

A DIVERSE GROUP DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION/PRESERVATION/ENJOYMENT OF OLD CARS



CLUTCH CHATTER



FROM As

Volume 27

ISSUE 7

JULY, 2024

TO Zs

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CALENDAR

Jul 11 - Meeting at Sonic Drive-In,
31st St, 6:00 PM
Aug 8 - Meeting at Vinland Fairgrounds

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The cruise to Sonic was a great success, 16 cars, 30 members, a couple of guests and a lot of fellowship. A wonderful evening with friends! It was good to see so many of the ladies attend.

Jack has a large list of events to keep us busy all summer. Way to go Jack!!!

Car Show chairman, Daryl Barnes, the Board of Directors and K. L. met after our regular meeting to fine-tune the wording and changes of the preliminary Car Show flyer. The new flyers will be available soon for us to begin distributing. It's shaping up to be another successful event.

See you all at the next event.

K. L. Homolka
President

WHAT IS JULY KNOWN FOR?

July 4-Independence Day
July 7-Chocolate Day
July 12-Collector Cars Appreciation Day
July 18-International Sister Cities Day
July 28-National Parents Day
July-Love Is Kind Day

EDITOR'S NOTE

Just a friendly reminder - all items for our newsletter are due by the 15th, monthly.

LRAACA WEBSITE

Website: www.lraaca.org
Address: Lawrence Region AACA
P.O. Box 442006
Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone: (785) 843-AACA or
(785) 842-7982
FAX: (785) 843-2222

Here you can find information on being a member, upcoming events & general information about the club.

2024 LRAACA OFFICERS

President: K. L. Homolka
(785) 865-8503
Vice President: Jack Todd
(785) 919-3459
Secretary: Margaret Barnes
(785) 594-6408
Treasurer: Pete Maxon
(785) 608-4222

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(3 year terms)

Dave Maycock - through 2024
(785) 594-4280
Carl Peer - through 2025
(913) 856-7481
Robert Lagerstrom - through 2026
(785) 766-9847



JULY CELEBRATIONS

MEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS

Peggy Stoll - July 7
Margaret Kressmann - July 8
Mark Ryan - July 15
Daryl Barnes - July 17
Jean Homolka - July 27

MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES

Bill and Sylvia McCollum
July 8, 1977 - 47 years
Joe and Janice Arneson
July 31, 1971 - 53 years

CLUTCH CHATTER is the official publication of the Lawrence Region Antique Automobile Club of America. CLUTCH CHATTER is published monthly and any reports, articles or pictures must be submitted by the 15th of the month. They can be emailed to:

kstrunkguy@yahoo.com

Please use the above email as it goes directly to the Club's computer.

Shirley Cormack, Editor
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Lawrence, Ks 66049 (785) 841-6033

COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2024

CAR SHOW - Daryl Barnes
SWAP MEET - Joe Arneson
SCHOLARSHIP - Tony Mitchell
TRAILER - Joe Arneson
SUNSHINE - Barb & Dave Maycock
CONTRIBUTIONS - Pete Maxon
HISTORICAL - **Vacant**
MEMBERSHIP - Margaret Barnes
PROGRAMS - Jack Todd
REFRESHMENTS - Daryl Barnes

EDITOR'S NOTE

If we have missed a birth or anniversary date it is because we don't have the information. Please ask Margaret Barnes for the "Information Form" and return to her. This will provide the dates to be in your newsletter at the appropriate time.

Your Editor needs articles to put in the newsletter, so please send anything you have that you'd like to share. Send items to **kstrunkguy@yahoo.com** (by email).

MONTHLY MEETING
Thursday, June 6, 2024

CALLED TO ORDER: The regular monthly meeting of the Lawrence Region Antique Auto Club was held at the Sonic Drive In, 31st St., Lawrence, KS on June 6, 2024 with President K. L. Homolka presiding. All were treated to dinner or ice cream and enjoyed the fellowship. Sonic is always very appreciative of the show cars in their drive in. The following attended with their cars:

Pete Maxon - 1960 Corvette
Shirley Cormack - non-antique
Stanley/Linda Hayden - 1963 Fairlane
K. L. and Jean Homolka - passenger in grandson's 1956 Cornett
Steve Humbert - 1956 Cornett
Tim Cragg - 1929 Chevrolet
Jack/Delores Todd - 1955 Belair
Darrell Workman - 1955 Belair
Carl/Patricia Peer - 1957 Belair
Ralph Newell - 1957 Cadillac
Bill McCollum - 1960 Cadillac
Joe/Janice Arneson - 1969 GTO
Don Fornelli - 1978 R100/7 Motorcycle
Daryl/Margaret Barnes - 1994 Corvette
Sean/Jessee/Lily Lewis - 1965 Malibu
Kenny/Donna Tibbits - passengers in another vehicle
Bob/Karen Lagerstrom - passengers in another vehicle
Tom/Sharon Stallings - 1947 GMC 5 window
Ken/Virginia Filardo - non-antique

MINUTES: May meeting minutes were approved as published.

COMMUNICATIONS: Two thank you notes were received from the Clinton Eagles 4H club and the 2024 scholarship recipient, Cole Flory.

SUMMER PROGRAMS: Events were announced by Vice-President Jack Todd. Events are as follows:

June 14 – Brandon Woods with lunch served. The residents will be judging and the director asked that the cars be there between 10:00-10:30 AM. K. L. asked for a show of hands to report how many will be attending and he will report to the director.

June 15 – Ralph's KOA. Ralph hosts a car show on the third Saturday of the month, **4:00-7:00 PM**.

June 21 – Cedarhurst of Lawrence, **11:00 AM-2:00 PM** but the director would like us there around 10:00-10:30 AM.

June 29 – Meadowlark Sock Hop, **4:00-6:00 PM**

July 11 - Regular monthly meeting will be at Sonic, 31st St., Lawrence, **6:00 PM**

Aug 8 - Regular monthly meeting at Vinland Fairgrounds

(Continued on page 4)

Sept 5 – Member recruitment – place TBD, customary BBQ dinner

Oct 3 - Regular monthly meeting, Peaslee Tech Center, 6:30 PM

Oct 6 - Annual Car Show at Broken Arrow Park

NEW BUSINESS: Daryl Barnes reported on the proposed changes to the October Car Show format. The Board of Directors and K. L. met and discussed the changes and Daryl presented a revised poster and rules and plans on hiring judges in lieu of the People's Choice ballots. Board and K. L. met after the meeting to discuss comments and concerns.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned by motion at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Barnes, Secretary

2024 SCHEDULED NATIONALS - NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Aug 22-24 - Special Fall Nationals, Hampton, VA

Sep 12-14 - Western Fall Nationals, Loveland, CO

Oct 8-11 - Eastern Fall Nationals, Hershey, PA

Oct 23-26 - Southeastern Fall Nationals, Huntsville, AL

ADDITIONAL EVENTS FOR 2024 - NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Oct 6 - Lawrence Region AACA Car Show, Lawrence, KS

2025 SCHEDULED NATIONALS - NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

Feb 6-8 - AACA Annual Convention, Charlotte, NC

Apr 3-5 - Southeastern Spring Nationals, Charlotte, N. C.

May 1-3 - Western Spring Nationals/Grand Nationals, Tucson, AZ

June 26-28 - Eastern Spring Nationals, West VA

July 2-5 - Central Spring Nationals, Auburn, IN

July 17-19 - Grand Nationals/Zenith, Dayton, OH

Sep 18-20 - Southeastern Fall Nationals, Corydon, IN

Oct 7-10 - Eastern Fall Nationals, Hershey, PA

Oct 22-25 - Central Fall Nationals, Galveston, TX

All above copied with permission from the Speedster. Information can be found on the National AACA website: <https://aaca.org/events/category/aaca-national-calendar>

SABETHA CAR SHOW

Three of our club members - Joe Arneson, Pete Maxon and Darrell Workman, toured to a car show in Sabetha, Kansas on June 8th. They had a great day and enjoyed spending time with friends and family, including Joe's brother and niece and Pete's sister and brother-in-law. Both Joe and Pete won awards.

There was a big crowd there and lots of nice cars to be found. Joe took his GTO, Pete took his Corvette, and Darrell took his 55 Chevy – all beautiful cars! They sat in their chairs together on the lawn under the big shade trees and had a good time discussing both the cars and the people. They were all proud to display their club affiliation in their car windows.

CAR SHOW AT BRANDON WOODS, JUNE 14, 2024



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(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)



□



Delores Todd probably had the most fun driving around in her scooter.



Antique car club owners enjoy watching the public oohing and aahing over the vehicles.

Why Wern't Model A's Offered in Black in 1928-29?

A little bit of FoMoCo history might help here

By Marshall V. Daut, on the ahooga.com website

Well, maybe more than a "little" history. But first, I have to agree with one of the posters to the Ahooga Message Board who said black was a special order color, not standard, at least when the Model A was introduced. When the 1928's came out, each passenger car body style was offered in a minimum of five color combos, black not being one of them. (Black could be ordered, but wasn't included in the initial releases). Often these options on a low-priced car was achieved by simply reversing the upper and lower body colors. Nevertheless, there were color COMBINATIONS offered. Why wasn't black one of these options? What happened to black?

To answer that, we need to look back a couple years in FoMoCo history before the Model A was introduced. I know most guys are Model A fans and therefore may not be up to snuff on their Model T facts. So bear with me here in this history lesson, as I dabble (or is that "dribble"?) in the Model T world, too. Black had been the only color available on Model T's from 1915 to 1925. Green, red and blue had been available on Model T's up to that time, as well as black. Why then were Fords after 1914 painted only black for the next 11 model years? There was a simple reason for this limited color availability: cranking out Model T's as fast as they could for ready buyers, any slow down in the production line cost money. The pigmented colors of the day took longer to dry than black. Until better, faster drying pyroxylin colors came out in the later 20's, black was chosen by Ford as the only color. A dry car body was a car body ready to mount on a chassis and sell! That meant it had to be black. Until the middle 20's when sales alarmingly slowed down, Ford couldn't make Model T's fast enough as it was to meet the demand without being saddled with slow drying colors. But by the mid-20's, sales were being lost to other makers (such as the "C"-word), who offered more advanced designs, options and COLORS. By 1925 black was almost solely identified with being a Ford, by now considered the "poor country cousin" in the automotive world. Although you'll get an argument from sidewalk know-it-alls, all Model T's were NOT black. As stated, between 1908 and 1914 and then again during the last two years of Model T production ('26-27), colors were available on Fords.

In an effort to get back into the sales race by updating a hopelessly out of date Model T design, Ford offered the new 1926 closed cars in colors: Deep Channel Green for coupes and Tudors, Windsor Maroon on Fordors. Other colors became available later, too, but that's not critical to this discussion. Letters to dealers from the Boss even stressed their need to talk customers out of wanting black on their new closed body Model T's. Open cars (the cheap ones in the line), however, continued to be black until late in the year. Possibly during the August year model change (not January, as with Model A's), open cars now became available in colors, such as Phoenix Brown and Gunmetal Blue. The point here is, Ford was trying to change the image of his cars only coming in black. By then, this was synonymous with driving an out of date car. When the Model T era ended in May, 1927, more new Model T's were wearing colors rather than black.

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So jump ahead to the introduction of the Model A, which was to outdistance the Model T in every way. Henry considered this new car so advanced (it really wasn't; it had just "caught up" with competitors' models) that he jumped back to the letter "A" in the alphabet instead of calling it a Model X,Y,Z or whatever. When the cars were announced for public viewing on December 2, 1927, black was not one of the standard colors listed. This was yet another gambit to get away from the "any color you want as long as it's black" old saw that was hung on the Model T. The introduction of the faster drying pyroxylin pigmented paints made it once again possible to mass produce cars in colors. Black was retained for the fenders and splash aprons, however.

So were there black Model A's? Of course! And lots of them. It was a color that lasted a long time, had been popular for years (Model T's notwithstanding) and was easy to match in case a panel needed to be repainted. It was still cheaper, too, because pigmented paints (especially red) were more costly. One can't judge the dark color in old photographs of Model A's to always be black. Some colors such as Andalusite Blue and Deep Ford Maroon are so dark even today that they appear black when viewed in person. Imagine how they look in 70+ year old photos. Everything looks black.

Maybe the safest way to view the Model A paint world is to study the accepted paint combinations (at least what's accepted THIS year, but may be deemed different NEXT year by the experts???) and keep in mind that black was always a standby color that could be ordered. I believe in the '30-31 models black made a more official return as a standard "optional" color than found on the '28-29 models. Perhaps Ford finally remembered he could make more money spraying cars black than a pigmented color (remember: pigmented paints cost more than black)? Each black unit sold meant more profit per car x hundreds of thousands = lots a moo la for Ford. Or maybe Ford misjudged people's desire to still own black cars and therefore brought the color back after the initial '28-29 models had shown his error? 'Dunno. Supposedly the big Fordor and Town Sedans were more likely to sport black than the open cars during the '28-29 year. With the possible exception of early '28's I'd say black would be an acceptable choice for body color. The heading "Special Ordered" cars cuts a wide swath of deviations from the norm and makes almost anything done by modern restorers plausible, within reason. Using black is certainly more defensible than today's yellow Tudors and bright red coupes!!! Hmmm...I don't seem to note those options for these body styles in the charts, either. But, boy howdy, do you ever see 'em runnin' around today!!!

You like black on your Model A? Paint it black and don't worry about it. It's your car...

Marshall "Color Blind" Daut

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Trivia Question

What is the year, make and model and what made this car so special?



Answer on page 13

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QUESTION

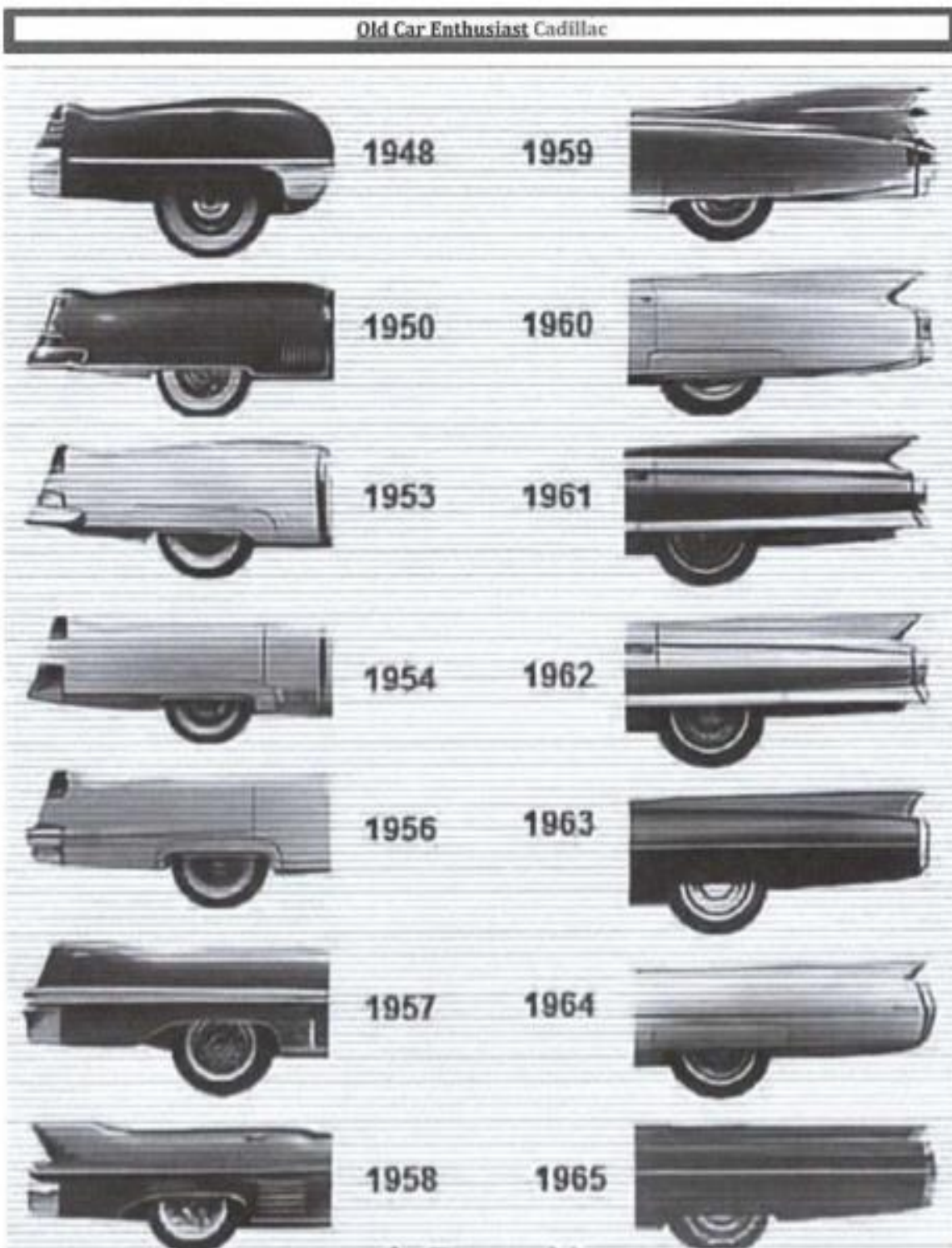
When it comes to compact cars, the Big 3 are best remembered for their Ford Falcon, Chevrolet Corvair and Valiant (which soon became a Plymouth) entries. But during, and just after, World War II, all three experimented with small cars because they were uncertain what market conditions would be like after routine production resumed. What concepts did the American industry explore in preparation for peace?

Answer on page 12

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**Steve Rossi's
Old Car
? ? ? ?
? ? ? ?
? ? ? ?
? ? ? ?
~For the Trivial Astute~**

CADILLAC FINS



Did you ever own one of these? (And the rest of the car that goes with it)?

ANSWER

In anticipation of a new, post-War marketplace, Chevrolet developed a 2,000-lb. compact Cadet. Under the engineering leadership of Earle S. MacPherson, it featured independent front and rear suspension with what would go on to become his patented strut configuration, front and rear. Along with suspended pedals and a reduced dimension, it's double flywheel arrangement (one at the front of the crankshaft and one at the rear, for a lower floor) with the transmission was mounted beneath the front seat. The project was shelved in 1947.

Steve Rossi's Old Car ? ? ? ? ? ? QUIZ ? ? ~For the Trivial Astute~

Eugene "Bob" Gregorie designed a "Light Ford," which was to include a six-cylinder engine on a 98-inch wheelbase (the standard Ford was 108). Proposed names included "Scout" and "Pacer." Front-wheel drive and a transverse-mounted engine were even considered. Unfortunately, when the company's chief champion died...Edsel Ford...so did the "Light" car. It would go on to become the Ford Vedette for France, though in a more conventional configuration, and was produced from 1948 to 1954. And Chrysler also created something called the A-106. It was intended to weigh-in at about 1,850-lbs. and featured a front-mounted, horizontally-opposed four-cylinder engine with rear wheel drive. A more conventional project A-121 was considered in 1947, which was also dubbed Cadet, and resembled what would go on to become the larger 1949 Plymouth.

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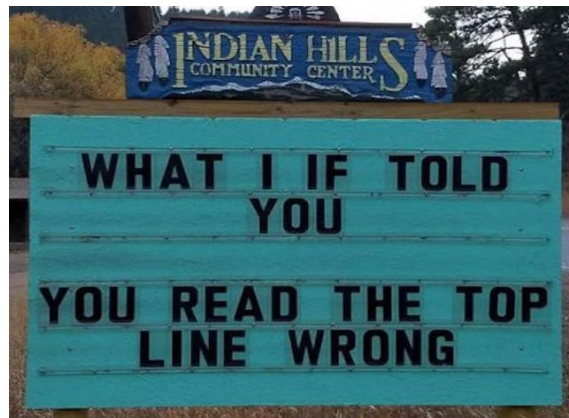
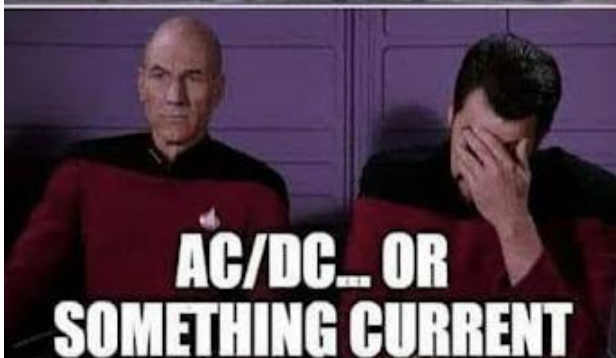


TRIVIA ANSWER

Buick introduced the Skylark in 1953 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the company, and even though it was an expensive car based on standards at the time, \$5,000 then and over \$48,000 in today's dollars but it still sold pretty well.



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DID YOU SEE IT?

25 years ago June 21, 1999, *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace* was the top box office movie. It was the first movie George Lucas had directed in over 20 years.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!!!

