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THE OFFICIAL NEWS LETTER OF
NEW JERSEY REGION
ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA
January 2020
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FOR SALE: 1955 Bel Aire 4 dr Coral/Gray 265 Turbo-Fire V8, A/T P/S, CD player 53,740 Miles Contact Kathleen Hubert @ 908-689-6916



FOR CARS, PARTS AND AUTOMOBILIA VISIT THE CLASSIFIEDS ON PAGE 15 OF THIS MONTHS ROADMAP

Back Cover



Roy Hardgrove's 1976 Lincoln Read all about it in the February RoadMap







NJ AACA EVENTS

FEBRUARY

6th NJ Region AACA 733rd monthly meeting Morris Plains VFW Post 3401, 45 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, NJ, 8:00 PM

MARCH

5th NJ Region AACA 734th monthly meeting Morris Plains VFW Post 3401, 45 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, NJ, 8:00 PM

APRIL

2ND NJ Region AACA 735th monthly meeting Morris Plains VFW Post 3401, 45 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, NJ, 8:00 PM

MAY

3RD 69TH Annual Collectable Car Show & Swap Meet—SAVE THE DATE, DETAILS TO COME

7th NJ Region AACA 736th monthly meeting Morris Plains VFW Post 3401, 45 Tabor Road, Morris Plains, NJ, 8:00 PM

NEXT MEETING

The February (733rd) meeting of the New Jersey Region AACA will be held at the VFW on Rt. 53 in Morris Plains

7:30 PM Feb 6th, 2020

AACA NATIONAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY

06-08th AACA Annual Converntion Meeting Philadelphia PA

07-9th - Boca Raton Resort & Club, FL - 14th Annual Boca Raton Concours D'Elegance. Tremendous weekend of events benefitting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County. Contact: Kerry Becker, (954) 537 -1010. Website: www.bocaratonconcours.com/event/

27-29th — Winter Nationals — South Florida Region Brochure : <u>2020 WINTER NATIONALS</u>

MARCH

1st - Hamburg, PA, Ontelaunee Region, Swap Meet/ Car Corral. Hamburg Field House. Lester Manwiller Email Lhedgehog1@aol.com or 610-823-4656.



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All events are to be submitted to the Vice President for clearance.



A Message from the Incoming President January 2020

As we move from one impassioned leader to the next the Roadmap is published between the presidents for 2019 and 2020. The following is a simple message from our incoming President Art Briggs:

hey..... (whoever "They" are) say "Be careful what you ask for, you just might get it!" I asked for the job as President of the New Jersey Region AACA and you, the membership of the New Jersey Region AACA gave it to me. Now all I have to do is make sure I don't let you down!

I once worked for a very successful division manager in a large international corporation who attributed his success to surrounding himself with very capable people. Due to the diligence of the members of this Region, I am surrounded by very capable people. Those on the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, various Committee Chairpersons and the membership. Because of this, it will be practically impossible for me to mess it up!

Here's to 2020! Happy New Year!!

Respectfully submitted, Art Briggs, President NJAACA #1469



Rick Weingart's Model A on Tree duty. A cover car in the coming issues of the Roadmap for 2020

UNDER THE HOOD Notes from the editor



We live in a pretty good time. It's 2020 and we are all set to start a new roaring twenties!!!! I can't say I remember the last roaring twenties but by all accounts it seemed like a good time was had by all. There were new appliances like washing machines and vacuum cleaners, women got the right to vote in 1920 when the 19th

amendment was ratified, and of course Prohibition went into effect. There was a cultural revolution in Harlem the gave us an explosion of literature, music and stage performances. And the economy was on full throttle giving people access to things they never had before. More people would live in cities than

farms for the first time in our nations history.

And then there was the rapidly growing automobile industry led by none other than Henry Ford himself. The Ford Motor Company produced ne and better models every year to supply the public demand. The increased take home pay and lower cost cars made possible by mass production meant that just about everybody could own one. New car makers popped up everywhere. From low cost Model T's to the high end Duesenbergs, car names like Buick, Chevrolet, Dodge, and Fiat all live today. But others like Auburn, Cole, Davis, Kurtz, Overland and Peerless are only seen in the circles we travel within the AACA.

Automobiles drove innovation and change. Because of the volume of cars being sold we got new roads and filling stations. People from coast to coast were buying the same products because they could delivered on new roads by dependable transportation. I think we are in the same spot in 2020. Tesla leads the way not only with an all electric car but with battery technology that will change the world. Google and Uber are getting ready to unleash driverless cars that are sustainable and environmentally friendly. Our children will experience in their lifetimes cars that are so safe that needless loss may not need to happen ever again.

Yes indeed the 20's of today are just as exciting as the 1920's and I for one am looking forward to the technology that the Auto industry will bring us. Only the tides are forever and change is the only constant. Embrace the change, grab it, be part of it,

make it your own.

On My honor......... Jay DeBoey (#1540) 908-963-5985 J.deboey@comcast.net





NJ REGION AACA Minutes - Dec 5th, 2019 #731



he 731st Region Meeting and holiday party was called to order at 7:38PM by President Jerry Peck.

All members present were asked to rise for recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no guests to be intro-

duced.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the November 2019 Region Meeting (as displayed in The Road Map) was made, seconded and approved. The minutes for the November meeting will stand as reported.

Treasurer's Report: Tim Schimmel reported the monthly income and expenses. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded and approved by all members present. There was no discussion. The New Business: None Treasurer's report will stand as reported.

President's Report: Jerry Peck – Jerry thanked all for attending our holiday party. He urged all members to vote. Our new audio system is broken already, so we will have to speak louder tonight.

Special Presentation: Wayne Tuck presented an AACA "Extra Mile Award" to Leif Mangulson for his efforts as Chief Judge and Field Marshall at the AACA Spring Nationals.

Region Activities: Vice-President Art Briggs All Regional and National events are displayed in The Road Map.

Membership: Bill Pritchett - Bill reported that dues are expected to be paid by December 31st. Reminder postcards will go to all unpaid members.

Participation Points: Vince DeLisi - The top points member for 2019 is again Abe Platt.

2020 Officers ballot: Brenda Zimmerman - The following officers were elected / re-elected:

- Bill Pritchett Membership Chairman
- Gregory Roser Secretary
- Tim Schimmel Treasurer
- Suds Reddy Vice President
- Art Briggs President

Spring National revenue disbursement: Wayne Tuck took the floor and explained that the disbursement discussed and approved at the last meeting will not work. Due to our non-profit status, we cannot keep excess profits. The previously approved endowments are much too restrictive. The 2nd vote for the endowments which would have required a by-laws

change was voted down, thus canceling all previous expenditures. A new motion was made for the following expenditures:

- Donate \$10,000 of the profits to the AACA building fund.
- \$1500 for a new membership display 2)
- \$1000 to subsidize a future awards banquet 3)
- \$750 for the President's discretionary fund

The motion was seconded and approved.

Old Business:

Pat Hogan stated that only 23 banquet tickets have been sold to date. We will need many more reservations for the banquet to go forward.

Herb Singe Jr. thanked all who attended the November meeting at the Singe Museum. He extended an invitation to all for their open house Dec. 8 from 12 to 3PM. Herb also thanked all who donated toys for the Hillside children.

50/50: Bob Smith – "Christmas Gifts" were won by Vicki Mangulson and Rich Kline

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM, and all enjoyed our holiday feast.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Roser NJAACA #1398 Region Secretary



The Christmas House in Full Swing Photo By Abe Platt



Happy January

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

7 DON & JOAN BALL	61
15 RAY & JUDY FISCHER	5 3
31 RON & NANCY HUTCHINS	5 9

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	DON	TIT	TITLE	HINS	\supset
- 1			1.		7

- 2 HELEN JANE SWAN
- 3 GREG NEWELL
- 4 JOHN KEFALONITIS
- 5 DUFFY BELL
- 7 BRENDAN HOGAN
- 8 MARY ANN GRIFFITH
- 9 KIRK JUDKINS
- 16..... MARY REYNOLDS
- 16..... BOB JEPSON
- 25..... KATHY OLEXA
- 27..... JOAN HAGAMAN
- 28..... JOSEPH DURNA
- 30..... AARON NEWMAN
- 31..... GREGORY ROSER



2019 PARTICIPATION POINTS REPORT

Below, please find the points listing for those members that achieved 400 points or more for the calendar year of January 1st thru December 31st 2019. If there is a need for adjustments or corrections please let me know.

As always feel free to contact me directly if you have any concerns or wish to have me include recognition for events you attended that were not otherwise accounted for.

Respectfully submitted,

Vince DeLisi (#1505) 908-803-1570 vincentdelisi@comcast.net

Region #	Name	Grand Totals	Reg	ion #	Name	Grand Totals
1524	Platt, Abraham	2945	14	169	Briggs, Art	695
1404	Pritchett, Brian	1865	14	143	Schimmel, Tim	685
1140	Cullen, Peter J.	1835	14	134	Reina, Richard	680
963	Pritchett, William	1825	133	35 S	Durna, Carole	655
1247	Cooney, Bernard F.	1535	15	554	Cliff Stern	640
420	Smith, Robert	1255	158	32 S	Stroh, Gayle	640
654	Gearhart, LeRoy	1240	134	42 S	Fischer, Judy	625
1530	Hudak, Bob	1240	12	260	Terry, Walter	620
1540	DeBoey, Gerard (Jay)	1105	15	551	Pieczynski, John	590
1480	Kunz, Craig	1095	14	170	Hutchins, Ron	585
1398	Roser, Gregory	1085	124	40 S	Hogan, Patricia	580
1582	Stroh, William	1040	14	185	Matlaga, Nick	565
1614	Bettle, Dick	1015	13	345	Wolfmeter, Paul	560
1342	Fischer, Raymond	995	12	272	Danner, Al	555
1471	Tuck, Wayne	985	12	282	Hedderick, Robert	555
1524 S	Platt, Ann	985	6	34	Schaedel, William King	530
1238	Zimmerman, Brenda	910	13	328	Geller, Edward	530
1477	Bagley, Roger	910	65	4 S	Gearhart, Marlene	525
	Bell, Joseph D.	010	13	332	White, John	505
966	(Duffy)	850	14	159	Eyerman, Jan	500
1335	Durna, Joseph J.	850	13	363	Mowbray, Richard	455
1552	Rankin, Robert	840	15	535	Reddy, Sudhakar	445
1404 S	Pritchett, Sarah	790	12	270	Cavagnaro, David J.	440
1507	Cecala, Anthony	770	14	194	Dulio, Kenneth	425
1240	Hogan, Brendan	745	13	369	Newell, Greg	420
1508	Quattrocchi, John	735	147	71 S	Tuck, Denise	415
1468	Maulbeck, George	720	12	292	Symonds, Edward	410





Look to the West!

Mark McAlpine
Vice President - National Activities



n the first nine months that I've been responsible for scheduling national activities, a frequent comment I've received, especially from AACA members in the Western and Central Divisions, is disappointment over the dearth of AACA national activities in the

Western and Central Divisions. Members responding to the question I posted on the AACA Forum and asked in past issues of the Rummage Box—"Where do you want to see an AACA Nationals or Tour held?"—expressed that same sentiment. Many said they'd love to see tours in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming, a progressive tour from Reno through the Sierra Nevada mountains into northern California, more tours in the Midwest, a progressive tour from Detroit to the Gilmore Museum in Hickory Corners, MI, etc. Others said they'd like to see Nationals held in the Pacific Northwest, California, Colorado, Utah, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, etc. (I also received suggestions for great places to hold national shows or tours in the Eastern and Southeastern Divisions. I and the rest of the AACA Board of Directors are actively working all the suggestions we received.)

Our members are correct—and the AACA Board of Directors agrees with them: there aren't enough AACA national activities in our Central and Western Divisions. Every year from 2000-2015 we held at least 4 Nationals (Meets) and at least one National Tour (except in 2011) in the Central and Western Divisions. In 2016, we held 3 Nationals & 1 Tour in those divisions, 4 Nationals & 2 Tours in 2017, 2 Nationals & 3 Tours in 2018, and 2 Nationals & 1 Tour in 2019. (Beginning in 2013 the number of activities include the Central Spring Nationals held every year in Auburn, IN, which are hosted by AACA National Headquarters supported by the Crossroads of America Region.) As you can see, the number of national activities held in the Western and Central Divisions has been declining.

We're fortunate that some Central and Western Division regions/chapters are volunteering to host national activities. The Nebraska Region hosted this year's AACA Founders Tour and the Fallbrook (CA) Region is hosting the Western Fall Nationals in November. The Phoenix Region is hosting next year's Western Spring Nationals and AACA Founders Tour in Show Low, AZ, and the Tulsa Region is hosting the Central Divisional Tour in Broken Arrow, OK. The Minnesota Region is hosting the 2021 Grand Nationals in New Ulm, MN, and the Mississippi Valley Region is hosting the 2022 Central Fall Nationals in Bettendorf, IA. (AACA Headquarters is hosting the Central Spring Nationals in Auburn, IN, in 2020.) I, the AACA Board of Directors, and all AACA members thank these regions for stepping forward and, of course, we also thank all those Central and Western Division (and Eastern and Southeastern Division) regions/chapters that have hosted past events and provided us such good times and memories.

37% of our regions and chapters are located in the Central and Western Divisions, yet we have great difficulty finding regions/chapters to step forward to hold a national activity in those areas. If you are an officer or member in one of our Western or Central Division regions/chapters, please talk to your fellow members and persuade your region/chapter to step forward and apply to host a future AACA national activity. In particular, we need regions/chapters to hold one of the national or divisional tours in 2021-2025 (especially the 2021 Glidden Tour) and the AACA Grand Nationals in 2023 and 2025. (We also need regions/chapters to host the Central or Western Spring and Fall Nationals in those years, too.) AACA National will not let you fail. An experienced AACA Board Member will be assigned as your Liaison Director to provide advice, suggestions, and coordinate assistance. If your region needs help hosting the activity, we can provide a Chief Judge for a national show and a Registration Chairperson for shows or tours. AACA Headquarters can help you design your dash plague and the ad for the Antique Automobile magazine, prepare the information brochure and registration form, even provide "seed money" if necessary. Regions like the Deep South Region, the Mississippi Valley Region, the Nebraska Region, and the Tucson Region have proven that small regions/ chapters can hold successful national activities.

So, look to the west: there are plenty of beautiful places to see, interesting things to do, and fun to be had. We just need some Western and Central Division regions/chapters to step forward to host an AACA Nationals or National Tour so we can visit their home areas and experience all they have to offer.

Please email me at mmmcal-pine13@outlook.com if you have questions, need more information, or just want to talk about old cars. Thank you very much! I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at a future AACA national show or tour.



FEATURED COVER 2019 ROSER CHRISTMAS HOUSE



Greg & June Roser Scotch Plains, New Jersey

Photography for this article was provided by June Roser & Abe Platt

"Fanwood's Famous Christmas House" Again Lights the Night Sky

he grand lighting of the "Christmas House" display for the 2019-2020 season was Friday, November 29th. For the 5th year, donations are accepted for NJ Institute for Disabilities. There is a secure lock box next to the front door, or donations can be made online at www.njid.org "Roser" should be inserted in the notes section and the donation will be credited to the fund raising campaign. In 2018 over \$7000 was collected and donated to the charity. Donations are rolling in, and we hope to exceed that amount this year. All display and lighting expenses are paid by the Roser family. The 25,000+ light extravaganza is the work of one person, Greg Roser, who starts preparing the display in September. The display is a blend of wooden home-made displays and purchased displays, and is a collection started 37 years ago. This is a traditional display with no flashing lights, and soft Christmas music playing.

The special event for the season was Santa's arrival on Saturday December 7th. Over 250 children visiting Santa and the line was winding around the block. The event was no charge, and all children received a gift. This event is sponsored by the Roser family, who has made Fanwood home for over 30 years. Greg and June thank all of their family, friends, and neighbors for volunteering as Santa's elves. Special thanks go to Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, the Fanwood Borough Council, and the Fanwood Police Department for their support. The display was open at 83 Paterson Road, Fanwood NJ until January 8th, 2020 from dusk Questions about the display or the to 10PM. charity can be directed to Greg's cell phone 908 -403-6486.

https://www.facebook.com/Fanwoods-Famous-Christmas-House-225979888300785/



Displays range from pre-built store items to hand built home designs



Local news outlets, restaurants, law enforcement and neighbors helped raise \$7,325 for NJID



People from surrounding towns visit the amazing displays at Greg & June's Christmas House.



The New Jersey Institute for Disabilities is the recipient of all the seasons goodwill from visitors.



Over 250 Children visited Santa at the Christmas House in 2019

Activity Report 2019 Mystery Tour:

n October 26, members and guests of the NJ Region gathered at the Readington Diner and were given instructions for a drive through the country to our ultimate destination: the National Canal Museum in Easton, PA. Be-



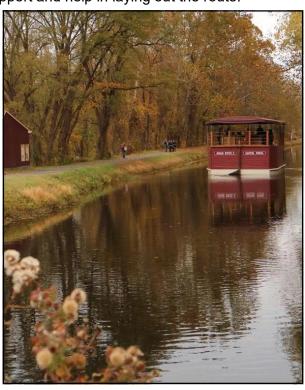
George Maulbeck's 1951 Hudson Hornet

low are the participants with their respective cars. The NJ MGT Register also joined us on the tour. We took a canal boat ride pulled by one mule on a typical fall day. My clue for the trip was "Speed demons need not apply". I had applied to pull the canal boat with my 1957 Chevrolet which would have allowed it to go much faster but was rejected. In addition to the boat ride, we toured an attached museum explaining the history of the canal. Afterwards, most of us went



Bob Petrich's 1990 Prowler and Mort Resnicoff's 1950 MG TD look great side by side.

out to lunch at a couple of diners recommended by Sarah Pritchett's father, Tom. Everyone was pleased with a great lunch especially Tom who received a free lunch for recommending the diner most of us went to. I would like to than Steve John who provided great support and help in laying out the route.



A beautiful fall day and a cruise on the canal

ALLEN, Elizabeth; BAGLEY, Roger, 1982 Buick Riviera; DAUB, August (Carolyn), 1963 Corvette; FISCH-ER, Raymond (Judy), 1993 Buick; GEARHART, LeRoy (Marlene), 1965 Ford Falcon; HOGAN, Brendan (Patricia). Modern; HUTCHINS, Ron (Nancy), 1966 Corvette; KAPRAL, Robert D. (Patricia), Modern; KUNZ, Craig (Yvonne), Modern; MATLAGA, Nick, 1985 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer; MAULBECK, George, 1951 Hudson Hornet; MURPHY, Keith (Brenda), Modern; NALAVANY, Richard (Mariah), 1976 Mercedes Benz; NEWELL, Greg (Joan), Modern; PETRICH, Bob (Barbara), 1990 Prowler; PLATT, Abraham (Ann), Modern; PRITCHETT, (Sarah), 1950 Oldsmobile; PRITCHETT, William (Bette), 1957 Chevrolet Belair; ROSER, Gregory (June), 1988 Oldsmobile; SCHAEDEL, King (Peggy), 1990 Buick Reatta; SOLOMAYER, Larry; STROH, William (Gayle), Modern; WOLFMEYER, Paul, 1990 Chrysler LeBaron; ZIMMERMAN, Brenda; Guests included Fontana, Linda and Tony, modern; Resnicoff, Mort / Freda, 1950 MG TD; Schaible, Jack, 1956 Jaguar XK-140; Hosgood, Stefanie & Chris plus Mykala, Zack, and Adeline.

Respectively submitted,

Bill Pritchett NJAACA # 963 Tour Chairman



ELECTRICAL 101, THE BATTERY

elcome to a New Year! This article is the first in what will be a continuing series about our old car's electrical systems. I've both as a professional and as a hobbyist for many maintenance-free. AGM batteries are completely years, and I've enjoyed it. I've also been bemused by sealed (no caps) and leakproof, and therefore can be my fellow technicians, many of whom put me to mounted in almost any position. They also tend to be shame with their mechanical know-how, who plead longer-lasting, albeit a bit more expensive than wet ignorance or fear of their car's electrics. It is my hope batteries. Whether flooded or AGM, a 12V battery that these articles will encourage you to tackle some simple fault-tracing and repair on your own jalopies, and feel comfortable doing it.

Let's start with the battery, the 'heart' of your vehicle's electrical system. If your collectible is a U.S.made car that pre-dates the 1950s, it most likely has a 6 volt (6V) electrical system. Domestic cars switched from 6V to 12V systems in the mid-1950s, and also almost universally changed to a negative ground system. Some foreign cars stayed with 6V and/or positive ground systems through the 1960s. For simplicity's sake, I'm going to stay with 12V negative ground systems here, but much of what is covered is applicable to any vehicular electrical system.

BATTERY BASICS

There are two types of batteries commonly found in today's cars: the 'flooded cell' (wet) battery, and the AGM (absorbed glass mat) battery. The flooded cell battery is the older technology, and it requires checking the water level (really the electrolyte level) and topping it up as necessary. Water is 'consumed' as the electrolyte is released as gas through vents during the charging process. If an owner allows the electrolyte level to drop too low, the battery might not



A typical engine-compartment battery. Note removable caps, and hold-down clamp across

hold a charge and could be ruined.

Modern wet batteries have evolved into 'low maintenance' or 'no maintenance' versions, which theoretically don't need top-ups. Older flooded cell batteries have removable caps to add water; low- or nomaintenance batteries have caps which require a little more effort to access, if they have caps at all.

The AGM battery holds its electrolyte in glass worked with automotive 12 volt electrics mats, which minimizes consumption and makes it truly consists of 6 cells; in a fully charged battery, each cell is 2.2V, so $2.2 \times 6 = 13.2V$. In reality, a static car battery will usually measure around 12.5V. The battery has a positive (marked +) post and negative (marked -) post protruding from the top of the case (GM used side-case-mounted battery terminals for years). A



AGM battery, mounted sideways in trunk, as electrolyte cannot spill.

and black for the negative side, is attached to each cause current flow between the positive and negative post with a large clamp. A hold-down clamp keeps the posts. The resultant voltage loss is enough to disrupt battery in its place while driving.

BATTERY MAINTENANCE

The following recommended battery maintenance steps should be followed for ANY car, old or new. For our classics, which are driven much more infrequently, these checks are even more critical, and will help ensure that your collector car battery is always up to the task of starting the engine and letting you take your buggy out for a spin.



Battery service supplies: metal-bristle brushes, petroleum jelly, dielectric grease.

Check the electrolyte

If you have a flooded cell battery, remove the battery caps and check the water level at least twice a year. I recommend spring and fall; every three months is even better. The electrolyte level should reach the top of the 'ring' so that the level looks like an oval. <u>USE DISTILLED, NOT TAP, WATER</u>. Buy a jug of it at ShopRite for 89 cents and keep it in the garage. Don't overfill the battery. If you accidentally overfill and cause a spill, wipe it up with paper towels (wear gloves to avoid acid burns; even the mild electrolyte solution can sting) and discard the towels.

If the battery frequently needs topping up, the case may be cracked. Check along the sides and bottom for signs of corrosion from spilled electrolyte; a cracked case cannot be repaired. If the same cell is always low and all the others are OK, that cell may have sulfated; you may need to replace the battery.

Clean the battery top

I began my career working on fuel-injected Volvos, which is where I learned that a dirty battery

heavy battery cable, typically red for the positive side top (covered with dust, grease, oil, whatever) can the electronic fuel injection. Cleaning the battery top would sometimes fix a poorly-running car! Since then, I've been fanatic about ensuring that my cars' battery tops are clean. One tried-and-true method is with a solution of baking soda and water. If it's not too dirty, any mild cleaner might do. I've used Windex, Brakleen, or Simple Green. You don't need a lot; again, use paper towels, wear gloves, and throw the towels away. The goal is a clean, and dry, battery top.

Tighten the battery hold-down

On a rally many years ago, I was driving my '68 Mustang while following a friend who was in his Austin-Healey. He hustled it at speed around a corner, immediately after which, it stalled. Dead. No crank, no nothing. I pulled up behind him to assist. By this time, he had the hood open, and it was obvious to me that the battery wasn't there. "Ron, where's the battery?" I asked. He replied "in the trunk". We both saw it as soon as the trunk lid was popped: during the tight right -hander, the unsecured battery flopped over, yanking the negative cable clear off its post at the same time.

You may or may not be rallying your car, but the battery is supposed to remain securely in place. All cars have some sort of battery hold-down. Check yours. If it's missing, replace it. If it's loose, tighten it (but not too tight, which could crack the case). By the way, bungee cords are a poor substitute; purchase a proper hold-down. Ron and I both thank you.

Clean and tighten the posts & cable terminals

This one is the most important maintenance tip, and it's also a very neglected one. We will get into



The start of corrosion: the blue/green build-up at base is likely starting to work its way up the clamp

electrical flow in a future article, but suffice to state that for your car's electrical system to deliver peak performance, all connections must be clean and tight.

Battery terminals build up corrosion for a number of reasons: engine compartment dirt, arcing from dissimilar metals, electrolyte seepage. Whatever the cause, this corrosion will interfere with consistent electrical flow out of the battery and to all the electri-



Rust is just as bad; can be worse if it prevents clamp nut from loosening.

cal devices in your car. It is imperative to clean and tighten these connections on a regular basis.

Start by removing both battery terminals. ON A NEGATIVE GROUND SYSTEM. ALWAYS RE-MOVE THE NEGATIVE CABLE FIRST, AND REIN-STALL IT LAST. This will prevent possible short circuits at a 'live' positive terminal. Clean the battery post and both inside and outside of the cable terminals with a stiff brush (you can pick up steel or brassbristled brushes for about a buck apiece). Use a cleaning solvent as recommended above. Once clean, smear the mating surfaces with petroleum jelly or dielectric grease. REINSTALL THE POSITIVE CA-BLE FIRST, THEN THE NEGATIVE CABLE. Clamp them tight, then smear more jelly/grease on the terminal tops. The aftermarket offers plastic "battery terminal toppers" which snap on top of the terminals. If your engine compartment is particularly messy, consider these as extra protection. They provide the added benefit of helping to prevent accidental shortcircuits.

Topping up the electrolyte, washing the battery top, and cleaning and tightening the terminals are all simple maintenance steps that any vehicle owner can accomplish. Even if you've never wrenched on your own car before, you can do this! Try it and let me know; drop me a line at r reina@msn.com and tell me what you were able to do, and/or ask me any auto-maintenance questions you have.

NEXT TIME: Electrical 102, The Test Light



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Classifieds

For Sale

Wanted

Trade



1941 Nash Ambassador. The car has been sitting inside a building for 3 years and will need some work but is in driver Condition. Kenvil NJ Contact John @862.432.2099 \$6,500



1962 Jaguar Mark II 3.8L Saloon. The car has been sitting inside a building for years and will need some work but is in driver Condition. Kenvil NJ Contact John @862.432.2099 \$9,500



1953 DeSoto Powermaster 4dr. The car has been sitting inside a building for 3 years and will need some work but is in driver Condition. Kenvil NJ Contact John @ 862.432.2099 \$6,500



1959 Nash Metropolitan. The car has been sitting inside a building for 3 years and will need some work but is in driver Condition. Kenvil NJ Contact John @862.432.2099 \$6,500



1973 Mercedes Benz 300 SEL. The car has been sitting inside a building for 3 years and will need some work but is in driver Condition. Contact John @862.432.2099 \$14,000



1949 Oldsmobile Futuramic Ninety-Eight. The car has been sitting inside a building for 3 years and will need some work but is in driver Condition. Contact John @862.432.2099 \$5,500



1954 Plymouth Belvedere 4-Door Sedan. The car has been sitting inside a building for years and will need some work but is in driver Condition. Contact John @862.432.2099 \$6,500



1953 Kaiser Manhattan. The car has been sitting inside a building for years and will need some work but is in driver Condition. Contact John @862.432.2099 \$4,500

NEW JERSEY REGION ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB

Classifieds

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Wanted

Trade



1950 Mercury Coupe V8 flathead completely rebuilt, many new parts, excellent chrome, OD transmission, runs and drives great. \$30,500. Ray 732-873-3094 (New Jersey)



1952 Ford Custom. – Flathead V8, stick with OD, excellent condition, runs great. Great touring car. \$14,500. Ray 732-873-3094 (New Jersey)

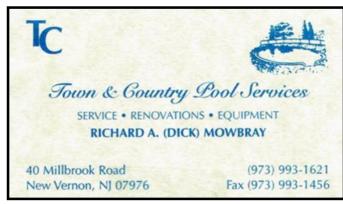


Over 250 children and their families visited Santa, and thousands of dollars were donated to NJ Institute for Disabilities. - Read the Full Story beginning on page 9















Our Mailing Address

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