 14, 2011 – March Meeting
March 25, 2011 – Installation Dinner
March 25-27, 2011 - North East Rod & Custom Car Show at the Greater Phila. Expo Center 100 Station Ave, Oaks, PA
March 27, 2011 - 40TH Annual Swap Meet & Car Corral Salem County Fairgrounds, Rt. 40, 5 Miles West of Woodstown, NJ
April 11, 2011 - April Meeting
May 9, 2011 – May Meeting
June 13, 2011 – June Meeting
July 11, 2011 – July Meeting
August 8, 2011 – August Meeting
September 12, 2011 – September Meeting
October 5-8, 2011 – Hershey Fall Meet
October 10, 2011 – October Meeting
November 14, 2011 – November Meeting
December 12, 2011 – Pizza Night Meeting

CALLING ALL CONVERTIBLES

We have been contacted once again by Princeton University alumni to provide vehicles for the P-Rade. According to the University's website, next year's reunion will be held May 26 – 29, 2011, so assume that the P-Rade will be Saturday, May 28th. Our Region has been requested to provide a total of 5 convertibles from the late 1950s to

about 1967, but having a few more than the minimum would be better. Contact Ron Dunster if you can take part. He also needs pictures of the cars that will participate to send to his Princeton contact, so plan now.

FEBRUARY MEETING SPEAKER

We will have a speaker at the February Meeting to talk about horn restoration. His name is Jack Fritsch.

40th ANNIVERSARY & INSTALLATION DINNER MARCH 25th

Our club will celebrate its 40th anniversary and officially install its officers and directors on Friday night, March 25th at Villa Mannino on Route 130 in Bordentown.

The dinner will begin at 6:00 PM with a wine/beer reception. The dinner menu includes appetizer, salad, pasta with vodka sauce and features two entrees: Chicken Parmigianino and Sole Ripieno (flounder stuffed with crabmeat and scallops). Don't worry about choosing an entrée, everything will be served family style so you can eat as little or as much as you like. There'll even be entertainment!

Villa Mannino (73 Route 130, Bordentown, NJ) is located on the north bound side of Route 130 just south of I-195 and just north of the Route 130/206 interchange. Our event will be held in their new banquet hall on the first floor, no steps! Entrance is in the rear side of the building.

The cost is \$15 for members, their spouses or significant others. Guests are \$30 per person.

Come out and celebrate our 40 years as a club. It'll be a night of good food, great fellowship and help the Club install its officers and directors. No speeches and maybe a surprise or two!

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Make sure to get your reservation to Bruce Bird as soon as possible, we need as soon as possible and no later than March 19th. Send Bruce your reservation form and check or call him at (609) 585-3257. Use the sign up form attached to this Newsletter.

REGIONAL RAMBLINGS

Cleveland, Ohio – The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame had some small European cars suspended from the ceiling. Even if these cars were not decorated by someone having a 1960s hard drug flashback, they would still be ugly. It turns out they are the East German **Trabant**, circa late '50s to early '60s. These examples were used by the Rock Band U2 on their Zoo TV tour. Since the Broadway Play Spiderman is being produced by two members of U2, maybe they can add these cars to the set to increase interest.



A good use for Communist Era Micro Cars

There were also a few other interesting cars including the ZZ Top '34 Ford and Joan Jett's 1983 Jaguar XJ-S. Bruce Springsteen's Corvette was displayed in an area posted "no pictures".



The ZZ Top 1934 Ford made famous in 1980s Rock Videos



Joan Jett's first car – 1983 Jaguar

Pomona, California – What better way to escape 18 inches of New Jersey Snow than to attend the 2011 Grand National Roadster Show at the LA Fairplex. There were about 9 buildings filled with show vehicles and on Saturday & Sunday, the locals brought out their cars as well. On Saturday, there were about 700 cars outside in addition to the indoor portion. One building had a gathering of famous Customs from the 1940s to present. The NHRA Museum was there also, which had a good showing of famous racecars.



Herbert Cams Salt-liner in NHRA Museum

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The Hirahota 1951 Mercury (by Barris Kustom)



Roadsters



Carole Lombard & Clark Gable's 1941 Cadillac



Eric Clapton's RHD 1949 Chevy Pick Up



Pearson Brothers' 1936 Ford



Custom 1940 Mercury



The Aztec 1955 Chevy – Another Barris Kustom



1963 Chevy Low Rider

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Sectioned 1940 Ford Convertible



1938 Buick as proof that there are AACA eligible cars in California!



Small Part of the Outside Show



NHRA Museum



Speed-Wagon Editor with Jeff Beck at NHRA Museum!



Willys Gasser

WRAP UP

Hope nobody is offended by all modified cars this month, but it was good to see them all after being stuck in frozen NJ with the salt filled roads for the past few months. Thanks to John Tiene for his leg work on the Installation Dinner as well as the write-up and the sign-up sheet. Remember, bring an old member or a new member to the February meeting!

Carl Christiansen – Editor

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