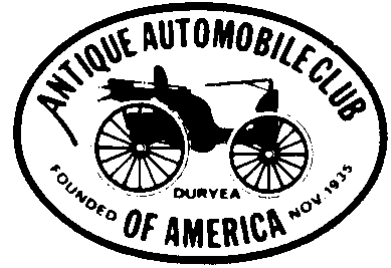




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January, 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 2024

January has been an interesting month. With the exception of a few days of genuine winter weather, we have been living up to our license plate slogan, Endless Summer. I'm guessing the cool weather played a part in the cancellation of our club poker run but we will resurface that one later in the year. I'm also guessing that like me, most folks did not have Cracker Barrel on their five-star Dine Out list. The dozen members who did attend, however, came away with nothing but positive responses so it's something that Ann and I will try again.

By the time you read this, we will have presented our donation check to the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. I think it will pave the way for an even bigger and better event in November. As far as dates go, I'm guessing that the second Saturday of November (9th) might be the optimum choice since there is no conflict with Veterans Day. Last year, the Corvette and Mustang clubs were already committed to parade participation so we will avoid that in '24. We'll cover this in more detail at our upcoming meeting in February.

I would also like to get your input concerning several upcoming events like the Frostbite Picnic, Barberville, and club interest in a boat ride. Remember, the goal is to energize our event schedule and encourage everyone to enjoy their specialty vehicles. If you have an event or a location that would be fun for the club, please let me know.

Joe Greeves, President

Calendar Cars

We realize everyone does not have a car calendar and that very few have both calendars. Since there are two car calendars and two cars featured each month, we are highlighting the upcoming cars that you will see as you flip the calendar each month. In this issue we see the Cars for February beginning with the 1930 Ford Model A Tudor owned by Jim Athas and the 1956 Ford Sunliner Convertible owned by Kathleen and Chris Koch.



BIOGRAPHIES, THE SEVENTH IN A SERIES, Sidney Hobbs

If ever there was an appropriate opportunity to use the old “This man needs no introduction” phrase, it’s certainly the right choice when discussing Sidney Hobbs. Every automotive enthusiast in the area knows Sidney, with connections ranging from just a pleasant car-oriented conversation at his Cars & Coffee events to having him find you the car of your dreams. No discussion about him would be complete without describing how his automotive fascination began. He’s been

immersed in the scene since he was a 15-year-old and was especially intrigued with one particular car. “When I first saw the black and white shot of Pontiac’s ‘76 Trans Am in Motor Trend Magazine, there was just something about the car that captivated me. All black and with the bird on the hood, it just jumped out and grabbed me!” The photograph occupied a prominent place on his bedroom mirror, and it wasn’t long before the young teenager established a very lofty goal.

Sidney’s father had a tradition of giving each of his children \$1000 on their 16th birthday so that they could buy their own used car. Sidney took a different approach however, asking his father to co-sign a loan so that he could buy a brand-new 1976 Trans Am. Dealing with a balance of \$5000, the teenager worked a 40-hour week while going to high school, never missing a class or a payment. What was the most memorable event connected with the car? At Sidney’s senior prom, the tradition was for the entire class to attend a movie. Yes, you guessed it. The movie was Smokey and the Bandit and afterwards, a certain young driver did a huge burnout in front of the theater after the show. Sidney later said “It was the first time in my life I ever felt really cool!”



A recreation of the car that started it all. This 1976 Pontiac Trans Am brings back fond memories of a 16-year-old doing burnouts after the senior prom.

The Trans Am was great fun but was later sold to help fund his college tuition. Although memories of your first never fade, he was not able to find another T/A until about a dozen years ago. The rust-free California car came from Tampa, Florida, having been stored in a garage for more than a decade. It took another year to do a frame off, nut and bolt restoration complete with a 400ci V-8, distinctive Shaker Hood, and 3-speed automatic. You can see a recreation of the car that started it all, parked alongside his 75 other cool classics on display at

the Classic Car Museum, the culmination of a life long dream that may have originated with a single black and white photo in a magazine.

Sidney, Brenda, and now daughter Madison are all active in St. Augustine's premier automotive attraction, with the Museum hosting a wide spectrum of events every month that range from car shows and weddings to church services and celebrations of life. Always known for their charitable pursuits, the Hobbs family never misses an opportunity to support worthy causes, but the actual list of their fund raisers far exceeds the space limitations of this article. Sidney says he walks a fine line when publicizing his charitable pursuits, never wanting to sound boastful but at the same time, he is committed to acquainting the community with opportunities to help others. The museum is an established 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization, and your donations will go directly to the organizations involved. Contact him directly if you'd like to participate.



The dynamic trio involved with every aspect of the museum, Sidney, Madison, and Brenda ensure that all the functions of the business run smoothly.



The latest addition to the collection is this ultra rare 1969 Dodge Daytona, a car that Sidney plans to showcase at upcoming events.

Ancient City Auto Club Monthly Meeting

Official minutes of the member meeting are distributed separately.

For the January membership meeting, the Village Inn set up the long table to accommodate our group of regulars. Lots of things were discussed, beginning with the confirmation of your hard-working board members.

Several interesting events are coming up and the details are listed in the activities list.



Once the formal portion of the meeting was adjourned, Treasurer, Fred Cooper treated the crowd to a trivia contest won by our newsletter editor, John Bagg, something John does with regularity. John received an extra ten 50-50 tickets for his first win and then followed up by winning the 50-50 raffle. With the victory comes the spoils so John will be handling both at our next meeting.

The date of our next membership meeting will be 1 February. See you there.





Joe Greeves, Lexus, SC 430



Mary and Joe Lando, Corvette

Old Guy's Breakfast

January



While several specialty cars remained safely stored in their climate-controlled garages, there were a few intrepid drivers who got behind the wheel for this month's get-together. About a dozen Bold Breakfast Boys braved the rain and filled our table at the Beachside Diner. Car conversations, breakfast choices, and calendar sales were the primary topics, but we all enjoyed Dick Hewett's rundown on his experience with the Great Race. Hopefully Dick will expand on the topic and provide an article for our newsletter. After everyone's ticket went into the box, it was Ken Bryan's

that came out as this month's lucky winner of a free breakfast. Put February 9th on your schedule and join the old guys at Beachside for car talk and camaraderie.



Jeff Dougherty Mercedes van



Jim Athas, 1930 Ford Model A



Joe Greeves, Lexus, SC 430



Ken Bryan, Mazda, Miata



Paul McCarthy, 1957 Chevrolet station wagon.

Monthly Dine Out

Although our galloping gourmet, Ron Leone, said he received specific requests for a CB Dine out, the choice of this month's food adventure did not resonate with most of the club members. A dozen diners did arrive, genuinely enjoying the food, company, and the 77° Florida convertible weather in January.

If you have a favorite restaurant, remember, this is a democracy. Cast your vote to either Ron or me and we will try to make it happen.

Looking ahead, we are investigating the brand-new location of the Black Molly, now on SR312 on the island, for our February Dine out. In the meantime, add February 1st to your calendar for the monthly meeting at the Village Inn.





Joe Greeves – '04 Lexus



Jim Athas – '30 Model A



John Bagg-'68 Mustang



Ron Leone's '04 BMW 330 Convertible

Cars and Coffee at the Car Museum

If you've been there, you already know that the monthly Cars and Coffee at the Classic Car Museum is the best, highly concentrated two-hour car show you're likely to find anywhere. Held every month on the fourth Saturday, it attracts drivers from around the area and you get to see an amazing selection of unique vehicles. I

If you are the type who likes to park up front, you probably should arrive well in advance of the 8 AM start time. Show up at nine and you will probably be parking behind the museum but there will still be plenty of amazing Parlor doughnuts and coffee, thanks to event sponsor, Bozard Ford.



Sidney Hobbs greets everyone at the event and chooses one car for the Dewey Porter Memorial award. This month it was



presented to Rick Squibb for his beautiful 1966 Mustang Fastback. Put February 24th on your calendar and join the crowd of enthusiasts for the February C&C.



Ron Carmichael's pristine 1963 Ford Galaxie Hardtop



Jim Athas and Bill McCaw pose for Playgirl Magazine in front of Bill's Model A



The aerodynamic 2004 Lexus SC430 of Joe Greeves



Jim Athas' classic 1930 Ford Model A



This tiny 1961 Mini Cooper is owned by Marc Blasser



John Battistini – Corvette Stingray



Skip Ferguson owns this beautifully restored 1955 Chevrolet Nomad.



Ron Leone's '04 BMW convertible shares space with a potential future club member, Frank Barreca's '60 T-Bird.



John Bagg's 1968 Mustang convertible comes complete with drive in food tray.



Our friend, Bob Kessler's elegant Cadillac Allante



John Battistini was happy to discuss the latest addition to his collection, a brand-new Corvette stingray.



Tony Evangelista and Carlo stand beside Tony's 1992 Corvette.



Bill Soman's classic 1961 Corvette



Cliff Williams has a for-sale sign on his 67 Camaro convertible. Give him a call if you are interested

The list of Up Coming Events is distributed separately every Monday.

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Note from the editor:

Member articles are welcome. Tell us the story of your car or an outing. Just send the story and pictures to John Bagg, jcmabagg@yahoo.com