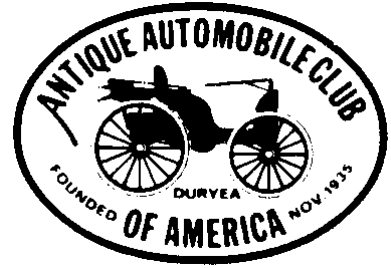




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News



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St. Augustine Since 1565

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July, 2023

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 2023

Big news this month is the change to the executive board. Our friend Laura Hunsworth had to resign from the office of VP for business and family concerns. We wish her the best. Fortunately, Jeff Dougherty stepped up and was approved at the last general membership meeting. He and I will be working together, especially since Fall is our busiest time of the year. I am very happy to have his help with several upcoming club functions.

For those of you who read this month's Antique Automobile Magazine, there was an interesting note from CEO Steve Moscovitz. He talked about a new program in the works for individuals 65 and older and aligned with certain Medicare programs. For those who are eligible, the program will pay for your AACA membership dues. As soon as we have more, we will pass it on to the general membership.

The Dine Out this month at Taco Libre was a great success with almost two dozen members attending, even in spite of sporadic rain showers. The food was great, the service was quick, and the company was wonderful. Getting together as a

group strengthens the bond within the club and It's a great opportunity to meet interesting people and learn their stories.

This issue of our newsletter contains the latest in our series of member profiles; this time our Newsletter Editor, John Bagg. Once again, it's wonderful to learn so much more about the people we have known for so long. Like me, I'm sure you will appreciate seeing the background and amazing accomplishments of the people in our club.

Finally, we have sad news to report. Our club member John Battistini informed us of the loss of his wife Kathleen, the result of complications with kidney stones. They were married for more than half a century. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

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 August cars, the '69 Mustang Convertible owned by Chris Zima, and the '69 Pontiac GTO owned by Tempa Plecker and Skip Ferguson



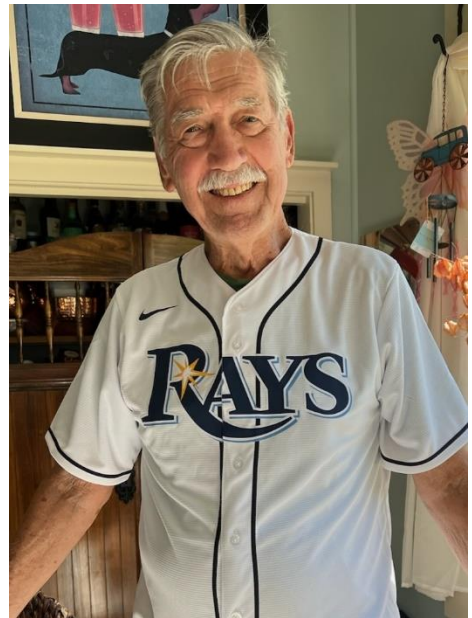
## PLANNING FOR THE '24 CAR CLUB CALENDARS

It's that time of year again. Many of you have enjoyed and participated in our annual Car Club calendar. We will begin taking names at our next general membership meeting (August 3) for those who would like to participate. Priority will be given to members whose cars have not already been in previous editions. Depending on demand, we can accommodate a maximum of 26 club vehicles – that's two 13-month calendars. If you've seen the results from last year, you'll know that PIP Printing does some amazing Photoshop work. Many club members had additional prints made. Scheduling of the photo shoots will begin soon, since Fall quickly becomes our busiest time.

## BIOGRAPHIES, THE FOURTH IN A SERIES, John Bagg

As part of a continuing series where we get to know a little bit more about our membership, this month is all about the editor of the club newsletter, John Bagg.

John was born in Niagara Falls, New York in 1938, relocating to St. Petersburg, Florida shortly after World War II to accommodate his father's health issues. John studied at the University of Florida, achieving an electrical engineering degree. Fresh out of college, he moved to Albuquerque New Mexico, taking a job with Sandia Laboratories in their nuclear weapons program. He expanded his educational accomplishments during that period, earning masters degrees in both electrical engineering and nuclear engineering. Work related adventures were fun but the most important element of the Albuquerque location was meeting his wife Margie and raising their four children.



In 1985, John had a temporary duty assignment in Washington DC and met an old friend from college who worked for E-Systems in St. Petersburg Florida. The conversation was along the lines of John saying "Someday, I'd like to move back to St. Petersburg." His friend said, "Send me your resume." Before long, John was

back to St. Pete, working for E-Systems and dealing with Navy avionics. In 2003, the company implemented a voluntary layoff program and after a moment's thought, John took them up on their generous offer. In addition to numerous civic organization activities, he and Margie spent the better part of the next five years traveling the country in their motor home.



Cars have always played an interesting role in John's past with multiple Ford Flatheads during high school and college. He has also enjoyed a sporty Triumph TR4A for stylin', and a souped-up heavy duty F250 with a camper on the back. But the real car is one that he still owns. His 1968 Mustang convertible is a genuine member of the family, purchased in 1974 as a simple six cylinder, three speed, bare-

bones car with nothing but a radio. In New Mexico, the kids could drive at age 15 so the low-budget car was the perfect runabout for the new drivers. Each of the four kids had their little misadventures with the car but everything could be fixed after a little scrounging at the local salvage yard. With every repair, upgraded accessories were added to freshen the look. Somewhere along the way a V-8, 4-speed drive train from a later model Cougar replaced the tired six-cylinder drive train, breathing new life into the old Pony. Once the kids were done with their transportation needs, the Mustang once again became John's. At this point, he built the 302 HP V8 that is still in the car.

In 2015, he and Marge relocated from St. Pete to St. Augustine because of Marge's health issues and the need to be close to family in Jacksonville. Once here, he heard about our club and joined us for dinner at our local Mexican restaurant, La Cocina. Before long, he became a member and has been with us ever since, currently in charge of our monthly newsletter.

There is one final note to the story. After 55 years of marriage, John sadly lost Margie in 2021. As you all know, our club secretary Jinny Quackenbush also lost her husband Bob after 60 years of marriage. As fate would have it, Jinny and John were paired up at the club's annual Frostbite Picnic (FYI: Your President takes full credit for this connection!) with John doing the driving and Jinny demonstrating

her skill at stabbing potatoes! One thing led to another, and both have since become inseparable. It's just one more benefit of our marvelous car club community!

## Minutes of the Ancient City Auto Club Monthly Meeting

Official minutes of the member meeting are distributed separately.

The July General Membership Meeting covered several routine elements of club business, but the big news was the confirmation of our new Vice President, Jeff Dougherty. Jeff and his wife Tara have been in the club for three years and we look forward to Jeff adding his input to several upcoming club functions. Tara has already been active, publicizing our events on Facebook. We appreciate their involvement and are happy to have their help and direction for future events. Welcome aboard Tara and Jeff!



The official part of the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M. This was followed by the trivia contest and the 50/50 drawing. The 50/50 collection was \$34.00, with \$17.00 going to the winners Ray and Hope Emery. Our new VP impressed the group, winning the trivia contest. Way to go, Jeff!



## Old Guy's Breakfast



A dozen club members were on hand for the monthly get-together at the Oasis. The food was good, the company was congenial, and we were happy to welcome our newest club member Bill McCaw. Bill has been an AACA member in the past. He currently drives a 1930 Ford Model A and is rejuvenating his 1927 Bugatti Type 35 kit car. He is hoping to bring the Bugatti to our next general membership meeting. Chris Ziva was already having a good time, but his day got even better since he was this month's free breakfast winner. Come join the guys along with our attentive hostesses, Nikki and Tara. It's a great way to start the day.





Chris Zima – '69 Mustang



Paul McCarthy – '57 Chevy Wagon



Joe Greeves – '04 Lexus SC430



Dave Burrows – '60 MGA



John Bacon – '51 MG TD



John Kaiser – '32 Ford Hot Rod



Jeff Dougherty – Big Mercedes Van



Dan Stephens – '01 Ford Ranger



Dick Hewett – '07 Mustang



And of course, car talk in the parking lot.



## Monthly Dine Out

Discovering a new local restaurant for the first time is always fun but it's even more exciting when you're doing it with almost two dozen close friends. That's the story of this month's Dine Out at Taco Libre. Advertised as St. Augustine's premier Mexican restaurant, it lived up to its billing with everyone pleased with both the service and the food.



Socializing before, during, and after the meal is always fun but the highlight of the get together was celebrating the birthday of our club dine out expert Ron Leone.



Now that he has turned 21 and is finally old enough to buy a legal drink, Ron looked really good modeling the restaurant's custom Mexican sombrero. It was a shame that he had to give it back. Ron announced his selection for the month of August, taking the club to Redfrog and McToad's Grub-N-Pub on A1A. We'll give you more information as we get closer.





## Cars and Coffee at the Car Museum

If you've been, you already know what a treat the monthly Cars and get together is at the Classic Car Museum. In addition to seeing old friends and making new ones, you will see the familiar collection of cars along with another group that always deserves a second look. Whether it's a sleek Lambo or a rare McLaren, the odds are good that there will be rides that you haven't seen before. Check out the V-10 Viper-powered Road





Runner that won this month's Dewey Porter Memorial trophy and the VW-based red Bugatti kit car driven by our newest club member Bill McCaw. From high dollar exotics to backyard builds, there is always something for everyone. Add coffee and doughnuts to a Saturday morning event that ends by 10 AM and you have the perfect mix of the just right amount of automotive fun. The date for next month's event is August 26.



Sidney Hobbs greeting friends at the doughnut table



John Bacon – '51 MG TD



Joe Greeves – '04 Lexus SC430



Jim Weiss – '26 Willys Knight



John Battistini – '70 Corvette



Bill McCaw – Bugatti Kit Car



Bill Soman – '61 Corvette



Jim Athas – '30 Model A



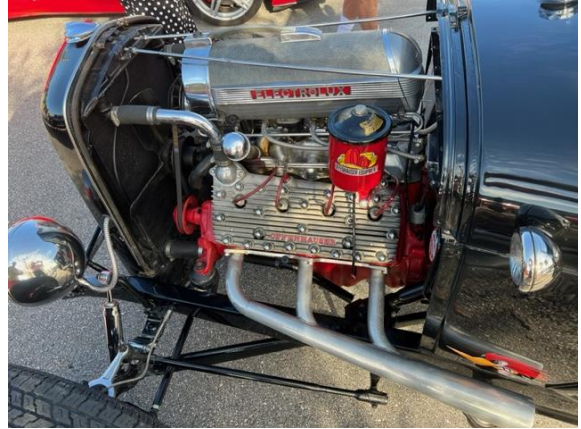
Ron Carmichael – '63 Ford Galaxie



Paul McCarthy – '57 Chevy Wagon



Ron Leone – '04 BMW



Custom Electrolux Air Cleaner



Saleen Mustang Police Car

**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](mailto:jcmabagg@yahoo.com)