



**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**



## ***TIRE TRACKS THE ELECTRONIC VERSION***

Happy New Year, Waynesboro-Staunton Region AACA members. As we look forward to 2012, let's revisit some of the activities our Region participated in during a very active year—2011.

Stu Allen-Editor



**NEXT MEETING : Sunday, January 15, 2012—1:00 PM Ming Garden 245 Arch Avenue, Waynesboro. Program on Identity Theft presented by Corporal Derek Almarode of the Augusta County Sheriff's Dept.**





# **TIRE TRACKS**

**The Official Publication of the  
Waynesboro-Staunton Region**



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## **President's Message**

The W-S Region AACA wrapped up the year on December 17<sup>th</sup> with our annual Christmas party and gift exchange. As usual, the turnout was strong and even included two potential new members, Mark and Rosanna Lotts of Stuarts Draft. It should come as no surprise, that Susan Gray was the member to spot Mark and his 86 Pontiac Parisienne he inherited from his dad. The Parisienne was a Pontiac model unique to Canada from 1958 to 1982, but from 1983 to 1986 was available in the United States as well. Mark and Rosanna's AACA membership application is already on its way to Hershey, and we look forward to seeing them at future W-S Region gatherings.

This year's gift exchange was lively, with a number of gifts exchanging hands more than once. I lost my coveted tool kit, Mel Redmond saw his halogen trouble light go bye-bye, Sue Gregory gave up her magazine rack, JoAnn Pendley's Christmas Music Box moved on, and Clarice Allen was unable to hang on to her canister set! There were plenty of other gifts "moving around" as well, these were just a few I could pull from memory. One of the more popular gifts this year was a beautiful "Santa" wall-hanging painted on slate by Willis Clemmer. Jim Gregory ended up taking it home.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the Ming Garden Restaurant at Arch and Federal in downtown Waynesboro. Bring your appetite, because their all-you-can-eat buffet is always delicious. We'll be installing the Region's

Officers for 2012 during this meeting. Later, Corporal Derrick Almarode of the Augusta County Sheriff's Department will be presenting a program on identity theft. We'll learn what the threats are, and how we can better protect our identity in the digital age. This is the kind of information we all need to know.

As we start another year of activity in 2012, I'd like to take a moment to thank the W-S Region's Executive Board for their support during my first year as your President. Jack Drago, Robbie Gray, Mary Helen Ayers, Stu Allen, Mel Redmond, Nelson Driver, Ken Farley and Owen Harner all made my job a lot easier. In addition, Jim Gregory, Susan Gray and Rick Downs often share their knowledge and experience at these meetings. I appreciate each and every one of them, and look forward to being your President again in 2012.

Let's keep 'em rolling, and bring your old car or truck out to the January meeting in Waynesboro!

Bob Ridle



**Pres. Bob and V.P. Jack ready to play Santa**



## December 17 W-S Region Christmas Party



A warm December day brought out the old cars



The packages are ready for the "Chinese" gift exchange-



Members study the menu—So many choices!



Sue Gregory checks out her latest treasure



This Tupperware set was a popular exchange gift.



Even Santa got a gift.



Gifts for the couple who has everything!



### **"The Rest of the Story"**

In the November issue, I told you the story of my current 1956 Ford and its transmission failure on Afton Mountain, and ended the story of how back in 1962 I traded in my Ford due to engine failure for a 1962 Chevy 409. One of our members asked me, "that can't be the end of it?"

After trading in the Ford, I drove home with my brand new 1962 Honduras Maroon, Super Sport dual quad, four speed, positraction 409 and parked it in front of the house where I always parked. The next morning I went out to go to work and made an abrupt turn and went back into the house and made a phone call. (you DO know where this is going) A friend of mine gave me a ride to work and on the next day I received a phone call from the Quincy Police that they had retrieved my 1 day old car from the quarries and it was back at the Chevy dealer. I hitched a ride from a friend to get my car back, but alas, it wasn't in what would be called "drivable" condition. My car was now sitting there on the ground on its chassis, with no wheels, no dual quads, and the hood up in agape at "what the heck happened to me"!

Several L-O-N-G weeks later I got the car back just as new as new could be. Suffice it to say that if it wasn't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all. Several days later after breaking in my new 409, it was time to see what this baby would really do. What the heck, the Beach Boys were singing all manner of praises about the 409, and so it was, that on a nice stretch of straight road, I stopped, revved up the engine, popped the clutch, launched hard in first gear, power shifted to second and came to a ignominious and noisy stop. Towed back to the Chevy dealer yet again, this time for a new set of differential gears. This walking to work nonsense is getting boring so I decided it would be best to take it easy on the car henceforth. OK, let's just say that in my little mind, a few weeks is "henceforth".

The Chevy dealer is getting to know me quite well and is making a rather comfortable living in towing my 409 to his dealership. My explanation to him on yet this 3rd episode was, "I was just driving along when the transmission exploded" just didn't seem to entertain him. Some people just don't have any sense of humor.

After wearing out yet another set of shoes walking

to work, I decided to maybe, just maybe, take it easier on the car. Time went on and the call of power from under the right foot was calling. Another one of those straight stretches of road appeared one fine day and the urge to press the 409 into maximum power came over me. I revved up the engine to 3 grand, popped the clutch and heard the most God awful noise, and the car went about 3 feet and stopped. Peering underneath the car revealed lots of clutch parts all over the road. Back again to President Chevrolet for yet more repairs. That's it, no more shoe leather to work. It finally made sense to me to either drive the car like a "normal" person would, or get something less demanding on the wallet, oh let's say, a Corvair. A convertible Corvair to be exact. Let's just say that going from 425 horsepower to 40 pony power didn't last long. And in case you're interested, Ralph Nader's book on the dangers of the Corvair didn't even register a blip on the radar. In any event, the Corvair went away and the Chevy dealer sold me yet another car from his inventory, this time, a four speed, 340 horse Corvette with the removable hardtop.

To bring an end to this long convoluted story, my beating a car to death ended with the 409 and all my future cars lasted until the newness wore off and they were then traded in. One final bit of minutia. Since acquiring my license at 16 years of age, I have owned in the past 55 years, 47 cars and trucks. Since 1970 I have had 204 company cars and have driven well over 1 million miles.

And in the words of the immortal Paul Harvey, "And now you know, the rest of the story".

Jack Drago



**Jack's current "sensible ride" -  
1970 Plymouth AAR "Cuda"**

## 2012 Calendar of Events

- JAN.**      11    W/S Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 15    W/S Meeting 1:00 PM Ming Garden 245 Arch Avenue, Waynesboro. Program on Identity Theft presented by Corporal Derek Almarode of the Augusta County Sheriff's Dept.
- FEB.**      8    W/S Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 9-11    AACA 76th Annual Meeting—Philadelphia. PA
- 19    W/S Meeting 1:00 PM —Red Lobster, 132 Lee-Jackson Highway, Staunton  
Program TBA
- MARCH**    14    W/S Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 18    W/S Meeting 2:00 PM—Texas Steak House. 1344 Richmond Road, Staunton  
Program TBA

*Mark Your Calendar—2012 ODMA Meet hosted by the Roanoke Valley Region is May 3-5, 2012*

### Reminder !!!

**Membership Renewals are due**

Please fill out the form included in the December issue of Tire Tracks and send to Mary Helen Ayers.

Tri-County Region Meetings—Dates vary—  
Check their website.

Piedmont Region Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
at the Doubletree Hotel on Route 29  
North in Charlottesville at 7pm.

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FOR SALE: Settling estate. Must sell 1974 Chrysler New Yorker Brougham St Regis edition. White exterior, white vinyl top, white leather interior. 2 door hardtop. Loaded with options and all work (except the front power windows) New radial tires and original magnificent paint. This is truly an HPOF car. Driven only 200 miles in the past 10 years. Has 124,000 original miles and can be driven anywhere. Owner is asking only \$4950 and wants to sell ASAP. I'm selling it on behalf of the owner. Jack Drago (540)337-2120

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the Antique Automobile Club of  
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**From the Editor's  
Desk**

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**Minutes of the December 17,  
2011 W/S Region Meeting**

The Waynesboro/Staunton Region of the AACA held their December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at Sanzone's in Stuarts Draft at 12 noon. There were 47 members and guests present. President Bob Ridle welcomed everyone to the annual Christmas meeting, after which, Nelson Driver asked the blessing and then we ate lunch. Bob had a few comments after lunch and then recognized Ed Lyman and Barbara Melton on their birthdays.

Mary Helen Ayers gave the treasurer's report.

Jack Drago reported that the January meeting would be at the Ming Garden in Waynesboro at 1 pm on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The program, presented by Corporal Derek Almarode of the Augusta County Sheriff's Department, will be on Identity Theft.

Nelson Driver reported the ODMA will be in Roanoke on May 3-5.

Stu Allen gave a brief report on the Sentimental Tour and told the W/S members not to submit their application yet. There would be further details coming.

Our two new members, Mark and Rosanna Lotts were recognized.

Then, a brief discussion about meeting times and days took place. Bob Ridle asked members to think about the best times and day of the week for our meetings and we'll discuss them at a future meeting.

The 50/50 was won by Ken Bahrs.

Clarice Allen was thanked by Bob Ridle for making the table

decorations and favors and the group responded with applause.

The meeting was adjourned and the annual Christmas gift exchange took place.

Respectfully submitted

Robbie Gray, Sec.

**2012 SENTIMENTAL TOUR  
Update**

Registrations for our tour will be submitted starting Jan. 3, 2012. The Host Hotel (Holiday Inn) has already received nearly 50 room reservations so we expect a great turn-out. We will have a special registration process for local Region members who wish to participate. We anticipate having that ready by March 1, so members should not submit the registration form available from National or from our web-site. We have less than 6 months to go before the tour so we hope that all of you will agree to help out when asked.

Stu Allen

**JANUARY  
BIRTHDAYS**

**Mary Helen Ayers**

**Bobby Caricofe**

**Karen Drago**

**John Gebhardt**

**Robbie Gray**

**Kathy Kempton**

**Anna Kerr**

**Alfred Meyer**

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