

April
2012



Traveling in
the Past
and Present

Next Meeting
April 10, 2012
Old Auto Museum
Dinner 6:00 pm
General Meeting 6:45 pm

Tallahassee Region Antique Automobile Club of America

I recently received an email asking what I think of Optima batteries. Norm Madsen - Q/A

Question:

Norm, How are you finding the Optima compared to a conventional battery, and did you upgrade because of slow start problems? ... I have an old 6-volt car, and the anticipation during starting is worse than waiting on a bottle of ketchup. ...

Answer:

Optima batteries are great. They charge quickly and hold their charge a very long time. They don't leak, since they are not water-filled and they're not subject to heat problems like water-filled batteries. All my old cars now have Optima batteries. Most of mine are 6-volt, but I have a 12-volt in one car. You can't get the 6-volt Optimas locally, so I order mine from out of town or buy at Moultrie swap meet.

I can't remember exactly, but I'm sure my Model A has had the same 6-V Optima for 8 or 9 years. Sometimes I go several months between starts, and the Model A always cranks right up. It's amazing.

My 1954 Packard sedan was hard starting when warmed up for the first few years I owned it. I tried everything: rebuilding the starter, replacing cables with "0" or "00" gauge, cleaning all connections, replacing the solenoid and the starter switch. Still, it barely turned when warmed up to operating temperature. Finally, I installed an Optima battery. Problem solved. Now the car cranks hot or cold.

That was my first Optima experience. The same battery has been in the Packard for 8 or 9 years, I think.

This is not to say it will solve your problem, as you may have another problem going on (see above). But, to answer your question directly, yes, I like Optima batteries.

By Norm Madsen

April Birthdays - Happy Birthday!!!

- 2 Bob Finley
- 3 Jackson Gladwin
- 3 Jim Tyson
- 5 Peter Zulinke
- 9 Ed Davis
- 12 Mary Brock
- 12 Dan Rainey
- 15 Jack Hanbury
- 18 Barbara Herzog
- 22 Don Pumphrey
- 24 Jerry Ongley
- 25 Wease Kaylor
- 29 E'Lane Shuler
- 30 James Long

The Sunshine Committee

If you, or another club member you know of, are having any health problems or other issues, please let us know.

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**TALLAHASSEE REGION, AACA
MEETING MINUTES**

March 13, 2012

Tallahassee Antique Car Museum (Old Location)

There were approximately 37 members in attendance and two visitors, one with Jackson Gladwin (I didn't get his name!) and Shirley Moore brought a friend, Sylvia Kelley.

Opening prayer: Dan Rainey

Welcome: Tommy Sykes – Tommy greeted everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

50/50 Drawing: Sue Aigotti

Ed Shuler was the winner.

Announcements & Reports: Tommy Sykes

Bill Thompson reported that the Soap Box Derby Race will be held this weekend at the Summit East Office Park. Neal will need volunteers.

Norm Madsen announced that the annual Monticello Watermelon Festival will be held June 18, 2012. There will be an organizational meeting here after the meeting. Details will become available at subsequent meetings before the event.

Nell Hollingsworth announced that the Quincy Gulf Station will be open for their Open House on April 14th. This will be in addition to the regular Friday morning get-togethers.

Ray Bartell, our "Chassee" newsletter editor, still needs articles from the Club and asked that members send them to him at his E-Mail - raymondbartell@yahoo.com.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine: Glenda Schanbacher

Sharon Palmer continues to have health considerations. Cheryl Bartell has had a favorable medical report. Nancy Haines is back at home and doing very well. Paula Link's sister in Alabama has health problems; Paula continues to spend a lot of time with her for support. Please keep those members and their families in your prayers. Contacts from club members would be welcome. If you know of such needs, please contact Glenda Schanbacher or Lois Duley.

Tours: Richard Duley (Announced via E-Mail)

The April tour will be a trip to the Four Freedoms Festival in Madison, Florida on April 21, 2012. Details about where and when to gather etc. will be available at the April meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Report was given by Norm Madsen, details are available from him.

Coming Events:

See our website <http://traaca.org> for more events. Click on "Club News and Calendar" Also, visit the National website for National AACA activities www.aaca.org.

Breakfast at the Cracker Barrel – Friday, March 16, 2011 at 8:30 AM.

Quincy Gulf Station – Friday, March 16, 2011 at Noon; bring your own lunch. This is not a hot dog Friday!

The AACA S.E. Division National Winter Meet will be held on March 15-17, 2012 in Melbourne, Florida. Our club will be represented by John & Glenda Schanbacher, Bill & Peggy O'Rourke, Gary Edwards and Jack Hanbury. We hope to generate more interest in National events and the above is good start.

Old Business:

The search for a Caterer continued today with service by "Foodys" (maybe "Foodies"). We charged \$10.00 per person with the total cost being \$491.19. Thirty seven members ate. The club picked up \$111.19 which was the difference between the cost and revenue. We will perhaps find another source and have them cater a meeting and then determine how we want to proceed.

New Business: None this meeting.

Program A: Gary Edwards

Gary will be interviewing members of the club from time to time in the "Program" time slot. This is let the club become familiar with some of the more recent members. Tonight, he interviewed Carlo Basta. Carlo and his wife, Joanne joined the club in December 2010. They have a 1976 Buick Regal Landau Coupe in pristine condition. He described the process by which he became the owner and they enjoy driving it.



Program B: Shirley Moore & her friend and traveling companion, Sylvia Kelley

Shirley described her adventures beginning with a 26" Class "C" motor home (this is the type with a bed over the cab) in 2006; it had a double kitchen sink! Her first trip in that was to Colorado. In January 2011, Shirley, Sylvia and another friend, Linda White went on a 34 day outing to Alaska in a 32" Class "A" motor home (Looks like a bus); it only had a single kitchen sink! After a confusing sequence of events, they ended up in Tallahassee in a 34' Class "A" motor home (looks like bus) and it also had a single kitchen sink. You needed to have been there to appreciate the very interesting story.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at the Old Antique Car Museum beginning at 6:00 PM. Program – TBA.

Respectfully submitted by: John Schanbacher, Secretary.



Club Event Planning

Check out our Club Activity Calendar and the Activities Page for all the latest events and shows for TRAACA members on the web at: <CTRL key + click to the following link.>

http://traaca.org/traaca_news.html

Some Additional Events:

Forward From Jack Hanbury for member information:

On **Wed. April 18th** The Buick Driving Enthusiasts car club will make Havana their touring destination in the afternoon after leaving Mr. Chicks in Cairo. Lynn Crutchfield is your point of contact. She has planned on 60 cars, 120-130 people. Her phone # is 352-542-0356 or contact her at gator8crutch@aol.com. Lynn has requested that each shop contact her with store incentives if possible. Also, she is interested in a Scavenger hunt and I am not real sure the best way to do this and dearly need your input. Do we want to try and turn this date into more? If so, what? Want to print up some "return to Havana" coupons? Invite another car club? Please contact Mrs. Crutchfield and tell her what your store plans to do April 18th. Thanks guys, Tonya

The Next TRAACA Club Meeting is Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Always on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
at the Old Auto Museum location
Dinner at 6:00 pm
General Meeting to start at 6:45 pm

Menu

Not Available

Program

Not Available

And the following TRAACA Club Meeting for May will be on Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Monthly Get Together Event on the Fridays Following the General TRAACA Club Meetings

(Next two are on April 13, 2012 and May 11, 2012 at 8am)

We Meet at the Cracker Barrel for Breakfast at 8:30 am at the I-10 and North Monroe location

Meet at old Gulf Station in Quincy every Friday

The men meet for lunch* and talk Cars at 12 Noon.

The station is off Hwy 90, on the south side of highway 90.

- See Picture of the Hollingsworth's Gulf station on Title Page -

* Hot Dogs are provided on the 2nd & 4th Friday of each month. (but, bring your own lunch on all other Fridays)

Monthly Tallahassee Cruise-Ins

Sonic/Hardees on North Monroe

1st Saturday each Month (just north of Capital Circle)

Whataburger Drive-In on Thomasville Road

2nd Saturday of each month — Ford & Chevy Clubs
Last Saturday of each Month — Street Rod Club

Crawfordville Hardees

2nd Saturday of each month — 6pm to 9pm

Whataburger on Apalachee Parkway

3rd Saturday of each month

National and Regional Events

Check the AACA website at <http://www.aaca.org>, for all events and for full details of these and other national events.

Tallahassee Region, Antique Automobile Club of America (TRAACA) Members can also read details and lists of Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) events in the AACA "Antique Automobile" magazine.



Model T Story – Part 4

Submitted by Craig McCollum]

For three years I drove the wheels off the car. Some of the driving was for old car functions and parades, but mostly just for fun, I drove it everywhere. I was the president of the local Model A club that year, but instead of driving my Model A, I always drove the Model T.

Also in 1974, I quit my job to go into business for myself at the ripe old age of 24. The financial obligations were somewhat challenging, but I managed to keep all the balls in the air and the wolf away from the door.

In 1977 I was injured in a fall down the stairway in my office. I was not able to work for a several months, which put a severe strain on an already strained financial situation. Something had to give, so I called Leroy and offered to sell the Model T back to him. The only condition was that I would have the first chance to buy it back if he ever sold it. Sadly for me, the Model T went back to Texas, but I was confident that Leroy would take good care of it, and that I would own it again some day, hopefully soon.

A couple of years passed and my finances improved, so I called Leroy to let him know that I was ready to buy the car back whenever he was ready. It was then that I learned that Leroy had died shortly after I sold him the car in 1977. The car had been sold by his wife (who didn't like Leroy's old cars) and no one knew for sure where it went. For years I tried to find the car with no success.

In 1987, I sold my business and a year later embarked on a new career as a Private Investigator, something I had never imagined I would be doing. Even with all my new connections, I was still not able to find the car, but I was eventually able to turn up the VIN number for the car through an old Iowa title. I had a VIN, but the number did not show that the car was currently registered.

You might think that for most people, this is where the story would end. The car was gone and it was time to get over it and move onto the next square. Not so in this case; fate apparently had something else in mind for me. Things started to fall into place, almost as if it was meant to be. Life can be funny that way sometimes.

The years passed and I never forgot the Model T with the V8-60. Hands down, of all the cars that I had owned, this was the one that I that had always made me feel good and never failed to make me smile whenever I drove it.

In 2002, I was poking around on eBay and saw a 1923 Model T Roadster for sale along with a 1929 Model A Roadster Pickup, the two cars had to be purchased together. The other problem was that the cars were located in Hollywood, California. My first thought was that if the Model T could be bought right, it might possibly be the basis to build replica of the Model T with

the V8-60. I wasn't wild about juggling the logistics of getting two cars from California, but I threw caution to the wind and bid anyway.

Each bid that I made was followed by a bid from the same person each time. I figured out how to email my competition (in the days before private bidding), and sent him an email asking him which of the two cars he had the most interest in. He emailed back that he really wanted the Model A Roadster Pickup. I emailed back that I wanted the Model T and we exchanged phone numbers. From there we quit bidding and sat back to see what happened. I learned that he lived in the LA area. We agreed that if we won, I would take the Model T and he would take the Model A.

At the same time the bidding was going on, I had a case necessitated me being in Las Vegas to track down a man that had been missing for over five years. Since I was going to be there for a week, my wife decided to take time off of work and accompany me. We extended the trip by a few days, and left on a Friday and flew into Las Vegas. We picked up a rental car and drove to Los Angeles to spend the weekend and to see some friends.

On Sunday morning, while we were still in our motel, getting ready to leave LA to go back to Las Vegas, my cell phone rang. It was my eBay bidding buddy. He was surprised to learn that I was in LA. He told me that he had just gotten a call from the owner of the cars, and that the cars would be available to be inspected that afternoon in Hollywood. The only problem was that he was going to be tied up all afternoon.

We were staying in Glendale less than a half hour from Hollywood, so it was no problem to keep the appointment for him.

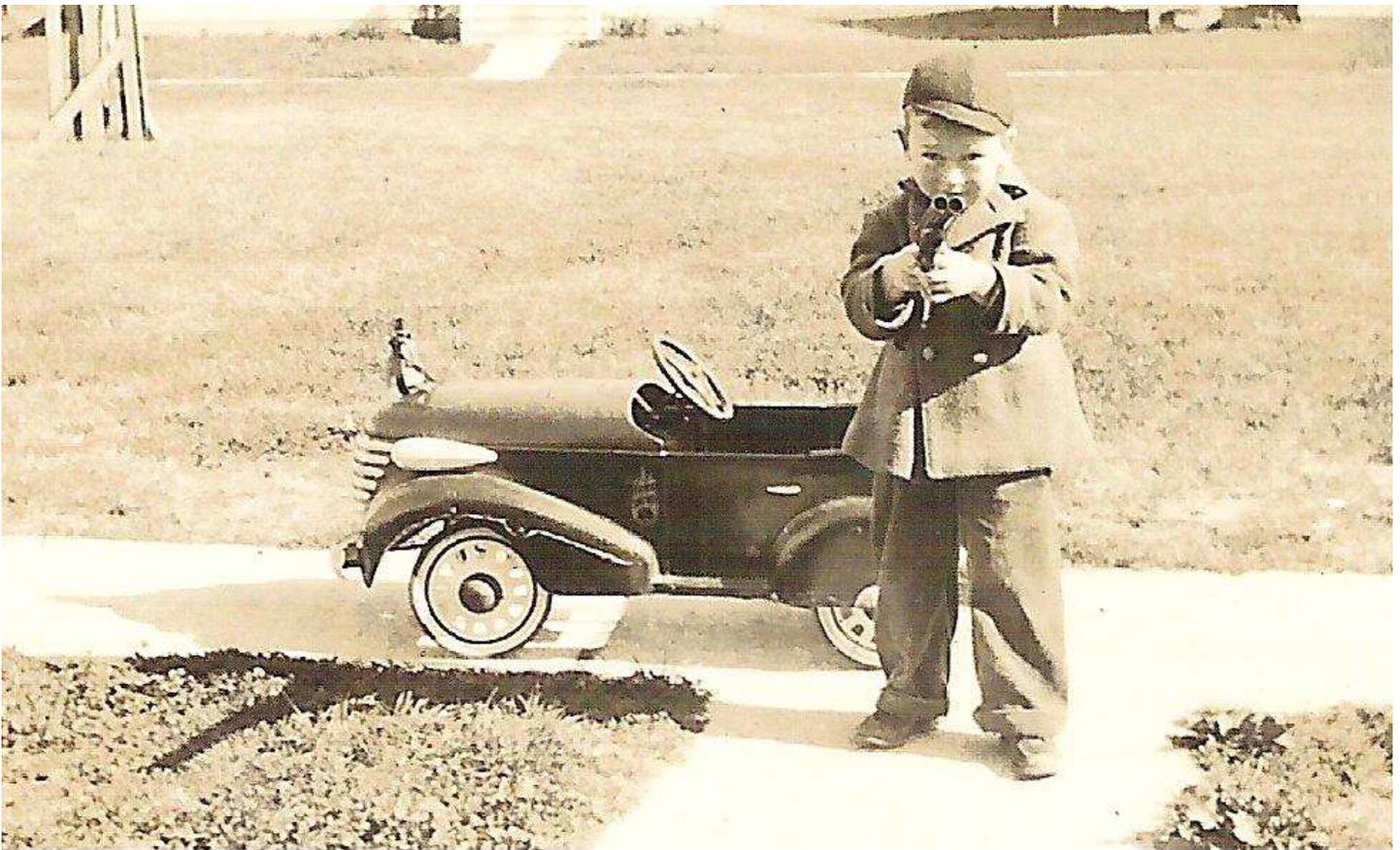
When we found the address, it was a very modest two bedroom bungalow not far from the Hollywood letters. There was a For Sale sign out front and from the flyer, we learned that for a mere \$675,000, it too could be bought. The cars were located in a garage behind the house.

The Model T had been sitting for a very long time. According to the license plates, it had not been driven since 1970. The Model A had also been sitting a long time, although not as long as the Model T. The Model T was somewhat disassembled, the radiator and hood were off the car and the engine was either partially in or partially out of the car. The car had a thick coat of dust and filth from sitting in the garage for 32 years, but it was obvious that it was a solid California car that had been "restored" probably sometime in the 1950's to the standards of that time. It also had a Ruckstell rear end and a complete set of Buffalo wire wheels including a rare spare tire mount and a fifth wheel.

It turned out that we were the only two bidders. Within a couple of weeks, my "new" Model T was on its way to Iowa.

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To be continued. (In the May Newsletter)



Question: This is an old picture of my older brother, Richard, from about the early 40's at US Navy Base housing, with a peddle car. (He died at age 21 of cancer.) Can anyone tell me anything about this peddle car? (Car Model, Year, Manufacture, Type?) Thanks, Ray Bartell

Answer: I think the Peddle Car is supposed to be a 1938 Oldsmobile. Robert Brown (Thanks, Ray B.)



Question from a previous month: This is an old picture I have of my father in his car and wearing his U.S. Navy officers uniform. He was a U.S. Navy Fighter (carrier) Pilot and flew Hellcats in WWII and Panther Jets in Korea, and many others thereafter.

Can anyone provide any information on this car? (Car Year, Make, Model, etc.? Ray Bartell

Answer: This car is a 1938 Buick, 5 passenger, Convertible, Streamline Sports Phaeton, Model 60-C. AACA



From your Reporters in the field: Ramblings and Roving's of Junkyard Dog & Fluffy

Well, Fluffy and I had another find and to my surprise it was still in the Tallahassee area and turned out it was also going up for sale. We do not see many number ones in our life time unless you are a AACA judge or concord judge etc. Unless you watch Barrett Jackson on prime time and that is all you see. Rarely at a local show, but the other day we had a chance to see a real one. 1967 Chevrolet Chevelle SS 396, 4-speed, bucket seats, power disc brakes. No clone! This is an outstanding car in everyway. So we had it backed out in the rain and took a few pictures. If anyone is interested call Clint at 850-528-2500.

Junkyard Dog & Fluffy

1967 Chevrolet Chevelle SS



1967 Chevy Chevelle SS - Fresh 396 Engine



The 1967 Chevrolet Chevelle SS - Interior



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Thank You, Ray Bartell - Newsletter Editor

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