



TIRE TRACKS

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Waynesboro-Staunton Region
Antique Automobile Club of



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May 2021

RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

At our Wednesday BOD meeting I asked your editor, “Hey Stu?” and his prompt reply was “NO, get your article in on time!”

It was July of 1971 and I was in my 440 powered 4 speed Road Runner at 9 PM traveling along a huge expanse of straight as an arrow highway with the tires barely touching pavement and just about to enter Panama City, Florida. Blue lights, pull over and two gorilla’s exit a Florida Highway Patrol car, one trooper on either side of my car. I roll down the window and the driver says, “Boy, you’re in Florida and you’re going to the gulag for going 90MPH in a 30MPH zone. License and registration before I ‘cuff you!’ I’ll give them credit being quite straight and forward as I’d heard of these tactics before. “OK Mr. Drago, explain why you’re driving a Florida car with Georgia plates, with a Massachusetts license and a New Hampshire address?” Explanation given and the Trooper driver says “hang on” and shuts off the Blue lights. I figured they were going to toss me off the bridge we were on and into the Atlantic Ocean. He pops the hood on his cruiser and says they can’t go any faster than 110 MPH and could I fix it so it goes faster. “YES SIR, you just bring the car to me at 8 AM at (name withheld) in (name withheld) on Thursday morning and I’ll have this thing running that’ll scare you out of your wits.”



Jack’s Road Runner at Fort Walton Beech, Florida -
Morning after running the drag strip

At around 10 Am on the given day I gave the car back to the troopers and told them to have at it. About 1/2 hour later they came back and simply said, “YIKES!” Asked what I did and I just kind of danced around that I had to “adjust some tolerances” of the manufacturing process in the fuel delivery system. “How’d you like to come down to headquarters, meet the Captain and get a tour of the place?” the trooper said. Subtle way of heading off to the death chamber I figured. The Captain gave me a tour of the facility, also a nice gift that still hangs on my toy room wall to this day and he got the entire fleet of Pursuit cars fixed to exceed 140 MPH. Never got to see the gulag.

Jack Drago

Notes from your Editor

You will notice in this issue of Tire Tracks that the calendar is suddenly full of planned events and activities without the “Cancelled” or “Postponed” items listed that have been routine over the past year. Just a few highlights for May:

- The dinner and auction to benefit the Augusta County Fair is at the Weyers Cave Community Center on Saturday May 8. There will be a silent auction of items donated as well as a great pork dinner. We’ve all had a fun time in past years.

- On Sunday, May16, we’ll have our first live meeting for 2021 at Jim & Sue Gregorys’ house in Waynesboro. Jim will provide all the food and beverages so bring chairs and a healthy appetite. We’ll park in the large field across from Jim’s house.
- There is still time to register for the ODMA meet at Natural Bridge. Details were in the April issue of Tire Tracks. Several of us will drive down Saturday morning for the show and banquet that evening.

Stu Allen

Calendar of AACA Events & Community Car Events

- MAY**
- 8 Saturday, 5:00 – 9:00 PM – Dinner & Auction to Benefit the Augusta County Fair. Weyers Cave Community Center, 682 Weyers Cave Road, Weyers Cave. Advance Tickets are \$10. \$13. at the door.**
- 9 Sunday, 4:00 – 7:00 PM – Cruise-In at DAP'S Ice Cream, Burgers and Fries, 3278 Stuarts Draft Highway, Stuarts Draft. Registration is free.**
- 12 Wednesday, 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting at Stu Allen's 265 Stayman Ln. Staunton**
- 14-15 7th Annual Mid-Atlantic Pre-War Swap Meet, Comer-Jones VFW Post 621, 218 Veterans Lane, Luray.**
- 15 Saturday, 14th Annual "60 Years of Cars and Stars" Show, Eastside Speedway, 134 Al Gore Lane, Waynesboro.**
- 16 Saturday 5-8PM Cruise-In at the Waynesboro Moose Lodge, 481 Hopeman Parkway, Waynesboro The theme is "1970s Again". Registration is free.**
- 16 Sunday, 2:00 PM Monthly meeting at Jim Gregory's, 316 Sandy Ridge Road, Waynesboro. Jim will provide a lunch of hot dogs, baked beans, macaroni salad, drinks and dessert. Please bring a chair. Parking will be in the open field across the street from his house.**
- 20-25 Founders Tour (1932-1996), Davis, WV. Hosted by the Mountain State Classics Region.**
- 29 Saturday, Historic Fredericksburg Region 64th Annual Meet, The New Fredericksburg Nationals Stadium, 42 Jackie Robinson Way, Fredericksburg, VA.**
- 30 Sunday, 2:00 – 5:00 PM – Memorial Day Cruise-In at Wright's Dairy Rite, 346 Greenville Avenue, Staunton. This is a free event.**
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- JUNE**
- 2-5 Eastern Divisional Tour, Eastern Shore of Maryland. Hosted by the Eastern Shore Region and the Bay Country Region.**
- 3-5 American Truck Historical Society Annual National Convention and Truck Show, Rockingham County Fairgrounds, 4808 South Valley Pike (Route 11), Harrisonburg.**
- 4-5 85th Annual AACA National Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA**
- 9 Wednesday, 7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting at Stu Allen's 265 Stayman Ln. Staunton**
- 11-12 Old Dominion Meet Association Annual Show, Natural Bridge Historic Hotel & Convention Center, 15 Appledore Lane, Natural Bridge. Hosted by the Roanoke Valley Region.**
- 13 Sunday, 4:00 – 7:00 PM – Cruise-In at DAP'S Ice Cream, Burgers and Fries, 3278 Stuarts Draft Highway, Stuarts Draft. Registration is free.**
- 17-19 Eastern Spring National Meet – "Horses to Horsepower", Saratoga Springs, NY. Hosted by the Saratoga Region.**
- 20 Sunday, 2:00 PM – Monthly Meeting and Picnic at Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church, 30 Tinkling Spring Drive, Fishersville.**

Calendar of AACA Events & Community Car Events-Continued

- JULY**
- 1-3 Central Spring National Meet, Auburn, IN. Hosted by AACA National.**
 - 16 Saturday, 9:00 AM – Annual Vehicle Display & Monthly Meeting, Brightview Baldwin Park Assisted Living, 21 Woodlee Road, Staunton.**
 - 10 Saturday 5-8PM Cruise-In at the Waynesboro Moose Lodge, 481 Hopeman Parkway, Waynesboro. Registration is free*
 - 11 Sunday, 4:00 – 7:00 PM – Cruise-In at DAP'S Ice Cream, Burgers and Fries,*
 - 11-16 Vintage Tour (1931 and Earlier), Lock Haven/Wellsboro, PA.**
 - 22-24 Annual Grand National Meet, New Ulm, MN. Hosted by the Minnesota Region.**
 - 16 Friday, Vehicle Display at the Augusta County Fair, Augusta Expo, 277 Expo Road, Fishersville.**

Puzzling Pictures

Courtesy of Nelson Driver & Tire Tracks archives



1. Notice anything strange in this picture?



2. How about this one?



3. Where were we?



4. Where was this indoor meet?

Answers are on Page 5



Bring an Extra Pair of Pants

By Fred Trusty
Vice President – Membership

I want to tell you about an adventure I had while on the 2019 AACA Founders Tour in Seward, Nebraska. The Founders Tour is for vehicles from 1932 all the way up to vehicles 25 years old. This was a hub tour which means each day you travel from the motel to different attractions and back to the same motel each night. The tour would be covering about 150 miles per day so I decided to drive my 1966 Chevy Bel Air since it has air conditioning.

A couple of weeks before I left, I checked the mechanicals on the Bel Air and found the a/c compressor that was replaced 7 years ago was leaking and all the bushings in the front suspension were just plain worn out. Normally, I would have done the suspension work myself but I found myself really pressed for time so I took it to the auto repair shop that I have done business with for many years. They replaced the a/c compressor, inner and outer tie rod ends, idler arm, and center link.

The tour started on a Monday but the AACA National at Auburn, Indiana was the Saturday before the tour. Pretty tight schedule but doable. My plan was to leave Auburn right after the awards dinner and drive part of the way to Seward. I already had a motel room reserved about 5 hours from Auburn so I would have a leisurely drive to Seward on Sunday with plenty of time to unload the car from the trailer and relax on Sunday evening.

I slipped out of the awards dinner early and walked to my truck and trailer and what a shock. Someone had hit the trailer fender on the driver side and I had a flat on the other side of the trailer. On top of that the right side of the trailer was in very soft grass so the small floor jack I had would just sink into the ground. Fortunately, a man parked around the corner from me asked if I needed help. He had one of those little portable air compressors so we put air in the tire and I was able to pull it onto the asphalt where I changed the tire. Now I had no trailer spare for my long trip to Seward. Worse though was the fender would rub the tire if you hit a hole or uneven pavement. What to do? Fortunately, my trailer has removable fenders so I took it off and armed with a hammer and a piece of 2 x 4, I performed some metal bumping on the tailgate of my truck. It looked pretty good so off I went. I made it to my motel about 2:00 AM that night and had no problem falling asleep.

The tour was great. One day I rode with Dave Kontor in his 1967 Camaro and another day Dave and I rode with Marty Roth in his 1954 Cadillac convertible. We're lucky that we didn't end up in jail that day. One morning it was raining so Marty rode with me in the front

seat and John and Paulette LaBarr rode in the back seat of the Bel Air. In Nebraska, the roads are mostly laid out in large grids and it's always windy. I had been complaining that morning that the wind was so strong it was causing the car to drift side to side. Right after lunch we were driving down a two lane road and came to a T intersection with a four lane highway. Not long after we turned right we heard a loud pop. Keep in mind that we're travelling about 60 mph down a flat perfectly straight four lane undivided highway. The car seemed to be drifting to the right so I turned the steering wheel to the left but nothing happened. I kept turning until it stopped. Then I turned it all the way to the right and nothing happened. I looked over at Marty and said, "We have no steering." Talk about that deer in the headlight look from my 3 passengers! A 1966 Bel Air has drum brakes front and rear and my car has no power brakes. If not adjusted correctly, drum brakes can pull to one side or the other so I decided to let the car coast as far as it could before I applied the brakes. Did I mention that there had been flooding in Nebraska and the drainage ditch on the right side of the road was full? We had semi-trucks whizzing by on the left which left us in the proverbial "stuck between a rock and a hard place" scenario. The car was slowing down but then it started to drift to the right. The right wheels were already at the edge of the emergency lane and the grass. Since I already had a shower that morning, there was no need for a bath. Time to gently apply the brakes. By this time the right side tires were already in the grass so when I hit the brakes they locked up and slid straight until we were stopped. And then came that big sigh of relief from everyone, ah.....ah.

Crawling under the car revealed that the nut on the pitman arm was gone and the pop we heard was the stud coming out of the socket. Obviously, the cotter pin was never installed, the nut was not tight, so it backed off. Several other drivers on the tour stopped to lend a hand with a jack and some tools. John Nikodym went to the next little town and bought a nut and cotter pin assortment at Napa Auto Parts. Less than an hour later the roadside repair was finished and I was on the way again. I can't understand why my passengers rode back with someone else. Rumor has it that Marty had to get back to the motel to change his pants. We laugh about it now but this was an adventure that we will never forget. Part of the fun of the old car hobby are the friends and the memories you make.

And yes, two mechanics lost their jobs because of this negligence. In the next issue we will cover what not to do and say if you're driving a 1954 Cadillac convertible and get pulled over by the sheriff in a small Nebraska town.

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

Please submit any articles, pictures, or ideas for publication to me at the following:

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Meeting Minutes will be published once regular Region meetings start again.

Puzzling Picture Quiz Answers

1. Nelson Driver's Grandfather in his office at City Produce in Harrisonburg. Notice the wall map that was published before West Virginia was split from Virginia.
2. The road sign is obviously not from Virginia. Danville Quebec is 100 miles northeast of Montreal. Note the Drivemobile?
3. This was taken during the 2010 Sentimental Tour in Texas. We were planning for 2012.
4. Jim Gregory's 1933 Franklin received its First Junior at the AACA 75th Anniversary Meet in Louisville, KY In July, 2010.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**


Paul Day
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Ed Lavender
Martha Jane Lavender
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Linda Royer
Larry Skillman
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Tri-County Region Meetings

Check their website:
<http://tri-county-aaca.org/>

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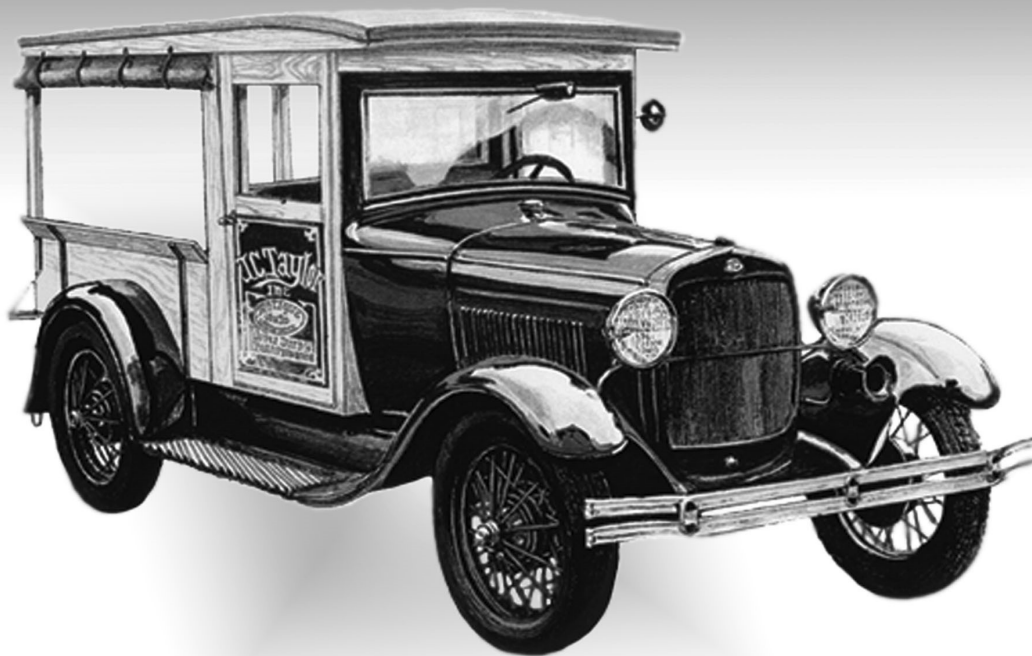
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TIRE TRACKS

WAYNESBORO-
STAUNTON REGION

AACA
FOUNDED 1950

Waynesboro-Staunton Region AACA

Stuart Allen—Editor

265 Stayman Lane

Staunton, VA 24401

May Meeting—Sunday, May 16 2:00 PM- Monthly meeting at Jim Gregory's, 316 Sandy Ridge Road, Waynesboro. Jim will provide a lunch of hot dogs, baked beans, macaroni salad, drinks and dessert. Please bring a chair. Parking will be in the open field across the street from his house.

