

# THE ROAD MAP

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW JERSEY REGION  
ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA  
Est. 1951

## Happy New Year!



January 2023

Volume 68 Issue 01



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## NEXT MEETING

The January (761<sup>st</sup>) meeting of the  
New Jersey Region AACA will be held at  
the **Annual Awards Banquet** at  
The Chandelier at Flanders Valley,  
80 Pleasant Hill Road, Flanders, N.J.,  
**12:00 PM January 8<sup>th</sup> 2023**



## Officers

President: . . . . . Paul Wolfmeyer  
Vice Pres: . . . . . Abe Platt  
Secretary: . . . . . Sarah Pritchett  
Treasurer: . . . . . Tim Schimmel  
Membership: . . . . . Bill Pritchett

## Watchung Mountain Chapter

President: . . . . . George Ernst  
Vice Pres: . . . . . Robert Cacchio  
Secretary: . . . . . Evelyn Ernst

## Board of Directors

Jerry Peck  
Art Briggs  
Greg Roser  
Paul Wolfmeyer  
Tim Schimmel  
Bill Pritchett  
Sarah Pritchett  
Ed Geller

## Committees

50/50 . . . . . Bob Smith  
AACA Liaison . . . . . Bob Hedderick  
Annual Banquet . . . . . Betty Allen  
Archivist . . . . . Matt Verzi  
Awards . . . . . Jerry Peck  
By Laws . . . . . Art Briggs  
Celebrations . . . . . Brenda Zimmerman  
Chief Judge . . . . . Ed Geller  
Clothing and Accessories . . . . . Open  
Equipment . . . . . Art Briggs  
Parliamentarian . . . . . Greg Roser  
Participation Points . . . . . Vince DeLisi  
Refreshments . . . . . John Pieczynski  
Region Picnic . . . . . Peter Cullen Jr.  
Road Map Editor . . . . . Dick Bettie  
Roster Chairman . . . . . Art Briggs  
Sergeant At Arms . . . . . John Quattrocchi  
Social Media . . . . . Leif Mangulson  
Spring Fling . . . . . Bill Pritchett  
Spring Meet . . . . . Peter Cullen Jr.  
Sunshine . . . . . Sarah Pritchett  
Tour Fall Foliage . . . . . Peter Cullen Jr.  
Tour Fall Mystery . . . . . Bill Pritchett  
Welcoming . . . . . Denise Tuck

**Cover Photos  
provided by  
Dick Bettie**

## The Road Map

The Official  
Publication of the  
New Jersey Region  
Antique Automobile Club of America  
Serving Northern New Jersey since 1951

## Editor: Dick Bettie

170 Crescent Road  
Florham Park, NJ 07932  
973-615-2831

[NJRAACARoadmapEditor@gmail.com](mailto:NJRAACARoadmapEditor@gmail.com)

## A Message from the President



Greetings and Welcome to 2023!

As your new NJ Region President, let me introduce myself. I've been a member (#1345) since 2001, but couldn't attend meetings (except in the summer) due to a conflict with choir practice—I'm organist at a Mendham Church. About 2010, I lobbied for a change in choir practice to Wednesdays so I could participate in meetings regularly. The church organist role and squiring seniors to medical appointments has provided part-time employment/occupation since retirement from AT&T in 2011. My career with AT&T involved network management for many years and cellular management for the last twelve or so. My academic background is a BSEE from Iowa State and an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson. I have been a radio operator for many years, acquiring that interest from my father. I have just "retired" after five years as President of the New Providence Amateur Radio Club.

Vehicles—yes I have several ranging a 32 Plymouth PB to mainly fifties Chrysler products. The PB was restored and shown by Duane Copley in the first Grand National; I purchased it from Don Symonds who maintained it marvelously and toured frequently in it. A 52 Dodge B3B pickup was my first restoration in the early 90s—but it became a strong show vehicle so I bought a 53 Plymouth Belvedere to refurbish and to have something old to drive. My 51 Chrysler Crown Imperial "limo" was fully restored in 1999 and has been shown numerous times and, of course, used in family weddings. A 54 Chrysler Imperial hemi hardtop is a main driver and tourer; an HPOF-Original 56 Chrysler Windsor Newport (in pink) is a favorite parade vehicle and spring show attendee. And there are a couple others....

So how do I "see" the NJ Region? A fine collection of car lovers who come together for a variety of fun activities to use our old cars, see things on tours, bring joy to seniors and others, help each other resolve car troubles, and celebrate each other by being together.

The beauty of our club is our strength in numbers and the variety of the things we can do together. But, of course, our activities require leaders, volunteers, and participants. We have great leaders and "organizers" (although we can always use more).

I "partook" of our variety last year with the Spring Show, the summer tour to the Finger Lake area, a couple of nursing home visits, and volunteering a couple of days on the Glidden Tour. Particular highlights of the latter for me were 1) meeting the Glidden Tour participants who drove their 28 Model A station wagon from Idaho on a route through thirteen Canadian provinces to get to the Glidden start and 2) seeing the Roebling Museum (something I should have known about but didn't). What do you plan to partake of and/or volunteer for this year? Please step up to the "plate(s)" And let me know your thoughts about the NJ Region....

Paul Wolfmeyer, #1345 201-404-6914

## FROM THE Editor's Desk



### Yeah! it's 2023

Well, my first half year as editor is over and the full new year is here. I want to thank all of you who have helped me get up and running as editor of your newsletter. With the Glidden Tour as well as the Morgantown, PA Model A Meet over and most of the driving done for the year, I will have time to fix both of my "toys" for the next driving season.

In my spare time, I need to replace the clutch on the "A" and then rebuild the transmission on the Lotus Elan. I have put over 40,000 miles on the Ford since I "restored it" and as it chatters when starting to move, I think a new clutch is well over due. On the Lotus, however, after using it for work, as my daily driver, my daughter driving it to school in her senior year, 7-8 seasons of racing at Bryar Motorsport Park and now just touring in it, the synchros for first and second gear are pretty much non-existent. On top of that, the first and second gear detents don't do anything. Going downhill in second is interesting, upon letting off the gas it wants to go back into neutral all by itself. Well, that should keep me busy for a couple of days!



Anyhow, after that I am looking forward the driving them again. As a member of 6 car clubs, there is always plenty of rides and lots of touring, and oops, can't forget food too.

The Road Map will surely be a little thinner for the next month or two as there are very few events this time of year. I will still keep it bright, colorful and interesting.

If any of you go anywhere or do anything of interest in your cars, or just car related, please send me a short write up with some pictures and I'll get them into the newsletter for all to enjoy.

Well, next stop is the Annual Awards Banquet - I hope to see all of you there.

Happy New Year Dick Bettel #1614  
njraacaroadmapeditor@gmail.com



# upcoming EVENTS



## NJ AACAA EVENTS

### January

- 8: NJ Region AACAA 761<sup>st</sup> meeting and Awards Banquet at the Chandelier at Flanders Valley, 80 Pleasant Hill Rd, Flanders, NJ

### February

- 2 **NEW MEETING LOCATION** NJ Region AACAA 762<sup>nd</sup> meeting American Legion Post #279, 133 Main Street (Rt 202), Lincoln Park, NJ.

### March

- 2 NJ Region AACAA 763<sup>rd</sup> meeting American Legion Post #279, 133 Main Street (Rt 202), Lincoln Park, NJ.

### April

- 6 NJ Region AACAA 764<sup>th</sup> meeting American Legion Post #279, 133 Main Street (Rt 202), Lincoln Park, NJ.

### May

- 4 NJ Region AACAA 764<sup>th</sup> meeting American Legion Post #279, 133 Main Street (Rt 202), Lincoln Park, NJ  
7 NJ Region AACAA Spring Car Show. Lakeview Elementary School 44 Cooper Rd. Denville NJ Pete Cullen Chairman (location - TBD!)



## SEEKING ALL EQUIPMENT

Just before the Spring Meet, I started taking stock of what signs were available for this event. From a few sources, there were the usual corrugated plastic ones and some treasures (aka 'antiques') of wood and metal. Yikes! I also discovered about 20 safety orange vests, 10 of nice stitching with 'AACAA Official' and others where just "Dept" was left on. We got to use most of them at the Spring Meet and again recently during the Glidden Tour. While primary use is for visibility safety, event participants knew who to contact in case of a question or concern.

I am working to standardize all signs and to update our safety vests. In addition, there are 30 traffic cones that will be available. The vision is to have all signs, vests, cones and any other equipment available to the Event Chair or their designee via Art Briggs/Equipment Committee whenever needed for an event. By January, a listing of all items and quantities available will be published.

In the meanwhile, should you have any equipment (signs, vests, etc.) kindly bring to the next meeting so we can inventory and decide what may need to be updated.

Last, but not least, other than what's been mentioned, contact me on what you think is additionally needed to help support you as an Event Chair.

Thank you! Bob Hudak

## NATIONAL AACAA EVENTS

### January

- 26-28 Winter Nationals, Miami Florida  
Registration Deadline: January 14, 2023

### February

- 9-11 AACAA Annual Convention Williamsburg, VA

### April

- 13-15 Southeastern Spring Nationals, Charlotte, NC, Hornets Nest Regions

- 30-May 3, Southeastern Divisional Tour, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, E. Tennessee Region (Check out the Secret City Tour on May 1-3, 2023)

### May

- 18-20 Eastern Spring Nationals, Gettysburg, PA, Gettysburg Region.

### June

- 25-28 Eastern Divisional Tour, Hershey, PA, AACAA Library

### July

- 16-22 Founders Tour, Ontario & Quebec, Ontario Region

- 26-29 Special Eastern Summer Nationals, Norwich, NY, Rolling Antiquers Region

### August

- 10-12 Grand Nationals, Bettendorf, Iowa, Mississippi Valley Region

- 16-19 Vintage Tour, Aroostook County, Maine Region

### September

- 25-29 Western Divisional Tour, California Central Coast

### October

- 3-6 Eastern Fall Nationals, Hershey, PA, Flea Market set-up is Monday show date is Friday.

- 22-27 Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre1943), Thomasville, Georgia—VMCCA hosted

## Our Mailing Address

**NJ Region AACAA  
P.O. Box 890  
Morris Plains, NJ 07950**





# upcoming EVENTS



## LOCAL AACAA EVENTS

### March

- 5 Hamburg Swap Meet 2023 For more details and registration, contact Lester Manwiller 610-823-4656 Flyer @ <https://www.ontelauneeaaaca.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Hamburg-Swap-Meet-2023.pdf>
- 18 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Auto Show, Vero Beach, FL - Indian River Region, contact Bill Maule @ (772) 584-1842 or IndianRiverAACAA.com
- 18 Annual Celebration of Cars, Melbourne, FL - Cape Canaveral Region, contact Walt Kostrzewa (321) 543-1207
- 24-25 54<sup>th</sup> Parts and Swap Meet, Westminster, MD - Sugarloaf Mtn Region, contact Jack Gallagher @ (301) 674-5431
- 26, 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Car Show, Venice FL - Venice Region, contact Jack McKean @ (919) 413-5678. or VeniceAACAA.com
- 2 - 5 2023 AACAA Vintage Tour, Aroostook County, Maine - Maine Region

Schedule a Tour of AACAA National Headquarters & Library Research Center - contact Amoi Goldman, AACAA Reference Librarian & Outreach Coordinator, at 717-534-2082 or [agoldman@aaaca.org](mailto:agoldman@aaaca.org).

## OTHER AREA EVENTS

### January

- 1/28 - 2/5 Philadelphia Auto Show - The Pennsylvania Convention Center 1101 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Get your motor revving with more than a half of a million square feet of wood grain, leather and steel.

### February

- 10 - 12: The Atlantic City Auction & Car Show AC Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ  
The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic City Auction & Car Show will be bringing its three day auction and event to the Atlantic City Convention Center.  
<https://www.atlanticcitynj.com/events/event-list/the-atlantic-city-auction-car-show/>

### April

- 7 - 16 New York International Auto Show 2023 Javits Center, 429 11th Ave, New York, NY  
Held since 1900, this is the oldest automotive exhibition in North America
- 8 Autotopia USA x Elite Tuner indoor Show NJ, 97 Sunfield Ave, Edison, NJ 08837-3842
- 15 Hot Rods for Heroes II Car Truck and Motorcycle Show, 308 NJ-72, Barnegat, NJ  
Kick off the 2023 season at Jeff's Camp with Jersey Shore Car Shows and Jerzey HotWheelz Motor Club! Last year we did a cruise, this year we are doing a full show!!

### September

- 8 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Boys & Girls Club of Clifton Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show, Allwood Atrium, 22 Brighton Rd, Clifton, NJ

### Cars & Coffee:

Miller's Ale House Cars & Coffee (NJ) 554 Fellowship Rd, Mt Laurel Township, NJ 1/14, 8:00 AM-12 PM;  
1/22, 2/19, 3/26, 4/23 8:30 AM-12:00 PM

Red Bank Cars & Coffee (NJ) White Street Parking Lot, Red Bank,

Howell, 1st Saturday, 3rd Sunday Monthly: 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Aldrich Plaza, Howell, NJ Please purchase your coffee from one of the shops at Aldrich Plaza in return for their hospitality.

## CELEBRATIONS

By Brenda Zimmerman, NJ AACAA Region #1238

### Birthdays

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 2 Helen Jane Swan   | 9 Kirk Judkins   |
| 3 Greg Newell       | 12 Dick Bettel   |
| 4 John Kefalonitis  | 16 Mary Reynolds |
| 5 Duffy Bell        | 16 Bob Jephson   |
| 7 Brendan Hogan     | 25 Kathy Olexa   |
| 8 Mary Ann Griffith | 28 Joseph Durna  |
|                     | 31 Gregory Roser |

### Anniversaries

- |                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 15 Ray & Judy Fischer   | 56 years |
| 31 Ron & Nancy Hutchins | 62 years |

## NJ REGION AACA Minutes December 1, 2022, #760

The 760<sup>th</sup> NJ Region AACA meeting was held on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Morris Plains VFW; it was called to order at approximately 7:40 P.M. by President Gregory Roser, who also led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was abbreviated due to our Holiday Party happening this evening as well. Greg announced that this will be our last meeting at this location due to the VFW board tripling the rent for 2023.

**Guests or new members:** There were no guests or new members in attendance.

**Motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting:** Sergeant at Arms John Quattrocchi made a motion, member Rich Reina seconded; all in favor with none opposed.

**Correspondence, Sarah Pritchett:** We received a thank-you letter from The Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation regarding the \$200 donation to the Nockamixon State Park for its use during the Glidden Tour.

**Treasurer's Report, Tim Schimmel:** A motion was made by member Vince DeLisi and seconded by John Quattrocchi, Sergeant at Arms, to approve this report; all members were in favor with none opposed to accepting this report.

### **President's Report, Greg Roser:**

1. Our meeting location is changing for 2023 to the American Legion, 133 Main Street (Route 202), Lincoln Park. We signed a lease for \$250/month for one year.
  - a. We will still meet on the first Thursday of each month.
  - b. This venue is handicap accessible with ample parking.
  - c. Our first meeting in this new location will be February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.
2. 2023 Awards Banquet will be held on January 8<sup>th</sup>. So far, we have 49 people registered; we need a minimum of 65.

### **Activities, Paul Wolfmeyer:**

1. January 8<sup>th</sup>: Annual Awards Banquet & Officer installation, Chandelier at Flanders Valley
2. February 2<sup>nd</sup>: NJ Region AACA meeting in our new location
3. February 9-11<sup>th</sup>: AACA National Meeting, Williamsburg, VA

**RoadMap Editor, Dick Bettie:** Feature cars are needed for the RoadMap.

**Membership, Bill Pritchett:** No report, due to his absence.

**Sunshine Sarah Pritchett:** None.

**Glidden Tour, Vince DeLisi & Jerry Peck:** The committee is officially done. The checking account has been closed as of yesterday; Tim has the check. The video from the Glidden Tour will be shown at the banquet in January.

**Awards Banquet, Betty Allen:** Reservations are due by December 4<sup>th</sup>, so please get them to her as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Vice President Paul Wolfmeyer to waive all other business and proceed with the Holiday Party. Sergeant at Arms John Quattrocchi seconded; all members were in favor with none opposed.

**Adjournment:** 7:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Pritchett #1504S, Secretary

## NOTICE!

### New meeting location effective February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

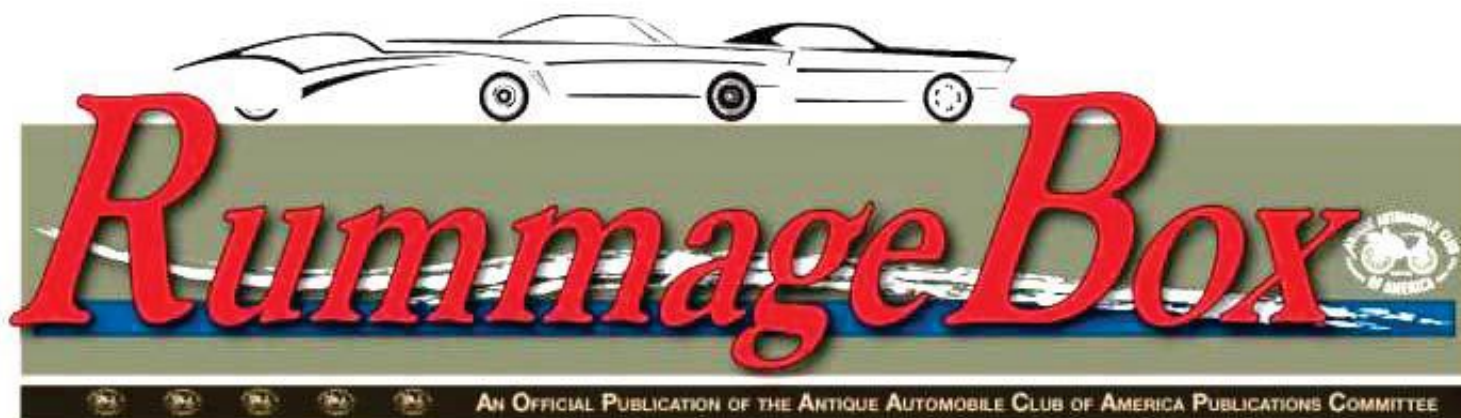
Due to circumstances out of our control, the new NJ Region AACA meeting location is the American Legion Post #279, 133 Main Street (Rt 202), Lincoln Park, NJ. We will still meet on the first Thursday of the month at 8:00 PM and the building is handicap accessible. We have a large meeting room and the facility is comparable to our old location. Thank you for your patience and support during this move.

Our last meeting at the Morris Plains VFW will be the December 2022 holiday party.

Gregory Roser #1398 / President NJ Region AACA

908-403-6486 / g.rosier@verizon.net





## Average Joe

By Fred Trusty  
AACA Executive Vice President

My name is Joe Average and I own a 1982 Camaro. I wish it was a Z28 but it's just a base car with an automatic transmission, a/c, power steering and brakes, and an aftermarket radio. From the factory it had a 305 V8 with a 2bbl carb, but by the time I inherited it from my Uncle Steve, the engine was worn out. I replaced it with a later model 350 V8 with a 4bbl that I got from a guy I work with, Jim Normal. I replaced the original wheels with a set of Rallye wheels and it runs so much better with those shiny wheels. It's dark blue, or at least you can still see blue in a few areas but it's solid with no rust anywhere. It's paid for, and it has sentimental value since my uncle bought it new with help from Grandpa Average.

My son just joined the military, and my daughter will graduate from college soon. I wish I could retire and have more time to work on my car, but retirement is 10 – 15 years away. But, at least with the kids gone, I'm finally going to have some money to work on my car. I suggested to my wife that I could save some money if she would park her car in the driveway instead of the garage so I could have a place to work on my car. I love our dog, Zephyr. He's like one of the family but his doghouse is not nearly large enough for the two of us, so I'll probably have to hire out a lot of the work on my car. I can't afford a full restoration or a custom show car. All I want is a dependable nice-looking old car that I can drive to car cruises and other car events.

At lunch one day, I was talking to a co-worker, Ordinary Wayne. He told me about a car club that he belongs to. I attend as many local cruise nights as I can, but I've never heard of AACA. I can't remember exactly what that stands for, Another American Car Association or something like that. He gave me a shiny magazine with a beautiful old car on the cover. He said they have a

local club and he invited me to one of their meetings. I told him I couldn't join a club like that because I don't own a real antique car like a Model T. He said, "You don't have to own a car like that. Look at me, I have a 1997 Ford F150 pickup." Then he asked me if I like to eat. Strange question but yeah, I like to eat. "The club has regular events, and it usually involves good food." Tongue in cheek, he said, "We're not really a car club, we're a dinner club. It's just coincidence that we drive old cars. We're a family-oriented club so bring your wife, kids, grandkids or friends." I told him I'd have to think about it. I'm not a club kind of guy.

A few days later I started looking through the magazine he gave me, Antique Automobile. Nice magazine but how did that one guy get to be a vice president in a big fancy club like that? He just looks like an Average Fred to me. I turned a few pages and wow, there's an unrestored Camaro just like mine but what's a DPC car? Hey, there's a short story about the local chapter Ordinary Wayne was talking about. There he is with a bunch of other cars on a cruise to Average Park, USA. "Honey, come look at this. This looks like it might be a lot of fun."





# Fanwood's Famous Christmas House



Fanwood's Famous Christmas House again Lights the Night Sky. The grand lighting of the "Christmas House" display for the 2022-2023 season was November 25, 2022 and runs until January 8, 2023. For the 8th year, donations are accepted for NJ Institute for Disabilities.



There is a secure lock box next to the front door. Donations can also be made online at [www.njid.org](http://www.njid.org). Select "Roser Christmas House" and the donation will be credited to the fund-raising campaign, or on VENMO to 908-403-6486. In 2021 \$thousands was collected and donated to the charity. Donations are rolling in, and we hope to have another very successful year. All display and lighting expenses are paid by the Roser family. The monstrous light and yard display extravaganza is the



work of one person, Greg Roser, who starts preparing the display in September. The display is a blend of wooden







NJ Region AACA members  
Anthony and Pete

home-made displays, purchased displays, and donated items, and is a collection started 40 years ago. This is a traditional display with no flashing lights, and soft Christmas music playing. Inflatable were reluctantly added a few years ago on the request of many delighted children. These inflatables were all donated by region members Bob & Pat Kapral.



NJ Region AACA  
members Betty, Bobbi,  
Santa (Greg Roser),  
Dick, John & Pat

After the regular date for Santa's arrival on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> was postponed due to heavy rains and winds, Santa arrived on the following Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The planned 2-1/2 hour Santa visit was extended to 4 hours, as Santa pledged to see every child who was on line. In addition to family, NJ Region AACA members assisting Santa (Region President Greg Roser) were June Roser, Betty Allen, Dick & Bobbi Bettel, John & Pat Quattrocchi, Pete Cullen and Anthony Cecala. Approximately 270 children visited Santa and the line was winding around the block. An additional 50+ gifts were distributed to those who missed the event and contacted Santa. This is a record number of gifts distributed in one season. 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 33 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 and PBA Local #123 for their support. The display is open at 83 Paterson Road, Fanwood NJ until January 8th, 2023 from dusk to 10PM. Questions about the display or the charity can be directed to Greg's cell phone 908-403-6486.

Greg & June Roser #1398

Greg is a member and  
2022 President of the NJ Region AACA



The Road Map is the newsletter published monthly by the New Jersey Region AACA Inc. Reprinting articles and other items is permitted providing due credit is given to this publication and the author. **All items for publication must be submitted by the 20th day of the prior month** to the editor, Dick Bettel, either by email to:

[NJRAACARoadmapEditor@gmail.com](mailto:NJRAACARoadmapEditor@gmail.com)

or via USPS to:

The Road Map, 170 Crescent Road, Florham Park, NJ 07932

## THE ROADMAP NEEDS YOUR CAR AND IT'S STORY

COVER CARS ARE NEEDED FOR THE COMING  
MONTHS. WE WILL HELP WITH THE  
ARTICLE AND THE PHOTOS.

Contact: [NJRAACARoadmapEditor@gmail.com](mailto:NJRAACARoadmapEditor@gmail.com)





## Ron Hutchins' 1939 Ford Pickup Truck



The Ford came from Kansas and previously belonged to the Kansas DOT. The pickup was in sad shape as



purchased and a complete restoration was begun in July, 2002. I did most of the work myself with the exception of final painting in the correct Ford color. The truck is Green



with black running boards and pin striped in the correct cream color. The replacement Coker tires with tubes and wide five bolt pattern wheels are the original factory heavy duty truck wheels. Ford trucks had an all metal pickup bed with hardwood under the metal and all the wood had to be made. The wood between the cab and







well. The rear axle ratio is good for 50 mph, but not much more. I like the flowing fenders and think they make the truck look nice, but the entire early Ford is attractive to me,

Ron Hutchins #1470

the frame rails was difficult to mold as replacement were not available. Because the truck was ordered from the factory by the Kansas DOT it had overload rear springs, heavy duty air cleaner and a forced air heater. The heater did not last and the truck isn't fun to drive if the weather is



frosty. I installed a full flow engine oil system with a spin off oil filter and after market exhaust headers. The original engine, a 221 cubic inch V8 has been rebuilt and runs



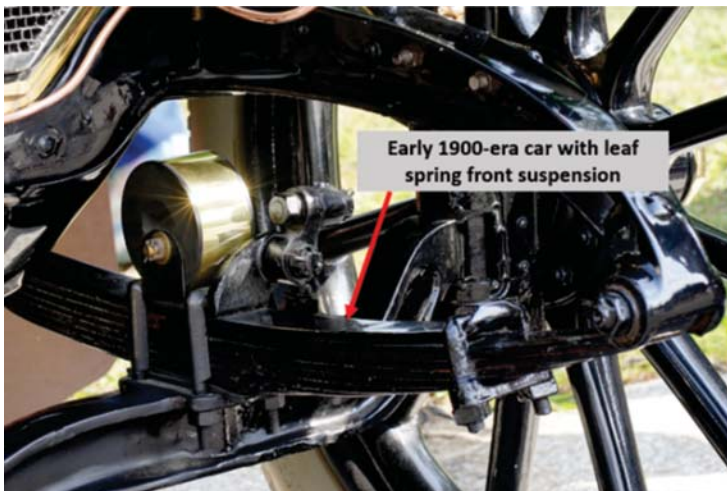




## Suspension Part 1 Springs and Shocks The 3 Types of Springs

While springs are not required to operate a motor vehicle, your ride would be quite uncomfortable without them. The primary purpose of springs is to act as a cushion in helping to isolate road shocks from the vehicle occupants. Springs as part of a suspension system existed long before the invention of the motor vehicle. Horse-drawn carts and carriages had springs. Motor vehicles have used three different types of springs as part of suspension design: leaf springs, coil springs, and torsion springs, usually simply called torsion bars.

Wikipedia credits the invention of the elliptical-shaped leaf spring to Obadiah Elliott, a British inventor who patented the design way back in 1804. These elliptical leaf springs were flat, long, and narrow pieces of iron or steel which were allowed a certain amount of flex without breaking. As a wheel hit a bump or dropped into a depression, the leaf spring would move up or down accordingly. As the wheel returned back into position on the path, the leaf spring bent back into its original position, which meant that the cart or carriage was minimally affected by the wheel's movement.



It was only natural that the first forays into motor vehicle design would carry the leaf spring concept forward. Cars could have four leaf springs, one at each corner, or a leaf spring could be mounted transversely, meaning one

spring per front or rear. As motor vehicles were heavier than horse-drawn carts, leaf springs became “multi-leaf” to support additional weight. The primary advantages of leaf springs on cars were low cost, ease of manufacture and assembly, and low maintenance. Their disadvantages included the large amount of space they occupied within the chassis, and limited means of fine-tuning the suspension, and therefore, the passengers’ ride comfort.

Coil springs, common in many industries, are made from steel which is wound into a coil shape. When a car’s wheel moves up and down, the coil spring can compress and extend, then return to its original position. Just like a leaf spring, the coil spring’s primary purpose is to isolate the passenger compartment from these suspension movements. Coil springs take up less room than leaf springs, and depending on factors such as thickness and strength, they can be engineered to provide a softer or firmer ride, depending on the desired driving characteristics of the car. For American cars, the change from leaf springs to coil springs started at the front. Almost every American car through the 1970s was front engine and rear wheel drive. As engines grew larger and heavier, front coil springs provided several advantages. They took up less room than leaf springs and were easily adapted to front end suspension design. As engineers developed more understanding of suspensions, and as customers demanded more comfortable and compliant ride characteristics, coil springs were added to the rear as well.

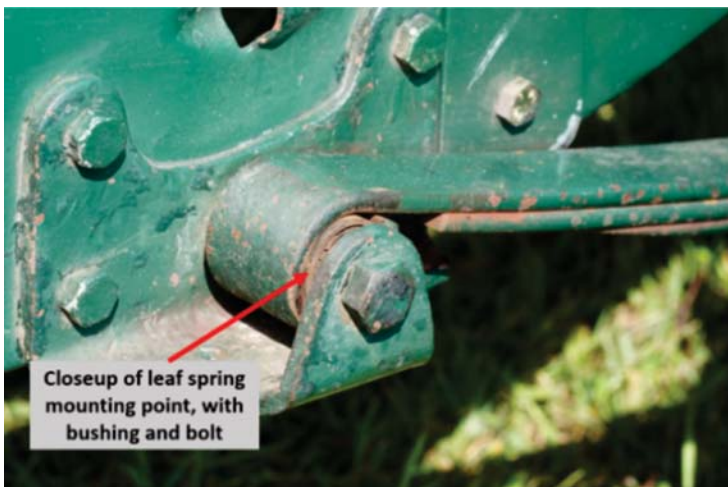


Our third spring design, torsion bars, first appeared in the 1930s on European cars such as the French Citroen which was front wheel drive, and on the German VW Beetle, which was rear-engined and rear wheel drive. On American vehicles, they first came into prominent use on Packards in the 1950s. But torsion bars are most famously associated with Chrysler Corporation products, starting in 1957 as the company moved to unit-body construction. Think of a torsion bar as a coil spring



that has been unwound and shaped into a straight piece of steel. The “spring” in a torsion bar occurs when the bar is twisted along its axis. Just like leaf and coil springs, the torsion bar accommodates upward or downward wheel deflection, then returns to its original position. Advantages of torsion bars include a soft ride and minimal space intrusion compared to leaf or coil springs. A disadvantage is that the spring rate (the relative amount of deflection) cannot be as easily fine-tuned as it can with coil springs.

In all cases, whether leaf, coil, or torsion bar, it is the vehicle’s springs which determine ride height. This is often misunderstood, and I have personally encountered many vehicle owners who think that it’s the shock absorbers or other suspension components (such as control arms) which determine ride height. If an owner desires to raise a vehicle’s height, then larger, taller, and/or stiffer springs can be installed. If one wants to lower the ride height, then shorter or softer springs will accomplish this. For our AACA vehicles, most of us have the goal to maintain or restore factory-original ride height. On a 50+ year old car, springs may have sagged to the point where a fresh set of springs will achieve the desired result of re-establishing correct ride height.



Aside from spring sag, my experience with cars is that springs rarely ‘go bad’. Living in the Northeast, I have been witness to cases where springs, especially coil springs, have rusted and snapped. Multi-leaf springs can also become rusty and may create excessive noise from the leaves rubbing against each other. With all spring types, it is their mounting points which may require attention. The spring mounts are usually made of rubber and that rubber deteriorates over time. Leaf springs are mounted to a car’s chassis with rubber bushings through the spring’s “eyes” at each end. Coil springs may have a rubber seat or rubber-encased bearing or bushing at the top, bottom, or both ends. Torsion bars likewise are mounted to the underbody through rubber bushings.



When disassembling a suspension with the intention of replacing any of these bushings, utmost care must be exercised because springs are installed under tension. A coil spring designed to hold up the front end of a car that weighs 4,000 pounds is compressed at all times. If proper care is not taken when removing such a spring, it could fly loose with enough force to seriously or fatally injure someone. Suspension work may or may not be within the working ability of the typical DIY home mechanic. Always read and follow the recommended service procedure as published by the vehicle manufacturer. Leaf springs are easier to work on than coil springs. Coil springs usually require use of a spring compressor. Again, educate yourself before embarking on a repair job like this, especially if you have not done this kind of work before. If you doubt your abilities, you are far better off paying a professional to perform the job for you.

*Next month in The Ramblings: Springs and Shocks Part 2*  
 Rich Reina



*You are Cordially Invited to the  
Annual Banquet and Installation of Officers  
Sunday, January 8, 2023*

The monthly meeting and installation of the 2023 officers of the NJ Region AACA will be held at the Annual Awards Banquet at the Chandelier at Flanders Valley, 80 Pleasant Hill Road, Flanders, N.J.

The festivities begin at 12:00 pm with dinner being served around 1:00 pm

There will be a cash bar

Please complete and mail the form below by December 4<sup>th</sup>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Region No. \_\_\_\_\_

Seating Preferences: \_\_\_\_\_

**Past the Deadline  
For Information Only!**

Indicate your Menu Choice

Slice of Tenderloin	_____	\$ _____
Chicken Marsala	_____ @ \$39.00	\$ _____
Salmon	_____ @ \$39.00	\$ _____
	Total	\$ _____

The Club is subsidizing a portion of the cost so the prices are approximate

**All Dinners Include**

Pasta, Salad, Baked Potato, Vegetables,  
Dinner Rolls, Soft Drinks, Coffee, Tea, Cookies and Ice Cream

Make Checks Payable to: **NJ Region AACA**

All Seating is Reserved. You may make up your own table of 10.  
Table seating priority is based on early receipt of paid reservations.  
Please indicate your seating preference with your reservation.  
If no seating preference is made, the committee will seat you.

**Mail this form along with your check by December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to:  
Betty Allen, 20 Third Avenue, Garwood, NJ 07027**



## 1997 SVT Cobra Mustang

Here are pictures of my 1997 SVT Cobra Mustang, which receive a best unrestored trophy at this year's NJRAACA car show just after rejoining the club.

Bern Davis #1673



## Rub A Dub, Dub



I am sure everyone has a picture of a family washing their car, but this one is indeed unique. The cars are being washed not on a driveway or in the yard, but in a creek (the upstate New York term for a stream is a "creek")! The picture was taken in upstate New York south of the town of Little Falls in the summer of 1952. On the extreme left is my Dad's 1946 Chevrolet with just a little bit of my Mom's arm showing. The next person over is my Aunt Ann, then my older sister Arelene Eyerman, then my Dad, with the sprinkling can and finally my Uncle Sam with the bucket. The car in the middle is my uncle's 1948 Chevrolet. I always remember this car because it had a rear window wiper, something not seen on many cars back then (and for the next 40 years!). I haven't the faintest idea of what the car without a trunk lid on the far right is. At this point the stream ran over a smooth rock outcrop right next to the road so you could drive directly from the road into the stream. Because water was metered in the town, many residents opted to wash their cars in the stream and save a dollar on their water bill. I am sure the New York State Environmental Commission would have fits over anyone doing this today!! As a by the way, since the only person that was there but is not in the picture is me, so I must have been the one behind the camera.

Not a bad picture for a 7 year old!

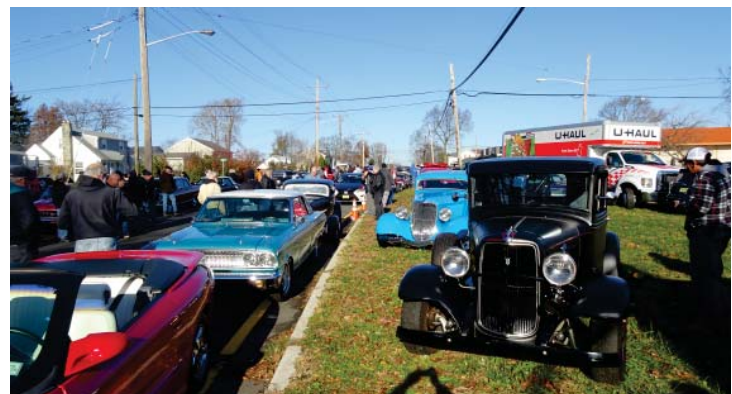
Regards, Jan Eyerman #1459



## Wayne's Auto Body Shop Toys for Tots Car Show

On Sunday, December 4, 2022, I took the Model A to the Toys for Tots Car Show in South Amboy. By 10:00 am, 2 truck loads of toys were already collected. There were cars parked on the side of the road for at least 5-6 blocks in each direction: hot rods, custom cars, rat rods, trucks, a little of everything. Since Bobbi doesn't like cars shows, she stayed home and made fruitcake. Enjoy the pictures.

Dick Bettel #1614





# 2022 Pictorial Year in Review



Dairy Queen Ice Cream



Roebling Museum



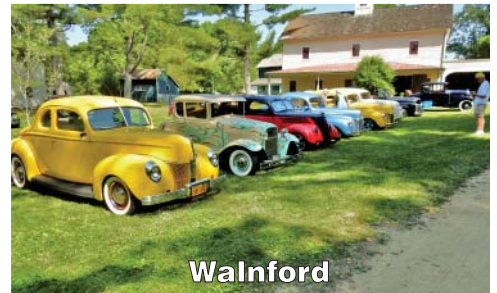
Puleo's Cadillac Garage



S. Plainfield Parade



Brightview of Warren



Walnford



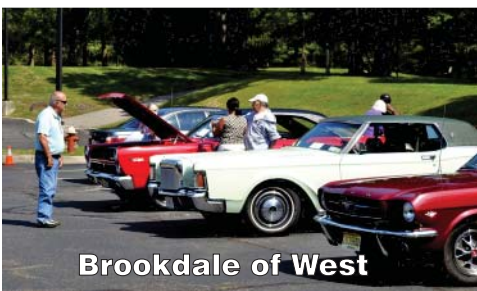
Glidden Tour



Glidden Tour



VanSant Airport



Brookdale of West



Summer Tour



Hillsborough Parade



VanSant Airport



Back Door Garage



PrivateCollectionChevies



Lantern Hill



Glidden Freshman Graduation



Glidden Tour



## Antique and Classic Auto Repair and Restoration



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mike.manganelli@icloud.com

Mike Manganelli  
NJ Region #943  
BCA #13469  
VCCA #42127

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edsymonds57@gmail.com

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Ed Symonds

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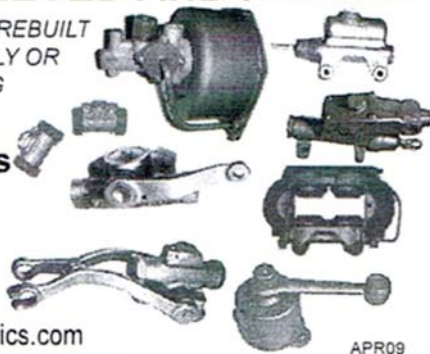
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## NEW JERSEY REGION ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB

## Classifieds

For Sale

Wanted

Trade

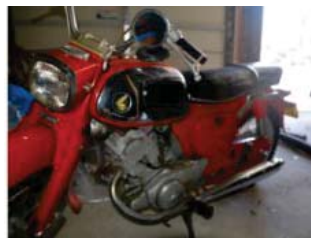
**1969 Mercury Marauder X-100**

Black with tan/gold interior. All original except for a 15 year old paint job. 67,000 miles and is equipped with a 429 CID, engine rated at 350 HP, AT, and a postreaction rear. The car drives great and is offered As-Is for \$15,000 or best offer. To see, call Mickey Easse at 908-272-4657.

**1941 Cadillac Fleetwood 60-Special**

All Original, Ready for Restoration. 66,749 original miles, 346 cu in flat head V-8, HydraMatic transmission; has not run in several years. Recent appraisal report available. Bring \$7,500 and a tow truck and it's yours.

Contact: Larry Miloscia Jr 201-566-6515

**1964 Honda CA-95 "Baby Dream"**

Benly Touring Bike motorcycle. Odometer: 27,121 miles. Twin 154.5 cc rated at 16.5 hp; 4-speed transmission. Does not run, likely electrical problem; needs restoration work. Recent appraisal report available. Bring \$900 and it's yours. Contact: Larry Miloscia Jr 201-566-6515

**1978 Cadillac Coupe DeVille**

Looking to sell a 1978 Cadillac Coupe DeVille. Every panel needs work. Cloth interior is in good condition, no tears or stains. Had been maintained, engine, brakes and tranny are good. Runs well for it's age and use.

Bill Daughtry [bdaughtry@verizon.net](mailto:bdaughtry@verizon.net) (908) 230-4177

**1983 Buick Service Manuals**

A pile of books six and a half inches high for sale 1983 Buick Service Manuals for all 1983 models. 4 Books, Chassis Service Manuals Volume I and II...Fisher Body 1983 Service Manual...Delco GM 2000 Series ETR Sound System Owner's Manual radio stereo Asking \$50

Rob and Sue Schmidt 973-625-9345 [susmail@verizon.net](mailto:susmail@verizon.net)

**2 Flathead V8 Engines for sale**

Stored in a shed in Harding,

Rob and Sue Schmidt 973-625-9345 [susmail@verizon.net](mailto:susmail@verizon.net)

**For Sale**

My dad built and opened a Tydol gas station in Middlesex NJ in the 1950s, I have the 7up soda machine, and full quarts of motor from that time, looking for someone interested to purchase items because the items were also a part of the cars at that time. Please let members know I have items they might be interested in. Thanks, I can send pictures if needed.

David Maehr [dcmaher1@gmail.com](mailto:dcmaher1@gmail.com) (908) 328-3656 Thank you and have a wonderful day!

**Wanted: 1931 Ford Model A Deluxe Coupe,**

other body styles considered. Please email [mrosenberg@ctrlp.com](mailto:mrosenberg@ctrlp.com) or call Mike Rosenberg at 908-247-1637.

**Anniversaries/Birthdays**

With all the changes due to Covid and other interferences, I would like to update the records for all members who would like to have either their birthday and/or wedding anniversaries in the Road Map. I only need the date of the birthday, month and day. For the anniversary, please give me the date and year.

Thank you,

Bill Pritchett NJAACA #963 908-534-9069

[njaaca@gmail.com](mailto:njaaca@gmail.com)



