

January
2011



Traveling in
the Past
and Present

Next Meeting
January 11, 2010
Old Auto Museum
Dinner 6:00 pm
General Meeting 6:45 pm

Tallahassee Region Antique Automobile Club of America

10 Best Car Repair Tools of All Time

There are only 10 things in this world you need to fix any car, any place, any time.

1. **Duct Tape:** Not just a tool, a veritable Swiss Army knife in stickum and plastic. It's safety wire, body material, radiator hose, upholstery, insulation, tow rope, and more - in an easy to carry package. Sure, there's prejudice surrounding duct tape in professional competitions, but in the real world, everything from LeMans-winning Porsches to Atlas rockets and attack-helicopters use it by the yard. The only thing that can get you out of more scrapes is a quarter and a phone booth.

2. **Vice Grips:** Equally adept as a wrench, hammer, pliers, baling wire twister, breaker-off of frozen bolts and wiggle-it-til-it-falls-off tool. The heavy artillery of your tool box, vice grips are the only tool designed expressly to fix things screwed up beyond repair.

3. **Spray Lubricants:** A considerably cheaper alternative to new doors, alternator, and other squeaky items. Slicker than pig phlegm, repeated soakings will allow the main hull bolts of the Andrea Doria to be removed by hand. Strangely enough, an integral part of these sprays is the infamous Little Red Tube that flies out of the nozzle if you look at it cross eyed (one of the 10 worst tools of all time).

4. **Margarine Tubs with Clear Lids:** If you spend all your time under the hood

looking for a frendle pin that caromed off the pertal valve when you knocked both off the air cleaner, it's because you eat butter. Real mechanics consume pounds of tasteless vegetable oil replicas just so they can use the empty tubs for parts containers afterward. (Some of course chuck the butter-colored goo altogether or use it to repack wheel bearings.) Unlike air cleaners and radiator lips, margarine tubs aren't connected by a time/space wormhole to the Parallel Universe of Lost Frendle Pins.

5. **Big Rock at the Side of the Road:** Block up a tire. Smack corroded battery terminals. Pound out a dent. Bop noisy know-it-all types on the noodle. Scientists have yet to develop a hammer that packs the raw banging power of granite or limestone. This is the only tool with which a "Made in Malaysia" emblem is not synonymous with the user being maimed.

6. **Plastic Zip Ties:** After 20 years of lashing down stray hose and wiring with old bread ties, some genius brought a slightly slicked-up version to the auto parts market. Fifteen zip ties can transform a hulking mass of amateur-quality wiring from a working model of the Brazilian Rain Forest into something remotely resembling a wiring harness. Of course it works both ways. When buying a used car, subtract \$100 for each zip tie you find under the hood.

7. **Ridiculously Large Craftsman Screwdriver:** Let's admit it. There's nothing better for prying, chiseling, lifting, breaking, splitting or mutilating than a huge flat-bladed screwdriver, particu-

Continued on page 5..

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 Peggy Tyson
13 Randolph Brock
19 Sandra Mohney
19 Elvis Pandolphi
22 Max Zurko
26 Rosa Ann Hadden
29 Shirley McCammon
30 Sharon Lyle

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**TALLAHASSEE REGION, AACA****MEETING MINUTES****December 14, 2010****Annual Christmas Party & Gift Exchange at the Old Antique Car Museum**

There were approximately 56 members in attendance and one returning member, Buddy Rogers.

Welcome: Richard Duley – Richard Duley greeted everyone and thanked them for their attendance. In addition, he welcomed Buddy Rogers as a returning member.

50/50 Drawing:

None this meeting.

Announcements & Reports: Richard Duley

Richard announced that voting for the "George Campbell Member of the Year" will be conducted today and the winner will be announced at the January meeting. In addition, Officers for 2011 will be discussed.

Richard also announced that we have been invited to participate in the Florida Governors Inaugural Parade on January 4, 2010. Details to come later.

Committee Reports:**Sunshine:**

None this meeting

Tours:

None this Meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Report was given by Carol Love, details are available from her.

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, December 17, 2010 at 8:30 AM.

Quincy Gulf Station – Friday, December 17, 2010 at Noon; bring your own lunch.

Old Business:

None this Meeting.

New Business:

Four items:

Upon Bob Love's recommendation, the club approved the purchase of a new printer in the amount of \$320.00.

Approved a gift of \$100.00 to the Lighthouse Children's Home.

Approved a gift of \$100.00 to Curry Catering.

Richard Duley was presented a plaque in well deserved recognition of his two years of service as President.

Program: The TRAACA Annual Christmas Party & Gift Exchange.

The Gift Exchange was presided over by Bob Love.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at the Old Antique Car Museum beginning at 6:00 PM.

Program – TBA

Respectfully submitted by:
John Schanbacher, Secretary



We Make House Calls



Cleaning and Repair

Bill O'Rourke

Member of NAWCC #0164048

125 Sugarmill Way
Havana, FL 32333
HP 850-539-4549
CP 850 980-0632



The Plymouth

By AACA Member Jack Bowser

I was 16 and living in Princeton, NJ. I found a 1947 Plymouth at the local Chrysler/Plymouth dealer and took my Dad to see it. It was just what I was looking for and was even the dark blue that I preferred. I talked my Father into taking it for a test drive with me which the dealer agreed to allow us to do, so off we went for my first ride in my dream car.

Dad had a good friend who owned the local gas station so we took the car there during our test drive in order for him to look at it and evaluate its condition.

He asked us what the dealer was asking for the car. When we told him \$400.00 he said that was too much and that he would sell me his car for \$200.00 before he would let me pay the dealer his exorbitant price.



He disappeared behind the station and a few

minutes later appeared with the identical car that we were looking at. It was even the same blue color but with a lot less mileage and in better condition. Since he parked the car behind the station I never knew he had a blue 1947 Plymouth.

After returning the Dealers car we returned to the service station to buy my Dad's friends car. He insisted on putting new tires on it before selling it to me so I had to wait until the next day to consummate the purchase of my Plymouth. I enjoyed that car during my Junior and Senior Years of High School. After graduating from High School I came to Chicago to continue my education and my parents insisted that I didn't need a car in Chicago so it was sold before I came to the big city.

Approximately 50 years later I found another 1947 Blue Plymouth and purchased it and still have it in my collection today. My first one was a Club coupe (with a back seat). The new one is a Business Coupe (without a back seat).



PLYMOUTH

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Brass Feeler Gauge and Magnets

Why would you need a brass feeler gauge? The answer is: any time you needed to measure a gap near a magnet. Brass is non-ferrous and not affected by a magnetic field as would be a steel feeler gauge. Examples are some early electronic ignitions that used a magnet in the distributor to trigger the coil or magneto ignition systems, such as lawn mowers, chainsaws, weed eaters and some motorcycles.



This picture shows a brass gauge made by "Improved Gauge Mfg. Co.", and 2 ignition wrenches with brass leaves. I don't know what engine the middle wrench is for or why you would need the sparkplug gap leaf to be

brass. The bottom gauge is marked "Fits Splitdorf". Splitdorf made magnetos and dynamos for Indian, Dayton, Thor, Pope, Excelsior, Merkel, and Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Some automobiles used magneto ignition such as the Ford Model T. This ignition system doesn't have any gaps that need to be measured with a brass feeler gauge, but it does use magnets in the flywheel. Starting ignition is powered by dry cell batteries which can be switched out and power supplied by the magneto for higher speeds. An explanation of how the Model T ignition works is beyond the scope of my article, but it is unique especially since it doesn't have points. While looking for information on this article I came across what might be called anecdotal information. Supposedly Ford used a John Worrell Keely design that had a special flywheel and housing in the first year Model T. Apparently there were vested interests that didn't want Ford to succeed so he bought this design as a form of insurance. Keely was an inventor who claimed to have discovered a new force based on "vibratory sympathy". He create the "Keely Motor Company" to produce a motor based on his work, but never made any. There were many law suits and his "secrets" were reported to have been passed to another inventor prior to his death. Today there is a "KeelyNet" web page devoted to alternative science, free energy, gravity control, etc. One of the interests that didn't want Ford to succeed might have been oil and gas as Ford was thought to be planning to run the Model T on ethanol and not gasoline. Ford threatened to send every Model T owner a set of large magnets if those forces that were trying to put him out of business didn't leave him alone. The magnets would be installed in slots in the bell housing so that once the engine was cranked to a minimum RPM it would spin on its own not requiring fuel. Apparently the Ford opponents believe this and were then worried that the principle would be applied to all machinery.

Some years ago a prototype was made using a first year Model T to verify this story. The Model T had unusual slots on the bell housing and when magnets were inserted, the engine ran on its own. Its operation was demonstrated and plans/contracts were made for further testing. After a demonstration, the Model T was run off the road on the way home. The car was found the next morning upside down with the driver and passenger in a ditch and their throats slit. The prototype engine was missing.

Craig McCollum



From your
Reporters in the field:
Rambblings and Rovings of
Junkyard Dog & Fluffy

This time of year is always special to me and I know it has so many different meanings to every person. With our whole family in for the holidays, including their pets, we have a very active home during Christmas. We will have 21 at the table enjoying each other's company and Kathy & I just love it. We have been blessed with a great family and friends with everyone still enjoying each other.

This brings me to our wonderful hobbies and being able to share them with others. But every now and then you need some quiet time and to me there is nothing any better than a good old hardware store or salvage yard.



That is what I did (in the middle of family visiting) was find a junkyard that I could just go and walk around in. Yes, I spent 3 hours just walking and doing nothing and (doing it well) and being able talk to The Man as you wonder around. Thinking of all the fun that I have had with Fluffy and Stray Dog and their families makes our hobby one of the best to be in. You have to admit the USA has some good junk to collect and look for and we have a mission to do our share of looking for it. I want to wish a Happy New Year to everyone and may we all find some of it.

Junkyard Dog

larly when wielded with gusto and a big hammer. This is also the tool of choice for all oil filters so insanely located that they can only be removed by driving a stake in one side and out the other. If you break the screwdriver -- and you will just like Dad and your shop teacher said -- who cares, it has a lifetime guarantee.

8. **Baling Wire:** Commonly known as MG muffler brackets, baling wire holds anything that's too hot for tape or ties. Like duct tape, it's not recommended for NASCAR contenders, since it works so well you'll never need to replace it with the right thing again. Baling wire is a sentimental favorite in some circles, particularly with the Pinto, Gremlin, and Rambler set.

9. **Bonking Stick:** This monstrous tuning fork with devilish pointy ends is technically known as a tie-rod separator, but how often do you separate tie-rod ends? Once every decade if you're lucky. Other than medieval combat, its real use is the all-purpose application of undue force, not unlike that of the huge flat-bladed screwdriver. Nature doesn't know the bent metal panel or frozen exhaust pipe that can stand up to a good bonking stick. (Can also be use to separate tie-rod ends in a pinch, of course, but does a lousy job of it).

10. **A Quarter and a Phone Booth:** See tip #1 above.

** If it won't go - force it. If it breaks, it needed replacing anyway....*

All it takes is the right tools



International Vehicle Appraisers Network



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***Traveling in the
Past and Present***

We're on the Web!
<http://traaca.org>

Next Meeting

January 11, 2011

Old Auto Museum
Dinner 6:00 pm
General Meeting 6:45 pm

Program

**Member of the Year Award
Announcement of new slate of Officers
Discussion of upcoming club year**

Monthly Cruise-Ins

Sonic/Hardees on North Monroe
1st Saturday each Month (just north of Capital Circle)

Whataburger Drive-In on Thomasville Road
2nd Sat—Ford & Chevy Clubs
Last Sat—Street Rod Club

Whataburger on Apalachee Parkway
3rd Sat each month

National and Regional Events

Check <http://AACA.org> for full details of these and other events

January 2011

15-16 - Miami, FL - Art Deco Weekend Car Festival held along Ocean Drive on South Beach. Parade on 1/15 and show on 1/16.
For information: AACA South Florida Region's Show Chairman - Mel Mann at - soflaaca.com.

February 2011

6 - Nashville, TN - AACA Stones River Region 23rd annual automotive related Swap Meet. Tennessee State Fair Grounds, Exit 81, I-65. Nashville, Tennessee 615-890-1144

10-12 - Philadelphia, PA - AACA Annual Meeting, 717-534-1910