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Ancient City Auto Club

Antique Automobile Club of America

December, 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENTS CORNER December

Writing this during the last days of the year, I'm looking back on all the activities of 2023.

Our biggest event of the year, the car show was a marvelous success with vehicles arriving from as far away as Tampa and Fort Lauderdale. We are clearly on the map! Next year, with a seasoned crew familiar with the D&B campus, as well as our talented publicity staff getting the word out, things should run even more smoothly. Hopefully, the crowds will be even bigger. The behind-the-scenes information is interesting since the show itself, even with almost 100 more cars than last year, is still not entirely self-supporting. That underscores the importance of the car show brochure and the preliminary work necessary to guarantee a positive balance in the treasury.

The car calendars looked great but there again, economics intervened, and prices were higher than expected. We will look at this carefully next year. The last item

on the list, the Christmas party was great fun, especially the opportunity to meet and greet old friends.

The social portion of the club has always been one of its most important benefits. As we discussed at the Christmas party, the plan is to add a fun event every month beginning in January with a late morning poker run through town followed by a luncheon at Crabby's Beachside. Watch for details in the activities list. In February, our friend Justin Felker agreed to a tour of his facility, showcasing his collection and their racing division. At our January 4th meeting, I am going to bring up the timing for our annual Frostbite Picnic, tentatively slated for March. Obviously, my 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. The stars of the (old 13-month) January 2024 Car Club Calendar are the 2015 Corvette Z06 owned by Lauren and Ken Bryan and the 1970 Plymouth GTX owned by Brenda and Rob Daly.



The second (new) 2024 calendar features Ann and Joe Greeves with their 2004 Lexus SC430 and the '57 Thunderbird owned by Pete King.



BIOGRAPHIES, THE SIXTH IN A SERIES, Bill Soman

Our long time friend Bill Soman was born in 1938, originally from Pennsylvania and moved with his family to New York at a young age. His parents had the unique job as custodians of a 35-room Castle. At age 18, after graduating high school, Bill began working for the local power company in Nyack, New York. The stage was set early for automotive enthusiasm however, thanks to the more than one thousand hours of automotive training in his junior and senior year. In 1957, Bill's first car was a 1956 Chevrolet, loaded with custom options and a 265ci V-8 under the hood. The car regularly found its way to the dragstrip and Bill thought nothing of accomplishing major rebuilds at the track, carrying a spare transmission, rear end, axles, and more in the trunk just in case.



Bill joined the Army in 1961, spending time in Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Fort Carson in Colorado as well as a six-month tour in Germany. He met Deenya in '65

and they have two children, Billy and Michelle, sadly losing Billy at age 15 to a bicycle accident. They've been happily married for 58 years.

Many club members have seen Bill's white '54 Corvette, purchased in 1988 from a woman whom he had known from high school. The actual transaction took a couple of years, but he was persistent. When he finally got the car, it needed a major restoration, a process that took another year and half. The drivetrain and the interior were refurbished, and the red car was repainted Polo White. The car has been in the family ever since until its recent purchase by our Club Vice President, Jeff Dougherty.



In 1994 at age 56, Bill retired from the electric company and Bill and Deenya moved to St. Augustine in 1994. It was the perfect location since their daughter Michelle was already a student here at Flagler College.

Since Bill still belongs to his original car club, the Rusty Relics back in Paramus, New Jersey, it was natural for him to begin looking for a car club here in St. Augustine. It happened one afternoon in 1994 when Bill was driving his white Corvette. He met Frank Phillips, one of our club's original founders, who was driving his red Corvette. Naturally, a conversation followed and Bill and Deenya were invited to the next club event. It was a wonderful group and predictably, it led to the second Corvette in Bill's collection. Many of you have seen Bill's red '61 Corvette but you may not know that Frank was the original owner. Frank was looking to sell and Bill was looking to buy and the red Corvette is still in Bill's garage.

Bill became our Club Activities Director, organizing multiple tours, car shows, and regularly scheduling parties at members' homes. When he is not working on cars,

Bill enjoys playing golf twice a week, cards three times a week, and riding his bicycle, accruing more than 34,000 miles in the saddle so far. Bill has enjoyed his time with the Ancient City Auto Club and is looking forward to many more years of fun with this wonderful group.

Ancient City Auto Club Monthly Meeting

There wasn't a December General Membership meeting. It was replaced by the Christmas party on December 15.

St Augustine Annual Christmas Parade

Although the weather was delightful and the atmosphere festive, the ACAC attendance was light. Only Jeff and Tara, and John and Jinny were there. As always, it was fun interacting with the other folks preparing for the parade, and the spectators along the route were enthusiastic. I recommend driving your car in this parade next year.





Annual Ancient City Auto Club Christmas Party

Well, if you were there, you already know. If not, you missed a wonderful Christmas party. From the food and music to the games and decorations, everything came together beautifully. The museum staff (special thanks to Madison) decorated the dining hall in true Christmas fashion. Sporks once again served their fine selection of food, and our good friend Ron Leone provided an eight-foot-long table full of desserts. Entertainment included the Mule joke, the Getting to Know You game, and the unique Candy Bar Automotive Quiz where you filled in the blanks.



Buddy Harris provided music throughout the evening, eventually bringing several line dancers to the floor to burn off some of those dessert calories. Ron Carmichael was already having a good time but when he realized he was the Blue Ticket winner, his hundred-dollar prize made the evening even more fun.

President Joe Greeves conducted a brief business meeting with the final element

discussing the possibility for a club cruise director position whose duty it would be to create short one day trips on a regular basis. The event ended around 9 PM and judging from the comments, everyone had a wonderful time.



Put January 4th on your calendars. It will be the first business meeting of the new year at the Village Inn.





Old Guy's Breakfast



The final Old Guys Breakfast for 2023 was vastly different from the November version where the conversation centered around the long list of Car Show set up requirements that began that same afternoon. There was no work on the horizon at the December get-together, so the first meal of the day was all about fun. About a dozen car club members shared stories and got better acquainted at the Beachside Diner. Club President Joe Greeves provided the Car Club calendars to Vice President Jeff Dougherty who handled the preliminary distribution. For those not at breakfast, calendars can be picked up at the Christmas party.

Joe Greeves was already having a good time, but things got better when he drew his own number for the free breakfast. Put January 12th on your calendar for the next breakfast gathering.



Chris Zima – '69 Mustang



Paul McCarthy – '57 Chevy wagon



Bill McCaw – Bugatti Kit Car



Joe Greeves – '04 Lexus



John Bacon – '51 MG TD



The usual parking lot discussion



Skip Ferguson – '55 Nomad

Monthly Dine Out

There was no monthly dine-out in December due to the Holidays. See you in January.

Cars and Coffee at the Car Museum

There was no cars and coffee in December due to the Holidays. See you in January.

Election of officers for 2024

The Nomination Committee has received no replies from the membership and as of November 30, nominations were closed. The current slate of board members will be confirmed at the January 4th, 2024, General Business Meeting.

President	Joe Greeves
Vice President	Jeff Daugherty
Treasurer	Fred Cooper
Secretary	Jinny Quackenbush

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