

Greetings, Waynesboro-Staunton Region AACA members. Attached is the January 2011 issue of Tire Tracks. So many pictures—so little space! We want to thank out-going President Mel Redmond for leading us through another activity-packed year. We wish you and yours a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Stu Allen—Editor



NEXT MEETING: : January 16, 2011, 1:30 PM Red Lobster—132 Lee Highway ,Staunton
Installation of 2011 Officers



TIRE TRACKS

The Official Publication of the
Waynesboro-Staunton Region
Antique Automobile Club of America

Founded 1950—Oldest Region in the South

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the end of one year and the beginning of a new one, it is natural to think about the things that took place over the past year. I think for our local club we had many varied and enjoyable activities. We tried to have something for every one of our members. The following summary highlights our events over the year.

January - Billy McGuire showed slides while describing a cross-country trip made by members of the Model T Club driving their Model T's.

February - Member, Bob Ridle showed videos and talked about how early car testing was done.

March - We toured the P. Buckley Moss Museum.

April - Members Robbie Gray and Stu Allen related their experiences on a recent AACAA Sentimental Tour in Texas.

May - At our Founders' Day meeting, we presented the prestigious John Brown award to Bob Ridle. After the business meeting, we then toured Bruce Elder's Antique Auto business.

June - We took part in the Newtown celebration by displaying our cars and entering them in the parade through the Newtown section of Staunton. Several of us traveled to Louisville to enter our cars in the AACAA 75th Anniversary meet.

July - We displayed our cars at Baldwin Park. Later in the month we toured to Massanetta Springs and displayed our cars there. Then even later in the month, we spent a very enjoyable and relaxing weekend at the Shenandoah Music Festival held at Orkney Springs. July was a very busy month!

August - Several of us ventured to Blacksburg to enter our cars in the AACAA fall meet. Later in the month we held our annual picnic with the Tri-County Region at Grand Caverns in Grottoes.

September - Our annual auction and steak fry was held again at Coyner Springs.

October - Several of us made the annual trek to Hershey for the annual AACAA event there. We made a weekend trip to Roanoke to visit the Transportation Museum and the Rocky Sink Automobile Collection. This was also our annual fall foliage trip.

November - We held our annual "show and tell" meeting and election of officers.

December - We had our annual Christmas Party and gift exchange. What fun that was! Clarice Allen did her usual great job of making the table centerpieces and favors for everyone. 12 lucky members went home with one of the beautiful centerpiece plants.

If any of you had to miss any of these events, we're sorry. I can promise you though that 2011 will also be busy, so come on out and join in the fun. See you at the Red Lobster in Staunton on January 16th to kick off our new year.

Mel Redmond



W/S REGION CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC. 19, 2010



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – **JACK DRAGO**



Editors Note: Jack is our newly elected Vice President and he was kind enough to give me his story.

I was born in Dorchester, Mass (a suburb of Boston) in 1940. My future wife Karen, was born about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. And while we both attended the same church at different times together, and never went to the same schools at the same time together, we also never met each other until a chance meeting at a Corvette show on Cape Cod, Mass in 1981.

Fast forward from 1940 to June, 1958 when I graduated Hyde Park High School and 2 weeks later enlisted in the United States Navy Seabees. I had just purchased my dream car, a 1956 Ford Victoria hardtop, which I then had to place in storage as I was going to spend the next year in the hot, sunny, cactus, scorpion and iguana infected plot of land called: "U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba". The next time you're on vacation, you really should stop by and visit. You'll be glad to go home.

Work days in Gitmo consisted of building Officers Quarters and also writing the battalion newspaper as editor in chief. Many evenings (wee hours of the AM) were spent in the hills surrounding the base guarding against infiltrators. After a tour overseas, my enlistment was up and it was time to enter the civilian workforce.

For the next 8 years I was a Technician/Service Manager for 3 local (Mass) Chevy and Chrysler dealerships running the high performance and race car shops. During that time, a group of 4 of us built our first personal drag car, an Austin Healy with a 327 Chevy engine and 4 speed transmission. Several race cars later and in late 1970 it was time to hang up the tools and settle into corporate life.

The next 25 years were spent traveling the United States doing auditing, vehicle accident reconstruction and developing automobile dealerships. On Dec 31, 1994 while living in Syracuse, NY, I retired from corporate life (2 very short months long). I was then hired for the next 12 years by a Michigan based engineering firm to do audits, and also to train dealership technicians in specialized power train diagnostics and repairs. Some of the manufacturers included GM, Chrysler, Jaguar, Volvo, Land Rover, Nissan, International and Mack/Volvo trucks and Mitsubishi. During that period of time, my work area covered New York and 5 of the New England states (excluding Rhode Island) so we moved from the high tax state of New York to the cold, snowy, bug infested state of New Hampshire. Five short years of ludicrous property

taxes in NH gave us the opportunity to move yet once again. It was a tossup between Montana (me) and the Shenandoah Valley (Karen). Not wanting to spend the rest of eternity living alone in a cave, it was decided it would be in my best interest if I joined in the move to Virginia in 2002. While the moving truck was on route to deliver our furnishings, Thanksgiving was spent sitting on milk crates and eating turkey dinner on a card table. Work continued with travels now including VA, WV, MD, KY, and TN and of all places, Long Island, NY. Full retirement occurred in 2007.

Hobbies include not only collecting model cars, but our 2 muscle cars, a 1970 Plymouth AAR 'Cuda that is an HPOF vehicle, and also a 2010 Dodge Hemi Challenger. The latest addition (on Dec. 18, 2010) to our fleet is a Peacock Blue 1956 Ford Victoria. The Ford will be driven to most if not all of our meets. The majority of my time is spent trap and clay pigeon shooting. Now to fill in the only time left in which to sleep (3 -4 AM) I've been elected to be your Vice President. I wish to thank the members for electing me and I hope to be able to fill some very large shoes (not physical) left by our former VP, Bob Ridle.

Jack Drago



Jack and his 1956 Ford Victoria circa 1958



Jack & Karen's latest acquisition—1956 Ford Victoria

2011 Calendar of Events

- JAN. 12 W/S Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 16 W/S Region Meeting—1:30 PM Red Lobster—132 Lee Highway ,Staunton Installation of 2011 Officers
- FEB. 9 W/S Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 10-12 AACAA Annual Meeting—Philadelphia PA
- 20 W/S Region Meeting TBA
- MARCH 9 W/S Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 20 W/S Region Meeting—Location TBA — ACA Judging/Awards Update—Ken Farley



Tri-County Region Meetings- Dates vary—Check their website.
Piedmont Region Meetings are the 4th Monday at the Doubletree Hotel on Route 29 North in Charlottesville at 7pm.

Free ad. space available for cars and auto-related items. Send your ads. to the Tire Tracks editor.

1951 Jeep For Sale

My nephew has a 1951 Jeep, CJ 2-A for sale. A limited number were made with a power take off for small farms. It has about 60M miles on the odometer. His name is Dennis Keyser, 540 886 5731...Thanks ,Willis Clemmer

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Tire Tracks

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From the Editor's**Desk**

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Minutes of December 19, 2010
W/S Region Meeting

On December 19th, Waynesboro/Staunton Region of the AACA held its annual Christmas Party at the Ming Gardens in Waynesboro at 2p.m. President Mel Redmond opened the meeting by welcomed the 46 members and guest present. He stated this would be a short meeting. Nelson Driver asked the blessing and we ate lunch.

After lunch, Mel stated that all the officers both new and old were present. The installation of the new officers would take place at the January meeting.

Mary Helen Ayers gave the sunshine report and treasurer's report.

Robbie Gray stated the secretary's report was printed in the Tire Tracks.

Bob Ridle stated the next meeting on January 16th would be held at the Red Lobster in Staunton at 1:30 p.m.

The next ODMA meeting would be held in February.

Clarice Allen was thanked for the table arrangements.

The 50/50 was won By Jim Gregory.

The meeting was adjourned and the Chinese gift exchange took place. Fun was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie Gray, Sec.

**JANUARY**
BIRTHDAYS

Mary Helen Ayers

Bobby Caricofe

Karen Drago

Robbie Gray

Cynthia Gregory

Christopher Howell

Kathy Kempton

Anna Kerr

Alfred Meyer

Harlan Mullenax

Sandi Padgett

Dave Potter

John Stone

Carrie Whitesell



2011 ODMA Meet

May 5-7, 2011

Lynchburg, VA

Hosted by

Lynchburg Region AACA



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