

FenderTalk

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"Road Relics"

February 2021

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The Steering Column

I really cannot believe it is already February 2021. It seems like I was just cooking for Thanksgiving, and now we are approaching Valentine's Day. Time to plan something nice for that special person in your life.

We are having our typical Austin winter, with a few cool days, a few really cold days, and a lot of pleasant days scattered throughout. Find those nice days and get outside with your old car and some old friends and take a drive on the back roads. We are working on plans for some mini tours in the next few months.

Here's to a much happier and more positive year in 2021. Hope to see everyone at our virtual meeting on February 9th. Here's to good health and good friends!

Greg Herbert, President CTR-AACA



The Antique Automobile Club of America is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of automobiles and automotive history.

www.aaca.org



Road Relics is the Central Texas Region of The Antique Automobile Club of America.

www.RoadRelics.org

FenderTalk

FenderTalk is the official monthly publication of The Road Relics and is distributed to all members in good standing. Editor: Leif Allred

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Secretary's Report

Minutes of Road Relics Meeting

January 12, 2021 (via Zoom)

Submitted by Sue Graner, Secretary

Screen Captures by Leif Allred

Meeting The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The first order of business was to remind us that Juan B was no longer willing to serve as Webmaster; Rich B is willing to take on that role for us effective immediately. Thank you so much, Rich, for volunteering to serve the club.

Secretary's Report Karen R made a motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting, and Wally G seconded same. The vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.

Membership Report Wayne H indicated that we have 26 member renewals currently.

Treasurer's Report Laura P gave us her report. We voted unanimously to accept it as written.

Sunshine Report Ronnie B said she was unaware of anyone with health problems. Karen R mentioned that her brand-new grandson had nearly died; he stopped breathing as a result of

bronchitis and his parents had to perform 'baby CPR' on him to save his life. He has been treated and is doing much better.

Laura mentioned that we should all research which, if any, preservatives are being used in the COVID vaccines. They may contain thimerosal (mercury) as a preservative. Do your due diligence before you opt in to taking the vaccine.

Newsletter Leif thanked DJ heartily for his observations on watching Batman as an adult. The article took us back. Jim J sent in photos of his Chevy that was published in the *Old*

Cars Weekly 2021 Calendar. Thanks for sharing. Leif needs articles and submissions for the Newsletter and items for our Calendar.

Past Activities Leif briefly discussed the show at Freddy's in Pflugerville in December (Brown Santa Drive for Kids' Toys) as well as a Halloween show at Poke-Jo's in Georgetown. The participation here can run up to 100 cars on a Saturday morning.

Future Activities We hope to have a mini-tour lined up for February. If you have any ideas, or would like to host a mini-tour, please contact Greg or Jim R. →



Zoom Meeting 1/12/2021

Secretary's Report

(continued) There was some discussion about changing the format of our annual "Membership Drive" aka the "Father's Day Car Show" at 51st and Lamar. The date in June is always 100 degrees. It might be a good idea to put on quarterly shows and rotate locations around the Austin Metro area. We need a group willing to start working on finding a free lot or a sponsor willing to invite us to their location.

Pate Swap Meet Greg announced that there was a conflict with the date set up for Pate; it is now set up for April 22nd through April 24th.

Member's Projects

- Wayne sent out his radio to be converted.
- John T has been working on his house, his car is running just fine.
- Jim J got his car back from the shop just in time for the COVID shut down. It's just been too cold lately to do much work in the garage.

Program For our entertainment tonight, Greg found a video of Automobile Commercials from the 50's and 60's. Thanks for wearing your AV hat, Greg.

Board Meeting Greg will send out an email with the date of the upcoming Board Meeting. He will try to accommodate the officers' schedules toward the end of this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.



Virtual Zoom Meeting Program – 1/12/2021

Oddities Obsession

1937 Wester Clipper Motorhome

By DJ Stamp



The 1937 Western Clipper was built for the Western Publishing Company of Racine Wisconsin to be used as mobile sales offices. There were 26 variations of this unit produced over the years – few have survived. It was designed by Brooks Stevens who was involved with a number of automotive designs such as the Studebaker Gran Turismo Hawk, Jeep Wagoneer, and the Oscar Meyer Wiernermobile. He was also involved in numerous industrial designs such as streamlined locomotives and passenger cars. This traveling egg, with its cab over engine configuration and Zeppelin air ship styling, includes an upgraded 327 CI V8 engine and sold for \$60,500 at the 2019 Mecum Chicago Auction having been removed from long-term storage from the Petrozzini Estate ([link](#)).



PHOTOS MECUM.COM

1937 Western Clipper Motorhome

Reflections

Our Club

by Wayne Heikkila

As many of you may know, this is not my first car club to be in. In fact, I've been a member in five other car clubs over the last 35 years. Many of you are members of other clubs too. Of all the clubs, I enjoy the Road Relics the most.

I have learned more about older brands and models than I ever thought possible and am always surprised on how these vehicles have been put together. The technology we think is new but what we find is just an updated version of the past. When I drive my older vehicles, I am still surprised at how the people respond to the cars.

Having owned some nice muscle cars over the years, they never drew the crowds

like my older ones do. They also elicit more stories from the older folks about when they were young and their memories with their cars. I do believe that one day that will be me with my memories.

When we get together for a weekend drive, it is a rolling history of the automotive world. I have also learned to enjoy the slower speeds of these cars realizing that I don't have to get there quick and can enjoy the sights while driving and that is something I cannot do while cruising at higher speeds.

I look forward to when we can all get together for a normal event.

Happy driving, everyone!



LEIF ALLRED

Ghost Town Austin – January 20, 2018 Mini-Tour

Around Town

Pistons on the Square

Text and Photos by Leif Allred

It was a brisk morning with temperatures just rising above freezing when my 7-year old grandson and I ventured out for his first car show. Pistons on the Square is held every third Saturday morning in Georgetown from 8:00am to 10:00am. Get there on time and you'll be parked along a side street or busy Austin Avenue.

Peering into a 1950 Chevrolet truck, "What kind of engine is this?" to which my reply was, "Ask the owner – they usually LOVE talking about their cars to others!" That got him an explanation and a tour of the inside that contained power seats, vintage VDO gauges, and air conditioning. The owner of the yellow 1953 MG, who also brought a

1963 Corvette and 1969 Camaro to the show, let the boy sit in the driver's seat. After a pass around the inside lap of the square, he could easily recognize a Corvette of any year as there was a great presence from the local Corvette Club at the event.

Back in the bed of our own truck, we sat in lawn chairs eating snacks that Grandma made for us and the young driver of the truck next to us shared some of his Oreos. Can one get a better first car show experience? Now when he draws cars and trucks, they have anatomically correct engines in them.



Pistons On The Square – Georgetown, TX – January 16, 2021

Movie Reviews

The World's Fastest Indian

By DJ Stamp

Since many of us are retired and stay at home a lot lately, I'm going to recommend a good movie about what an old guy can do. It's not a car movie but there are some very cool cars in it. It's called *The World's Fastest Indian* starring Anthony Hopkins. It's a true story and, from what I've discovered, Anthony Hopkins portrayed New Zealander Burt Munro to a "T."

I believe the fact that it is a true story is what really helped to totally suck me in right from the start. AFTER you see the movie, you may be motivated (as I was) to learn more and there are several videos about Burt Munro that really add to the story but DON'T watch them first. There are interviews and the must see "Burt Munro – Offerings to the God of Speed" – but again – WATCH THE MOVIE FIRST!!

IMBD.COM The World's Fastest Indian [link](#)

REF: (Links: Part [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#))



PINTEREST.COM



PINTEREST.COM

Automotive History

Ultra Van

by DJ Stamp

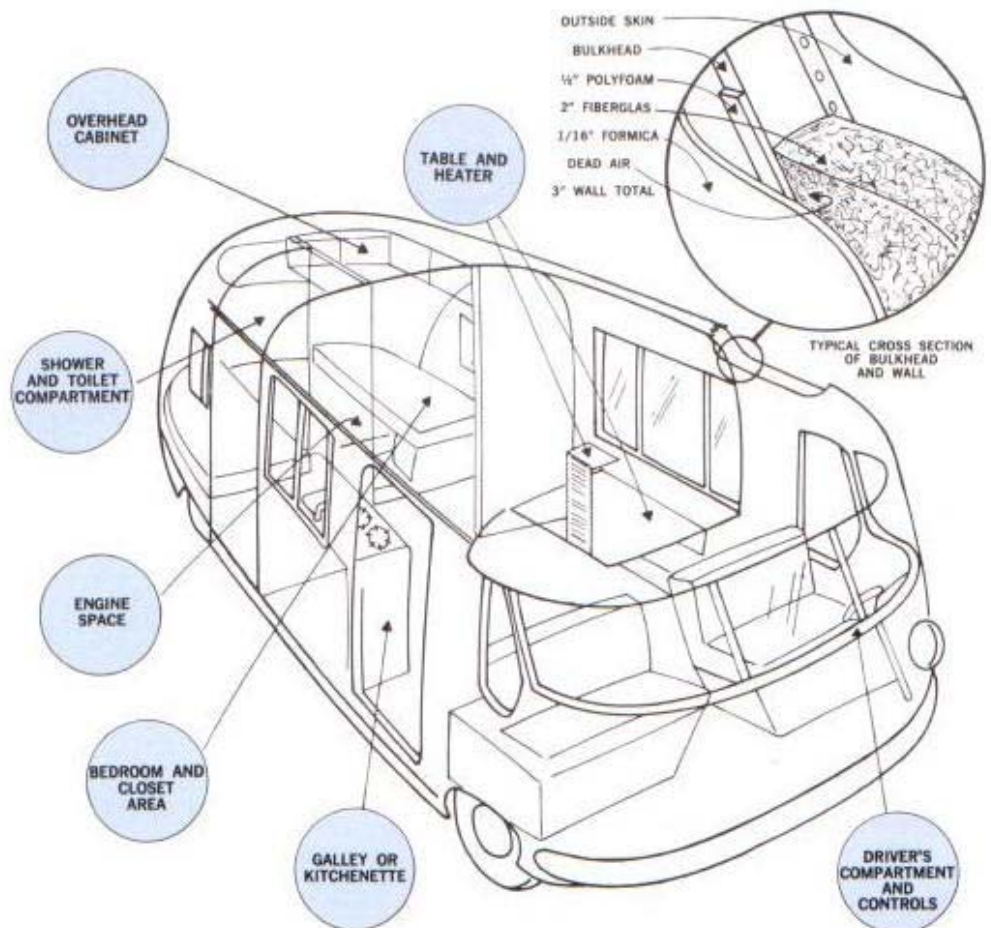
Chevrolet began producing the Corvair in 1960 as a name a combination of Corvette and Bel Air. Powered by the flat pancake six cylinder engine, it was available in many body styles – sedan, coupe, hardtop, convertible, station wagon van, camper van and rampside pickup. There was even a cab over camper developed for the rampside.

Of the two generations of body styles, I feel the second generation vehicles were quite attractive. I'm particularly fond of the 140 hp Corsa. So was Don Yenke and, when looking for a car to develop, he passed over the Corvette and settled on the Corsa. He built 100 modified Corsas dubbed Yenke Stingers. The 220 hp, 2100 pound beast was developed for SCCA racing in 1965 and are quite valuable today.

In the late 50's Dave Peterson was developing a solution to a problem: How do you get your camping trailer and boat to the camp ground without making two trips? He had an idea for an RV and, when GM announced the Corvair in 1959, he liked the power train. In the fall of 1960, he rented a large garage and employed students using a technical school

apprentice program. They produced around 15 "Go-Homes" that first year and advertised them for under \$7,000. The original prototype #101 has been recovered and restored.

Enter John Tillotson who admired the Ultra Vans and, in 1964, inquired about the rights to build them; which were obtained in 1965. They set up shop at a WWII Naval Air Station near Hutchinson, Kansas and, by the end of 1966, were producing around eight units per month. →



Ultra Van Diagram

Automotive History

(Continued) The Ultra Van was built like an aircraft with riveted aluminum monocoque construction – no frame or chassis. The interiors were ultra modern in appearance and function with the front seats rotating to eat at a pedestal table when parked. The bedroom was above that pancake engine at the rear configured as two single beds or a giant 7' x 7' double. To the best of my knowledge, Ralph Nader never knew they existed!!




The Corvair was due to cease production in 1969 and the Corvair powered Ultra Vans were phased out in July 1969 with around 330 produced. They investigated using an Oldsmobile Toronado power train in both the front and rear and produced around 42 front wheel drive units dubbed "Tiara."



They eventually settled on a Corvette powered unit with a rear facing V8 coupled to a Powerglide transmission. Power was transferred to a Corvette rear end assembly through a marine V drive. The power to weight ratio was actually improved over the Corvair powered units and the Corvette powered Ultra Vans could get 12 – 15 mpg at 70 mph. Around 47 of the Corvette powered units were produced. Spiraling production costs and increased competition caused an end to production in June of 1970.



Last I checked, there is a brightly colored Ultra Van that has been converted into a food truck located in a food court on the East side of Congress Avenue South of Ben White Blvd. not far from St. Elmo.

For more information check out the Ultra Van Motor Coach Club at ultravan.org. 

Ultra Van 1966 - 1970

Membership

Renewals

Don't let this issue be your last newsletter – renew your club membership now! National AACA dues are \$45 and Road Relics dues are still only \$20. Please mail two separate checks as national dues are passed through the club. If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Heikkila, membership chair.



Pay by Mail:

1) \$45 payable to AACA

2) \$20 payable to CTR-AACA

Wayne Heikkila

3543 Pauling Loop

Round Rock, TX 78665

Mini-Tours

Have you been thinking about getting the vintage vehicle out and going for a ride? Good idea! How about taking the club along with you? In other words, how about leading a mini-tour! Those of us who have done this before know how much fun it is and, for those who haven't, you really should do one. It's easy; in fact, the club has developed a set of easy-to-follow step-by-step guidelines to help ensure the success of your event.

A drive through the Central Texas countryside that concludes with a meal or shopping or sightseeing or all of the above is always fun and socializing with other club members is something we all need right now; even with masks and social distancing. Think about a place you've been wanting to go, but just haven't gone yet or a place you've been and really liked it. I'll bet the rest of us would like it too.

If you are interested in leading a mini-tour, contact Jim Rankin at jlrarkin1961@sbcglobal.net or call at 512-689-3885 to set a date for your event. It will be fun for the whole club and you will be glad you did it.

Come on!

LET'S GO FOR A RIDE!



Leaders

President

Greg Herbert

Vice President

John Anderson

Treasurer

Laura Pressley

Secretary

Sue Graner

Directors

Gary Baker

Rich Bassemir

Wendell Bell

Joe Peter

DJ Stamp (Pate Rep)

Leif Allred (Past Pres)

Mini-Tour Chair

Jim Rankin

Membership Chair

Wayne Heikkila

Sunshine Chair

Ronnie Burt

Programs Chair

DJ Stamp

Club Gear

Adriana Meyer-Alonso

Webmaster

Rich Bassemir

National News

National News, Notifications, and Nudges

As Reported from AACA emails, Antique Automobile Magazine, Website, and Mailings



Let's Give Them a Reason to Stay

By Wayne Tuck

2019 Vice President Membership

AACA signs up literally thousands of new members every year. I have spent much of my time over the past few years as VP-Membership encouraging our members at both the region and national level to do more recruiting. You have done exactly that. In fact, you have done even more than I should have expected. For that, please accept my sincere thanks and please continue to do the same. (Maybe even more?)

Now with thousands of new members signed up every year wouldn't you think our membership totals should be growing? Sadly, that is not the case. More members fail to renew their memberships every year than new members signed up. Yes, we lose some from age, deaths, disabilities and the like. This is normal attrition. There isn't much we can do about that. Why do so many members sign up, stay a year or two and then decide not to renew their membership? We didn't give them a reason to stay!

New members join for various reasons. Some join for the social aspects such as friendship, fellowship and human contact. Others like to drive their cars with a group. Some even seek technical information and a network of service providers. Some want to lead and be a part of the club leadership corps. Whatever the reason, AACA has the ability to provide it.

Retaining our current members is just as important as recruiting new ones. Does someone call a member that hasn't shown up for a couple of meetings? Do we communicate well with our new members? Do we show them we are interested in their wants and needs? Does our club provide the activities that are needed to keep everyone's interest? These are all questions we should be asking ourselves.

The answer is easy. Yes, AACA can provide all of the activities and services any member could want. Moving forward, membership retention should be put near the top of our club's priority list. Let's make sure we give every single one of our members good reasons to stay.



Region Resources

Policy and Procedure Manual 2019 ([link](#))

National Employees – Contact Information ([link](#))

Contact info – AACA Library and Research Center ([link](#))

Library Brochure ([link](#))

Region Guide to Successful Membership Recruiting ([link](#))



Calendar

February 9, 2021 7:00pm
MONTHLY MEETING (ONLINE)

February 27, 2021 8:30am – 2:30pm
CAR AND VINTAGE AIRPLANE SHOW [Link](#)
500 Terminal Dr, Georgetown, TX 78626

April 8-10, 2021
SOUTHEASTERN SPRING NATIONALS
Charlotte, NC

April 15-17, 2021 (rescheduled)
ANNUAL CONVENTION
Philadelphia, PA

April 19-22, 2021
SOUTHEASTERN DIVISIONAL TOUR
Central Florida

April 22-24, 2021
PATE SWAP MEET
Fort Worth, TX

May 20-25, 2021
FOUNDERS TOUR
Davis, WV

June 2-5, 2021
EASTERN DIVISIONAL TOUR
Eastern Shore of MD

June 17-19, 2021
EASTERN SPRING NATIONALS
Saratoga Springs, NY

July 1-3, 2021 (rescheduled)
CENTRAL SPRING NATIONALS
Auburn, IN

July 11-16, 2021
VINTAGE TOUR
Wellsboro, PA

July 22-24, 2021
GRAND NATIONALS
New Ulm, MN

August 13-14, 2021
WESTERN FALL NATIONALS
Loveland, CO

September 9-11, 2021
SOUTHEASTERN FALL NATIONALS
Greenville, SC

September 12-17, 2021
REVIVAL AAA GLIDDEN TOUR® (VMCCA)
Saratoga Springs, NY

October 6-9, 2021
EASTERN FALL NATIONALS
Hershey, PA

October 11-15, 2021
SOUTHEASTERN DIVISIONAL FALL TOUR
Mt. Airey, NC

October 18-22, 2021
CENTRAL DIVISIONAL TOUR
Broken Arrow, OK

November 4-6, 2021
SPECIAL WESTERN NATIONALS
Phoenix, AZ

November 6, 2021
BELMONT VILLAGE MINI-TOUR
West Lake Hills, TX

April 21-23, 2022 (rescheduled)
SPECIAL DUAL NATIONALS
San Juan, Puerto Rico

LEGEND

☐ Monthly Meetings

☐ Special Events

☐ Road Relics Mini-Tours

☐ National Meets and Tours

☐ Local (unofficial) Events

Editor's Letter

When does “dumb luck” become “divine intervention?” Having replaced everything in the starter loop, turns out I had routed the new wire too close to the headers. I dropped the starter (literally) breaking the Bakelite insulation and was then “stuck” in the garage (in her parking spot). It rolled out easily enough but, without power steering, it took some effort (and a tractor) to move the truck to its space. Then the steering went completely out with a destroyed rag joint coupler between the lower steering shaft and gearbox. This failure is best discovered in the driveway, right?

Leif



LEIF ALLRED

Stephanie Nichols' Car & Vintage Plane Show

at the Georgetown Municipal Airport

10th Annual

BENEFITTING:
EPILEPSY FOUNDATION
END EPILEPSY TOGETHER
CENTRAL & SOUTH TEXAS
EFCST.org

February 27, 2021
Rain Date: March 6, 2021
500 TERMINAL DRIVE, GEORGETOWN
ONLINE REGISTRATION:
STEPHANIESGTOWNAIRPORTCARSHOW.EVENTBRITE.COM
DAY OF SHOW REGISTRATION: 8:30AM-10:30AM
TOP "20" TROPHY PRESENTATION: 2:30PM
SPECTATOR TIME: 10:30AM-2:30PM
Spectators and Donations Welcomed

EVENT CREATED BY:
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Voice of the Show Jeff Hathaway



FOR SALE BY OWNER

Club Classified Ads



LEIF ALLRED

2007 Pontiac Solstice Convertible Roadster:

2.4L DOHC 4-cylinder ECOTEC engine, 5-speed automatic transmission, A/C, power windows, power locks, leather bucket seats and steering wheel, cruise control, 18" chrome wheels. Audio: 7 Monsoon speakers, MP3, XM, AM/FM, 6-CD Changer. 74,500 miles.

\$9,369

Leif Allred 512-350-3825

FenderTalk@Outlook.com



JOHN HUBLER

1967 Chevrolet Camaro Convertible: Original 327 engine block 2V (ME Code) w/ Powerglide two-speed transmission. "Barn Fresh" unrestored and running car. Original black Interior. Original Paint was Butternut Yellow.

\$18,000 Firm.

John Hubler 512-426-0704

john_hubler@amat.com

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The Horseless Carriage Club of America – Classified Ads: "In essence, all automobiles are Horseless Carriages, but HCCA has defined the Horseless Carriage as any pioneer gas, steam and electric motor vehicle built or manufactured prior to January 1, 1916" –hcca.org

<https://www.hcca.org/classifieds.php?cars>



1921 Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine IK4



1911 Stanley Model 61 Roadster



**1904 Stevens-Duryea
4 Passenger Runabout**