



www.aaca.org/dixie

February 2009—Official publication of the AACA Dixie Region—Serving Greater Birmingham—Vol. 21 No. 02

Dinner meeting for February

When: Tuesday February 24th, 6 p.m.
Where: Richard's Barbecue, Acton Road and I-459
What: Our April tour

DETAILS

The AACA Dixie Region will hold a dinner meeting on Tuesday February 24th, 6 p.m. for dinner at Richard's Barbecue Restaurant. The program will begin about 7 p.m. Please plan to attend as Ernie Gauld (Tour chair) and Bill Gardner (Asst. tour chair and route chair) will update club members on the status of the tour we are hosting in April.

Make it a point to attend as all members will be involved, mark your calendar now! And, as always, bring your ideas for programs and tours to share with club members. We welcome your input as plans are still in flux for 2009. With your ideas, 2009 will be an exciting year for our club.

DIRECTIONS

Richard's Barbecue Restaurant is located at 2409 Acton Road at the I-459 Acton Road exit # 17. This restaurant is located near the McDonalds in the Dolly Creek Shopping Center and is across the street from the AAA Headquarters. If you need more specific directions, please call the restaurant at 979-6057



Preview of March

Randy Phillips has reserved Richard's Barbecue restaurant for us on Tuesday March 24th. Henry Brooks plans to share

with us unusual antique car parts and vintage clothing. Mark your calendar now to make sure you can attend.

J.C. TAYLOR
320 SOUTH 69TH STREET UPPER DARBY, PA 19082

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Cell: (205) 222-7233
Fax: (205) 298-8132
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Mystery Question for February

In what year were automobile radios first offered by the car manufacturers?
(See page four for the answer.)
Thanks to Henry Brooks for this month's mystery.

Please support our advertisers as they support us!

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2009 dues are overdue!

AACA Dixie Region—The most active and visible multi-make antique car club in the area



A Note From The PRESIDENT

AACA National Headquarters
P.O. Box 417 Hershey, PA. 17033
Founded 1935 717/534-1910
www.aaca.org

Dedicated to the preservation,
restoration and maintenance of
automobiles and automotive history

Membership in the AACA is required to be
a member of the Dixie Region
ownership of an antique car is optional

The Exhaust Whistle

1292 Daventry Court
Birmingham, AL 35243-4844
PHONE—205/967-5014
FAX – 205/967-5014 (call first)
e-mail – bobjanehinds@bellsouth.net
Robert Hinds, Editor

The Exhaust Whistle is a monthly publication
of the AACA Dixie Region, views expressed in
the *Exhaust Whistle* are not necessarily those
of the Region officers of AACA. Original material
may be reprinted if credit is given.

2009 DIXIE REGION OFFICERS

President – Bill Gardner	991-5116
wsgardne@southernco.com	
VP Activities – Randy Phillips	541-1900
randy@bphillips.com	
VP Membership – Dale Baker	403-9858
dalebaker@att.net	
Secretary – Jan Hyche	967-9787
jhyche9787@charter.net	
Treasurer – Nancy Myer	338-7332
nmyer@centurytel.net	
Bd. Chair – Jan Hyche	967-9787
jhyche9787@charter.net	
Bd. Members – Tony Poe	991-4402
poe.tony@gmail.com	
Charles Clinton	424-5280
magnetbab@aol.com	
Leg. Chairman – Ron Moore	853-2450
National Library board member—Jenny Gauld	
338-6717	
National Chairman-SE Division (Al-Ga) Development	
and Support – Ernie Gauld 338-6717	
egauld@centurytel.net	
Webmaster – Vicki Bolton	988-5356
vickibolton@bellsouth.net	

Greetings:

I am looking forward to serving as your Dixie Region President in 2009. My wife Linda and I have enjoyed the antique car hobby for quite a few years and particularly the friendships we have made with our fellow AACA members. As I prepare this letter, we are anticipating attending the AACA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. February 12-14th. Several of our members will be attending and we look forward to sharing our experiences with everyone when we return.

As President, I ask your support of our officers during 2009. I know each one of them will do their very best to serve our Region and I look forward to working with each one throughout the year. Our next meeting will be a presentation of the AACA Divisional Tour we will be hosting April 15-18th. Please come and see where you might be able to contribute towards the success of this Tour. I look forward to our club offering a variety of activities in 2009. If you should have any suggestions, please contact our VP - Activities: Randy Phillips.

I hope to see everyone at our February 24th dinner meeting at Richard's BBQ

Bill Gardner

Please note that the deadline for the Mar *Exhaust Whistle* is Mar 10th

2009 SCHEDULE

Red= Dixie Region events, Blue= Southeastern National AACA events
Black= National AACA events outside of the Southeast

To obtain National AACA registration material:
mail activity card included with your *Antique Automobile* magazine

Feb 12-14	AACA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
Feb 24 (Tue)	Dixie Region dinner meeting, see page one for details
Feb 26-28	AACA Southeastern Spring Meet, Lakeland, FL
Mar 26 (Tue)	Dixie Region dinner meeting
Apr 2-5	AACA Southeastern Spring Meet, Charlotte, NC
Apr 15-19	AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour for 1984 and earlier vehicles (hosted by Dixie Region), Birmingham, AL
May 4-9	AACA Founders Tour (1936-1984 vehicles), Midland, TX
May 28-30	AACA Eastern Spring Meet, Gettysburg, PA
Jun 11-13	AACA Southeastern Special Spring Meet, Lebanon, TN
Aug 22-28	AAA Glidden Tour (1942 and earlier), Portland, OR (hosted by AACA)
Sep 18	AACA Annual Grand National Meet, Topeka, Kansas
Sep 19	AACA Central Fall Meet, Topeka, Kansas
Oct 7-10	AACA Eastern Fall Meet, Hershey, PA

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar



Minutes from the January 27th Dinner Meeting

The AACA January meeting was held at Richard's BBQ.

The meeting was called to order by Jan Hyche, Pres.

Invocation was given by A.D Goode.

Treasurer, Nancy Myer gave the financial report. Our balance is \$2,130.35. It is requested that if you have not paid your 2009 dues, please forward them to Nancy. Treasurer report was submitted and approved.

As an ongoing reminder, so everyone can become familiar with the many members of our club, it was approved again at the directors meeting to continue the 25 cents "fine" for not wearing your name tag to the meetings. So, remember to wear your name tag to the meetings. If you need a name tag see Dale Baker, VP of Membership to have one made.

Tonite was Jean Goode's birthday and we all sang "Happy Birthday" to her.

Old business:

Tour report from Ernie Galud. As of now we have 73 requests for the tour and 100 inquiries so far. Inquiries are coming in from all over the states. The tour is April 15-18.

Our members can go to the closing night banquet for \$25.00 per person. Please pay for the banquet by March 15 if you plan to attend. The banquet will be catered by "Happy Catering"

The closing ceremony and menu both promises to be outstanding.

New business:

Our new officers for 2009 are: President, Bill Gardner, VP of Activities is Randy Phillips, VP of Membership is Dale Baker, Secretary is Jan Hyche, and Treasurer is Nancy Myer.

Please help support our newly elected officers.

Bill Gardner has available some AACA golf style shirts for sale for \$10.00 ea. If interested see Bill.

Bill Gardener presented a fun program on interesting automotive facts. Did you know that in 1900 just 1 in every 9,500 Americans owned a car? 38% were electric, and just 22% were powered by gasoline. There were 13,824 cars on the road in the U.S. by the end of 1900. 1901 was the first year for license plates. By 1910 there were about 500,000 motor vehicles in the U.S, the number was about 2 million by 1915. As of 1923 half the cars sold were bought on credit. Several members shared their automotive memorabilia such as letter openers, car tags with dealers names, license plate holders etc.

Our Annual meeting this year will be in Philadelphia.

The meeting was adjourned.

I have enjoyed being the secretary this year, and will now turn the pen over to Jan Hyche.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Stout

AACA Dixie Region News and Notes

Looking for your next car project? Here are some leads you might want to check out:

⇒ **FOR SALE by AACA members:**

⇒ **1949 Packard**, 64,000 original miles! This black beauty needs nothing. Chrome, paint, mechanics and interior are in great condition. There are no negative surprises with this car. Selling below market value at \$14,500. Jack Wise 850 694-2345 Car is located in Tallahassee, Florida.

⇒ **1966 Ford T-Bird**, Town Landau, 390 CID, vinyl top. Automatic, Air Conditioning, light blue, 120K miles-\$6,000, contact Tom Deckert at 850 878-2381, car in Florida.

⇒ **FOR SALE by non-AACA members:**

⇒ **1971 Buick Riviera**; Only 69K miles, Vintage Red/Pearl White well optioned with buckets/console/working climate control, rallye wheels, excellent mechanical and beautiful cosmetic condition; needs nothing to drive and enjoy and very little to show. Many documents including original window sticker. The one you've been looking for. Located in Birmingham, Alabama 205-337-1670, Steve Carter.

⇒ **1971 Buick skylark**. Green, two door, 60,000+ miles, AC, new paint, original spare, power windows, automatic. Alabama Antique Auto appraised it at \$14,000. For more information call Gloria Bowen at 205 491-9679

⇒ Dixie Region member **Dr. John Gerwin** reports: "My 1929 Essex is in the restoration shop. Hopefully it will be ready to roll by the end of December. It is an anxiety provoking story of how this came about. With a little bit of luck, I may be able to bring it to a '09 meeting."

⇒ Dixie Region members **Chuck and Darla Kiser** recently took a 16-day cruise itinerary along the Rhine, Main, Mosel and Danube Rivers. Countries visited included The Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary.

⇒ **Some interesting facts:** in 1900 Ransom Olds opened the first automobile factory in Detroit. In 1903, 40-year-old Henry Ford formed the Ford Motor Company in Detroit. In 1908 William Durant formed General Motors which was based on Buick, Cadillac and Oldsmobile. In 1925 Walter Chrysler formed the Chrysler Corporation out of the Maxwell Motor Company.

Background

I grew up in a family of engineers and always knew that someday I would be one too. My father was a Civil Engineer and my grandfather was a Mechanical Engineer who made his living by Inventing. Learning about how things work has always fascinated me. As a youngster, anything I could learn about mechanical and electrical devices was my main interest; I was not interested in sports. So when cars were again available after WW2, I started my love affair with automobiles.

Tales of the early days of motoring and seeing some of the early cars fueled my interest. My grandfather held many patents on engine and car improvements for the early cars. These included speedometers, clocks, power tops and engine designs. He taught me how to use machine tools, hand tools and mechanical drawing. We went together to trade shows, toured factories and visited the Edison Laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey.

The old car bug bites

While in seventh grade, my family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, and I discovered that a schoolmate's family collected antique cars and they lived two blocks away! This was the beginning of my desire to restore and drive an antique car. Many happy hours were spent working on and riding in their old cars. At that time their collection consisted of a 1921 Dodge Brothers touring car. It was soon joined by a 1924 Buick seven-passenger touring car, a 1924 Rolls Royce phaeton, a 1927 Durant coupe, and a 1937 Nash phaeton that was missing its top. All of these cars were repaired and restored only as much as necessary to enjoy.

Collectors in the 1950's tended to have fun driving their antique cars. Those that were restored were finished to a much lower level of perfection than is common today.

The barn find

One day in 1953 I was privileged to go with them to retrieve a 1927 Ford model T roadster from a barn. When we saw the model T it was a mess. Chicken droppings all over and very dirty. After some cleaning up we changed the oil, filled the radiator, added some gasoline and put air in the tires. With a battery, borrowed from the family Plymouth, the old Ford started up. We switched to magneto and reinstalled the battery in Plymouth. Then my schoolmate proceeded to drive the old Ford 10 miles to his home with me as a passenger. It was an exciting day for two teens neither old enough for a driver's license. The antique car bug had bitten and I am still active in the hobby years later. When I was 15, one day on a back road, I was even allowed to drive the 1924 Buick! While in high school I often went with my father to the Engineer's club to hear interesting speakers. One day Kettering gave an interesting talk about early automobile engineering challenges.

Back in the hobby again

College, Marriage, children and my career delayed my antique car purchase. My first one was a 1928 Ford Model A four-door sedan. After getting the rebuilt drive train installed and running, A. T. & T. transferred us to Birmingham, Alabama in 1969. The Ford was sold before moving and my interest in the hobby was on hold for years.

AACA and the hobby today

In 1990, while looking through a copy of the Auto Trader, I saw an advertisement for a 1959 Plymouth Sport Fury. It was located in Cullman and a few weeks later the Plymouth was in my garage. The car was complete, ran and was rust free, however not well enough preserved for a HPOF award. I quickly joined the Plymouth Owner's Club, Dixie Vintage Club, the AACA Dixie Region and the WPC Club. Learning from fellow enthusiasts and having the expertise available from the marquee clubs was extremely helpful. Because of my exposure to the

antique car hobby in the 1950's, I wanted a car to drive and enjoy.

I wanted to fix it authentically and drive the Plymouth rather than show it. By supervising the work myself, I was careful not to over-restore it making the car into a trailer queen that I would be afraid to drive.

It looked so good when finished I entered it in an AACA National Meet. I was pleased to win a first Junior and later a Senior award in 1995. (In 1996, it won a Grand National Second place in Huntsville, Alabama.)

Some fellow AACA members were surprised when they found out I had driven 300 miles to Hiawassee, Georgia and later to Panama City, Florida for these meets. Most winning show cars are not driven and are professionally restored.

The future of the hobby

Today most barn fresh cars have been found. Let's get the youngsters involved and they will enjoy the hobby all of their lives.

To further our hobby we need to find those young antique car buffs who will become the future owners of antique cars of their own (maybe even a car you now own.)

Mystery Question answer

Although radio broadcasting started in the 1920's, car manufactures did not offer radios as options until 1930. Only a few higher-priced cars even offered this option. Radios were also available for owner installation in any car.

These early tube sets were large and drew a lot of power from the electrical system. A "head unit" containing the controls was mounted on the instrument panel and the electronics were remotely controlled, often the antenna was mounted under the running board.



THOUGHTS on PHILLY By Terry Bond VP Finance and Budget

from Rummage Box

Philadelphia in February has been on my calendar as indelibly as Hershey week for many years. Those are two items that I block out time for as soon as I can on our schedule at work. Never to be missed! Today, somebody at the office asked me "why?" Philadelphia and the AACA Annual Meeting are very special. There is just a lot of tradition surrounding that event, and I'm a great traditionalist. Years ago when I made my first trip there just to attend a judging school, I was in awe of the numbers of hobby greats who made that trip a part of their year's itinerary. I've had the chance to mingle with legends like Austie Clark and Beverly Rae Kimes. There were also the many greats of AACA itself including Bill Swigert, Howard Scotland, Hank Krusen, and of course who could ever forget Ron Barnett, mustache and pipe ever-present! I always enjoyed a traditional Saturday breakfast with Murrell Smith when the event was held at the old Ben Franklin Hotel. For many years I drove straight up from Baltimore just for that Saturday Judging school, but one year, I came a day early and took in some seminars. Wow, was I hooked!

Over the years the seminars have run through a host of topics demonstrating the breadth of our hobby. There have been some great teachers over the years like Harold Sharon who knew more restoration tricks that anyone I ever met. No, I'm not going to make this a roster of everyone who has attended the event, and I apologize to

anyone not mentioned. The impression should be that the AACA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia is all about great people and great things – the two ingredients that make this hobby so wonderful.

I know not everyone is excited about the annual meeting as I am. Geez-one year we even had someone complain about the little sticky labels on the apples! What I want to convey is that we have one fantastic event up there in February where you can meet great people, learn great things, and have a great time literally living, breathing, eating and sleeping the old car thing. Everything from the trade fair to the closing awards banquet is first class and thrilling to be a part of. For me, it's a chance to meet some of our members and renew old friendships from across the country. It's a chance to learn some things about our hobby and to share thoughts and ideas. It closes out the old year, ushers in the new one, and we get a chance to clap hands and cheer for all of the great people who brought out their beautiful cars, or worked hard on their newsletters and websites.

When you see all those Region and Chapter banners hanging from the balcony at the hotel, you realize what makes this club great - the members. And Philadelphia is the place to honor them.

Consider joining me in Philadelphia in February. It would be an honor to meet you, and I'm sure it will begin a tradition for you as well.

Little know variations of the Ford Falcon

In 1963 Ford contracted with automotive designer Vince Gardner to jazz up the Falcon. He designed the "Cayuse" and three were built and survive today.

One Cayuse was modified by

shortening it 18 inches and converted into a two seater. It was called a "Coyote".

Dearborn Tube and Steel (known today as Diversified) assembled all three cars.

2009 DUES!

Annual AACA and Dixie Region dues are now way past due. If you have already paid, we thank you.

Mail your \$35 National AACA dues to Hershey (renewal notice was included with your September/October *Antique Automobile* magazine). Mail your \$15 Dixie Region dues to Nancy Myer, 5021 Collins Drive, Pell City, AL 35128.

A note from your editor



Randy Phillip is an enthusiastic new Dixie Region member and is our 2009 Vice President of Activities. He needs our support. You can assist him by offering to provide a speaker, organize a tour, or suggesting an interesting activity.

Thanks to those who submitted feature articles throughout 2008, please keep them coming for 2009. It makes the newsletter more interesting. This month your editor has an article on the hobby and a barn find car.

Does anyone have interesting tales to tell? How about experiences with family cars to share? We also need Tech Tips?

Regarding Roster & E-mail

E-mail is a free and fast way to communicate with our membership. We still would like to have e-mail addresses for as many members as possible.

Members without current e-mail addresses on file will find a letter attached to this month's *Exhaust Whistle* asking for their electronic addresses.

Please send your roster corrections to the editor.

The Editor's US & e-mail addresses are on page two, you can also give your material to me at a meeting or via the telephone, thank you.

FYI: non-AACA local antique car events, contact organizer for details

First Saturday morning of every month: Krispy Kreme in Hoover US-31 and Patton Chapel Rd. From about 8:30 a.m. until noon. Rain date is the second Saturday of the month, same place and times. Contact Dixie Region member: **Jim Ketchersid 205 979-5387**

Third Saturday morning of every month: Breakfast with your fellow hobbyists @ the RAILROAD CAFE in Morgan Village on Morgan Road I-459, exit #6 (Morgan Road). About 8:30 a.m. Contact Dixie Region member: **Gary Adams 205 444-0876**

Third Saturday evening of every month: A year-round cruise-in at the Hoover Krispy Kreme. Starting at 5:00 p.m. every month of the year. Contact Dixie Region member: **Jim Ketchersid 205 979-5387**

Saturday April 4 – Hoover Veterans Park: All car clubs have been invited to bring their antique cars to this fun event. Contact Dixie Region member: **Jim Ketchersid 205 979-5387**

Saturday May 30—Barber Motorsports Park: The Mercedes-Benz and Lotus Clubs will be holding national gatherings that weekend in conjunction with a

vintage race. All antique car owners are invited to participate by bringing their cars to the Park for this multi-make car show. Each participating club can set their own rules whether judged or non-judged. Entrance fee includes a ticket to watch the vintage races. More details will be provided later as plans are finalized. Contact Dixie Region member: **Bob Hinds 205 381-0878**

Please forward to the editor information about local shows and cruise-ins that would be of interest to your fellow AACA Dixie Region members. In the past, members have attended non-AACA events and enjoyed them as a way to support local charities and communities. It's also a way of educating the public about the history connected with our cars.



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The Exhaust Whistle

**1292 Daventry Court
Birmingham, AL 35243
Address Correction Requested**

FIRST CLASS

February Dinner Meeting on the 24th, see page one

