

TIRE TRACKS

JANUARY 2025

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the
**Waynesboro-
Staunton Region
Antique Automobile
Club of America**



RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm still trying to get my head around the fact that "Take Out" can mean food, dating or murder.

And who, you are wondering, is going to get skewered this month? Let me start by saying a belated MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of the members of this great car club. It's been a fun year and more and better things are in stock for 2025. The story is this: I was watching some murder, mayhem, chaos, havoc, maelstrom and anarchy on the TV (puts my mind at ease after a hard day on the typewriter) when a commercial came on selling men's hair pieces. Where were they 30 years ago, I'd like to know? Can you picture this bald egghead with hair? In any event, Karen took this brief opportunity to say that if I didn't abuse any club members in *TireTracks* this month, then she'd give me a little financial incentive under the Christmas tree. I promised her I'd give respite to the membership, and I did get my just reward under the tree. There was a bag with some jingle in it. WOW, she's giving me a sack full of silver dollars I envisioned. I thanked her profusely, gave her a little peck on the lips and turned the bag upside down for a windfall of TWO CENTS. I know, I know, it's the thought that counts. Also under the tree was a book from Chester Bradfield, titled: HOW TO IDENTIFY CHEVY CARS (Monte Carlo from Chevelle, Corvair, Vega and GTO) As much as I appreciate the book, he forgot F-150 and Silverado trucks. I own a RAM, so let it go.

Staying with Christmas, I should mention that the club Christmas party at Tinkling Spring Church was a full on, slam dunk enjoyable affair. Loads of room to spread out, nice decorations, outstanding food, (2nd & 3rd servings and take home platters) lots of Christmas music (by Elvis Presley, Percy Faith, George Strait, Mitch Miller and the Gang), and great gifts. Thirty seven smiling faces finished off this year's shindig.

Wrapping up, I'd like to **THANK YOU**, the membership, for your continued support for putting up with my monthly rubbish, to the Board of Directors for their continuous snide remarks and never-ending support and to Stu Allen for allowing me and the BOD to trash his beautiful home for our meetings. (*Ellen, you'll regret the day*)

January 1 2025 starts a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all, lots of prosperity and good health.

Things my mother taught me:

PART 17: RECEIVING: "You are going to get it when you get home!"

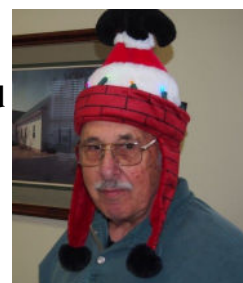
Jack Drago

(I wonder how many will pick up on the Pinto)

Editor's Note

The Region owes Jack and Karen Drago a big THANKS for all the work they did in preparing for and setting up the Christmas Party. This was the best party in memory!

Stu Allen



December Waynesboro-Staunton Region Meeting
December 14, 2024

Our Annual Christmas Party was held in the Fellowship Hall at Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church, Fishersville VA. This facility is ideal for a group our size. The meal was supplied by White Hill Catering and consisted of pulled pork, turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, salad and rolls. Desert was a choice of banana pudding, apple or lemon meringue pie. Everyone said the meal was great and there was sufficient amount for take-home leftovers.



Jack, Robbie and Nelson set up the train for the Christmas display.



Jack and Polly uncover the serving dishes for the buffet.



The gang digs in to the scrumptious meal.



The Fellowship Hall allowed plenty of room for all to enjoy the meal.



Polly Belford unwrapped a nice blanket, perfect for the December weather.



Chester Bradfield opened the favorite man's gift—a thread size checker. It was soon stolen in the gift exchange.



Tony Edwards had to be convinced to show the gift he unwrapped. The flashlight soon went to another member.



Steve Ayers shows off the nicest shop towels anyone had ever seen!



The "little engine that could" entertained us all during the meeting.

Happy New Year

Highlights of 2024



Feb. 17, 2024
Augusta
County Fair
Auction at
Cornerstone
Church



June 16—the
Ayers’ Model
A welcomed
members to
Ming Garden



July 26
Display at
Augusta
County Fair
Robbie’s
“Dirty T”



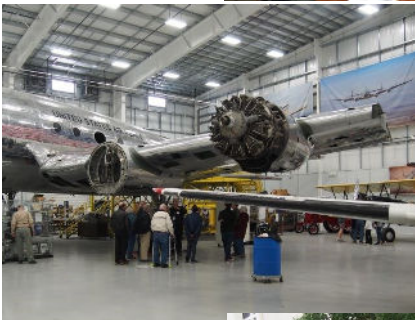
March 17
meeting at
Sooner BBQ



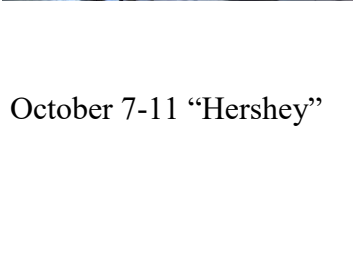
August 18 Annual
Picnic with
Tri-County—
Grand Caverns



September 15 Annual
Auction at Tinkling
Spring. Duane Perrin
receives 50 Year
Membership pin.



April 21
visit to First
Airforce
One at
Dynamic
Aviation



October 7-11 “Hershey”

May 18
ODMA at
Roanoke Best
of Show -
1916 Nash—
Reggie Nash



November 17
A “First” Meeting at
Panera Bread in
Waynesboro

The family of the late John Alton Brown, founder of the Waynesboro-Staunton Region and an AACA director, gave the Region 86 articles entitled "Down the Road A Piece", written by Brown from the late 1970's until his death in April 1991. Many of these articles were printed in our Region newsletter, "Tire Tracks," as well as the Tri-County Region newsletter, "Clutch Chatter"

CAR REPAIRS HAVE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS

John Brown

"Amazingly simple—simply amazing" was the slogan of a make of automobile some sixty years ago. In some ways this statement was true and in other ways it wasn't. The early "machine" or "horseless carriage" as they were referred to for a number of years after the turn of the century, were indeed somewhat uncomplicated in their construction. Most of the owners of these vehicles were wealthy persons and employed "chauffeurs" to drive them or at least to ride along (sometimes up on a seat on the side of the car) and to diagnose the problem and to make roadside repairs when necessary. These repairs might include the changing of a clincher tire, adjusting the sparker coil, or even draining all of the gasoline (spelled this way until the early 1920's) and re-filtering it through a chamois skin to remove water and bits of carbon or dust. Then, on occasion the adjustable electrodes on the sparkplugs might need adjusting or the little metal crank on the carburetor might need to be turned this way or that to compensate for the jostling on the rough roads encountered on the trip. As the years passed the chauffeurs remained only as drivers of the limousines of the wealthy and they probably did not know how to make repairs, but knew which commercial garage to call for service. By the middle "teens" the village blacksmith had realized that his future was not involved with old Dobbin but with the internal combustion engine, and, "JOSEPH WILSON'S BLACKSMITH and HORSE SHOEING" became simply "JOE'S AUTO REPAIR". The advent of the Model T Ford brought about some important changes in automobile maintenance. A large portion of Model T sales were made to farmers who had some rudimentary mechanical skills. Also, the sales manual contained many tips on repairs for this ubiquitous vehicle such as: if the car fails to start after all starting directions have been followed—first check the timing coils. Gradually, the owner became a mechanic and he was able to make most of the repairs. I don't know whether these manuals gave directions for jacking up the rear wheels and attaching a pulley so that the Model T could pump water, saw wood, or grind corn but, if they didn't, some ingenious farmer figured out how it could be done and soon the family car was a useful farm machine that could do things that were beyond the ability of the faithful team of horses.



Robbie Gray's T

When the "behind the times Model T" was replaced by the Model A in 1928, backyard repairs were still possible. Driving the A onto a large rock or log, putting the wheel on the opposite side slightly above the ground, making it possible to change a tire, replace wheel bearings or repair brakes. A burned out bulb on the dash board could easily be replaced simply by unscrewing the bulb. A faulty carburetor could be cleaned by simply removing one bolt to take the carburetor apart. Let us suppose that the same problem occurs with our 1980 native or foreign "miracle of engineering." In order to get at the burned out dash light about twenty screws must be removed before we can even get to the bulb.

To correct ills of the carburetor of our modern chariot, various hoses and the air cleaner must be removed just to find the location of the carburetor. Then when we find it, OH LORD!, the solution? Call Joe's Garage and plead for a house call or have the useless vehicle towed to Joe's.

Now, let us suppose that we are cruising down the interstate and we suddenly hear a loud bang or feel our car suddenly veering to one side or the other. We pull off to the side of the road and find that one of our tires is flat. The next move entails the opening of the trunk and the removal of the bumper jack which is probably still in its original carton. Now come the frustration of finding the directions for its assembly which is probably beyond the ability of the average motorist. And then conclude we have to find our jack, where to put our jack under the bumper or into slots conveniently placed by the manufacturer, Now, if you are lucky, you might have a bona fide spare. Changing sparkplugs used to be simple, quick, and even fun on the automobile built half a century ago. One lifted the hood and there they were—gleaming brightly on top of the engine head. A turn of the little brass knurled nut made possible to unhook the wires and a simple wrench unscrewed the plugs. The gap was checked with a dime, or, in some cases, a nickel. Today, the first problem is to find the plugs, or even the engine which may be in back, in front, slanted to one side, or crosswise under the hood. Those wires one sees lead to the sparkplugs, which cannot be seen at first. They are finally located but then a special socket wrench is needed that will go around corners and behind things. This takes time and is no fun at all. I suppose we should never buck progress, but so much of our sophisticated progress is getting very complicated.

Calendar of AACA Events & Community Car Events

- JAN.** No Executive Board Meeting this month
19 Sunday, 2:00 PM -Monthly meeting at Ming Garden, Waynesboro
-
- FEB.** **6-8 AACA National Convention—Charlotte/Concord NC. Details in Nov./Dec. Antique Automobile Magazine**
12 Wednesday, 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting at Stu Allen's 265 Stayman Ln. Staunton
16 Sunday, 2:00 PM -Monthly meeting at Francescos in Bridgewater
-
- MAR** **12 Wednesday, 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting at Stu Allen's 265 Stayman Ln. Staunton**
16 Sunday, 4:00 PM -Monthly meeting at Golden Corral in Waynesboro

Early Planning Schedule—Watch *Tire Tracks* for details/changes.

APRIL	13	Francesco's
MAY	18	Sunset Park - Waynesboro
JUNE	22	Tinkling Spring Picnic
JULY	12	Baldwin Park
AUGUST	17	Grand Caverns - Tri-County Picnic
SEPTEMBER	21	Tinkling Spring Auction
OCTOBER	19	Francesco's
NOVEMBER	16	Ming Garden
DECEMBER	14	Tinkling Spring Christmas Party

Tire Tracks

The official monthly publication of the Waynesboro-Staunton Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America

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From the Editor's Desk

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Minutes of the December 14, 2024 W-S Meeting

Waynesboro-Staunton Region of the AACA held its annual Christmas Party on December 15, 2024 at Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church Social Hall at 2 pm with a catered meal. President Jack Drago welcomed all present. Nelson Driver gave the blessing before the meal. After the meal we had the gift exchange which was enjoyed by all.

The meeting was adjourned with a Merry Christmas to all.

Respectfully submitted,


Robbie Gray, Sec.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



- Karen Drago
- Maxine Gordon
- Robbie Gray
- Patty Watson Gregory
- Kathy Kempton
- Alfred Meyer



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Bob Nutt: 540.294.5500



Chilton Manuals Donated to our Club

Bob Kuykendall recently picked up a donation from the local library of 58 Chiltons Manuals, all in good condition. They are now in Stu Allen's garage and are available to our members and friends for **FREE!**

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Brand</u>	<u>Yrs. Covered</u>
12	Asian	1996-2012
8	Chrysler	2000-2012
4	European	2000-2012
7	Ford	2000-2012
11	GM	2001-2012
4	Import	1991-2002
7	Misc.	1975-2003
5	Truck & Van	1996-2003



These are excellent resources for maintaining your current rides and future collectibles.
Call Stu Allen if you are interested (540-290-0329) and we'll arrange delivery or pick up.

For Sale

1946 Chevy Pickup
1979 Harley-Davidson Shovelhead
Happy to talk to someone about price.
Walter Wilson
703-273-1600

Tri-County Region Meetings
Check their website:
<http://tri-county-aaca.org/>

Piedmont Region Meetings
Meet the 4th Monday of the month at Timberwood Grill near airport road on Worth Ave.

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