

# Vintage Times

Volume 44 Number 12 December 2025 ♦ A monthly publication of the Treasure Coast Region



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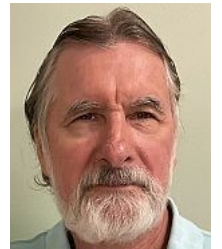
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## Upcoming Meetings

The December General Meeting will be on **Saturday, December 13th.** Please see the announcement on page 4 for details.

Car show season is in full swing. There are many shows each weekend. Get those prized pieces of iron out there & enjoy while the weather is near perfect. Dec 6 Keiser U in Tradition, Dec 13 at the PSL Civic Center, Dec 20 at Martin County High School. Of course there is the weekly cruise ins, Jan 10 at the Elks Club on Lennard Rd. in PSL.

This year has flown by. Another COOL Show in the books. A huge thank you to all members who helped make it a huge success. Chris Levy & I met at the Military Museum Thur. Nov 20 & presented a check in the amount of \$1000.00 to them. They were very grateful.



Last installment of my racing years. I moved on to a Super Late Model team in PSL. It was a traveling show.

The Sun Belt Super Series. It was the most fun I've had racing & the most work. One year it was 660 hrs.

We had 2 cars owned by Pete Willoughby & driven by his son Barry. Me and another guy were all we had. Barry had success in the pavement modified winning the series championship. Running a super late model was a totally different ball game. Pete asked me to be on the team when he saw my dedication while racing in the Hooters series. So basically, I was the tire specialist, fuel & anything else that needed done. We built 2 cars from bare chassis up. One had a Danny O'Connell engine & the other had a Rahilly 685 hp. engine. The Rahilly from RahMoc racing, car # 75 driven by Neil Bonnett. Butch Mock, Bob & Dick Rahilly are friends of Pete from Miami. The Allisons were also from Miami before moving to Hueytown, Ala.

As stated, it was a traveling show which got old quickly. Anytime Pete would call & say we are leaving at a certain time & pack a bag which meant it was an overnigher. We ran at racetracks in Fla., Ga. & S.C. from 3/4 mile to 1/4 mi. Lakeland was my favorite at 3/4 of a mi. It is not there anymore. Other tracks in Fla. included Bronson, Ocala, Orlando, New Smyrna, (many times for speed weeks) Punta Gorda, St. Augustine, Inverness, Sebring twice. Cordele, Ga. Hardeeville, S.C twice. One weekend there was a Triple Crown race, 3 tracks in 3 days: New Smyrna, Orlando & Punta Gorda, which was rained out. I found the showers at Inverness & came back to the pit area before the race smelling like I had not been at the racetrack all day. Took some ribbing for that antic.

One time at New Smyrna during speed weeks, on the last lap of practice, a car spun off turn 2. Barry spun the car out to miss him & a New York guy named Larry Galenas came out of turn 2 full blast & wiped out the whole right side of the car right in front of us. You know it is a bad day when they bring the car back on 2 wreckers. We were done & came home to rebuild it. Another time at New Smyrna, on a restart, a guy named Robert Yoho stabbed the brake instead of the clutch. A large mess ensued. The race shop had all the equipment one needed to build a race car. Mig, Tig, 8' sheet metal brake, box brake, welders, mill, lathe, bead roller, air tools & more. It was a treat to work there. We even made our own A-arms for the car to get the right geometry on the front end. I would try to change it often after practice while reading the tire temps to get as much tire patch on the pavement as possible. Stagger on an oval track is right to left, in road racing (Sebring) it's front to back.

We had highs & lows with the #74 Pennzoil Racing Chevy. Finished 3 rd. at Lakeland once, twice was a 3rd place at Sebring & a 4th in Ocala. A 3 rd. in S.C. once.

The right side getting wiped off at New Smyrna, getting T-boned at Lakeland on the 1st lap of practice & blowing up the engine last lap of practice at Sebring were the lows. We put it in the trailer, came back to the race shop in PSL, worked all night, called Char & she brought us pizza. Char went back with us early in the am & we finished 3rd. Key to road racing is STAY ON COURSE !

## President's Message continued...

We finished 6th, 5th & 4th - 3 yrs in a row in the SBSS & we were a small team with not a lot of \$\$\$\$. The Pennzoil sponsor had a 2-seater show car & a Thunder Roadster. Had the chance to make some laps in both at New Smyrna. The 2-seater was a tank. Much preferred the Roadster. It was an Indy-style car.

Barry spent 5 yrs. going through an engineering school in Orlando. He almost signed on with a NASCAR team Hendrick Motorsports but made the wise decision to be employed by Boeing Aircraft in Wash. state. He is the chief engineer on the main center section of 777 Dream Liner. He is doing very well & just received both race cars he drove back in the day.

With the help of the race shop building the hot rod truck was way much easier. That was a decade long build as I was side tracked racing for a few yrs. Pete treated me kindly. He always paid for my entrance fee any overnight stays & dinner if we were out of town.

Pic is of a custom designed & fabricated tire roller. The usual roller had 4 rollers on the horizontal. After a while it would break the tip off the thin tire tape measure as it passed over the rollers. So, I made this one on opposing angles to eliminate the problem.



We had a small contest at the race shop one Saturday. Loser bought lunch. Guess how much the pit/ crash cart weighs? We got the scales out, jacked it up & set it down on them. Do not remember who lost but the pit cart weighed over 1600 lbs.!

Good times at the race shop. The engine room had a TV so we kept tabs on any race that was on while we were working on the race cars. While racing prep, going to the tracks, racing & returning home also had a business to attend to Strictly Custom. Furniture restoring, repairing, refinishing & custom cabinet construction. I was working hard & playing hard and contracted a severe case of pneumonia in 2001. Almost killed me. After 3 hrs. & \$3500 in the emergency ward (down 3 liters on liquid) I was feeling pretty good. It took 6 months to regain full strength.



Pics of custom-made inlay tall chest of drawers & matching nightstands. I am working on the matching triple dresser.



Just finished the 3 small cases for the spent shells. They are for a longtime friend from Haugen, Wis. that I went to school with. Her husband passed away last summer. She lives in New Smyrna Beach & they will be sent this Wed in time for Christmas. Also just finished repairing a 3 legged stool that had a leg sheared off thanks to Andre's referral.



Ah Christmas, another trip around the sun for me. So, all have a Merry Christmas & a Happy Safe New Year. If anyone is traveling for the holidays, please be careful out on the dangerous highways. In the span of 1 hr. last week I had 3 passes on a double yellow & a left turn on red. On the way to the COOL show had a red light runner at 6:15 in the morning. What's the hurry? Safer to stay home. Take care & that's all folks! Denny

# Secretary's Report

## Treasure Coast Vintage Car Club/AACA General Membership Meeting – October 27, 2025

Hosts for the November meeting were John and Ann DeLisa. This meeting was held at the Elliott Museum with members opting to tour the Museum followed by the club's meeting & lunch.

**General Meeting:** President Denny Dahle called the meeting to order at 12:47 pm. Introductions: Guest were welcomed. New Members introduced & welcomed: Don & Angela Malloy.

**Secretary's Report:** Ann Ridle, was present, but not asked to report.

**Treasurer:** Barb Joyce reported the club had plenty of money. She also noted a check for a \$1000 donation to the Road to Victory Museum had been issued.

**Membership:** Sandee Searle was absent, but sent word the club has 108 memberships..

**Newsletter:** Editor Sally Franklin said she would publish the December edition of *Vintage Times* after Thanksgiving.

**Website:** Webmaster Bob Ridle stated our website is "up to date". Renewal forms for TCVCC and the AACA are available via links on the website. He also noted the AACA link would allow you to renew your membership quickly "on-line", but the time for your new membership cards to arrive would likely be somewhat slow.

**Special Events:** President Dahle noted several of the many scheduled car shows available. A calendar of local events can be found on the club's Website and in *Vintage Times*.

### **Committees:**

**Club Store:** Per Rosemary Rayman, the store is "good to go" for various purchases.

**Legislative:** Jay Smith relayed no new legislative action for antique vehicles this month.

**Sunshine Report:** Rosemary Rayman sent get well card to Frank LoVerso.

**Sargent at Arms:** John DeLisa, all is good following the Cool Show, except some flags recently borrowed had not yet been returned.

**Club Tours:** From Dave Brown, the Spring Tour likely will be in late April or in May.

**Show Updates:** COOL Show: President Denny Dahle reported he and COOL Show Co-Chair Chris Levy presented the club's \$1,000 donation to the Road to Victory Military Museum.

Spring Forward Show: Some discussion about the club again possibly hosting this show in March. More discussion to be held later.

**Old Business:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee (Barb Joyce, Sally Franklin, Bob Ridle & Sandee Searle), COB Bob Ridle presented the proposed slate of candidates for the 2026 TCVCC Officers & Board of Directors, noting that current Director \*Mike Franze had recently requested to be replaced (1 yr. term) due to a change in his working hours.

**New Business:** The election of the TCVCC Officers & Board of Directors for 2026. Following the presentation of the NC's slate, Bob Ridle reminded membership that the floor was now open for any additional nominees, including self-nominations, for an Officer or Board Position. After no additional candidates were presented, Bob made a motion that the slate of candidates be accepted by acclamation. Motion was seconded, and the slate was accepted unanimously (voice vote) by membership.

**Next Meeting:** Hosts Barb & Ed Joyce - TCVCC December Christmas Pot Luck Dinner & General Meeting will be held Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM, at the Bocchino Community Center in Langford Park, Jensen Beach. Details on the club's Website & in *Vintage Times*.

There being no further business, today's meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Ridle, Secretary





# General Meeting Notice

## TCVCC December Christmas Pot Luck General Meeting

**SATURDAY, December 13th at 12:00 PM**

Langford Park  
Vince Bocchino Community  
Park Center 2369 NE Dixie  
Hwy, Jensen Beach, FL 34957

**RSVP is a must** – by Tuesday, **December 9th** to Barbara Joyce-772-418-0273 or  
[Joyce3063@aol.com](mailto:Joyce3063@aol.com). I will respond back to you confirming your RSVP.

**NOTE:** I need your **RSVP** so I can plan on the amount of food to buy. If you don't RSVP, you are more than welcome, but you will be asked to be at the end of the line, as it is not fair to the people who did RSVP.

The club is paying for the following:

- Rental cost of the facility
- All paper products and utensils
- Ham, turkey, and gravy
- Rolls & butter
- Ice tea, Lemonade, bottle water and soda.

FREE to all TCVCC members. Guests are welcome at a cost of \$2.50 p/p. Please bring a covered dish to share. If your last name starts with....

A-J - Starch (i.e. potatoes, mac & cheese, pasta or whatever starch you like to share)

K-Z- Vegetable (i.e. vegetable casserole, broccoli salad, fruit salad, cole slaw or whatever vegetable you like to share)

The club will have a special guest (friends of Bob and Ann Ridle) to play Christmas music for us to get us in the Christmas mood! And since this is our Christmas Meeting, let's get festive and wear something Christmassy and get your picture taken by our clubs' professional photographer, Andre Rayman!

**This year, in the Christmas spirit, TCVCC will be collecting canned goods and all non-perishable food items for the House of Hope. Please bring your items to help the less fortunate.**




# Upcoming National Events

## AACA National & Regional Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

**AACA Winter Nationals**  
**March 26-28, 2026**  
 Georgia Highland College • Cartersville, GA

**Host Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott Cartersville**  
 5460 Highway 20, Cartersville, GA 30121  
 678-721-1660, ask for AACA rate



For more information, visit [Lakeallatoona.aaca.com](http://Lakeallatoona.aaca.com)  
 Request registration materials from AACA National

*Puerto Rico Region*



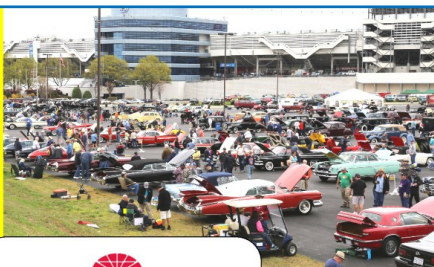
1934 MG PA

**2026 AACA SPECIAL NATIONALS**

**MARCH 19-21, 2026**  
 GUAYNABO, PUERTO RICO



**AACA Southeastern Spring Nationals**  
**April 11, 2026**  
**at Charlotte AutoFair**  
 Hosted by Hornets Nest Region



**AUTOFAIR**  
 April 9 - 11, 2026

**Information:**  
 Region Office  
 704-841-1990  
 Mon-Thur 9-3



**Hornets Nest Region**  
 9307-H Monroe Road  
 Charlotte, NC 28270  
[hnraaca@gmail.com](mailto:hnraaca@gmail.com)


Vehicle Registrations Will Be Handled  
 With the Customary AACA Process.

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**2026 AACA Eastern Spring Nationals**  
 May 28-30 • Indiana, PA

Questions?  
 Nationals Chair: Paul Colligan  
 724-599-8711, [sv26spring@gmail.com](mailto:sv26spring@gmail.com)



**Request registration materials from AACA National**



# Sunshine & More

## SUNSHINE REPORT

A Get Well card was sent to Frank LoVerso. Please pass on information to Rosemary Rayman: email: rrayman03@gmail.com, phone 561-371-5498.

### A Tribute to My Father

"Thank you"...Two words that you instilled in me that mean so much, yet take so little effort. You taught me the rewards of hard work and how to be independent and self-sufficient. You taught me to pay attention to detail, and to do things right the first time. (measure twice cut once, righty tighty, lefty loosy, and so on). You taught me the importance of keeping your word, as it will take you a long way in life. Just know how proud I am of you for this last year as President, and for trying to instill your dedication and commitment to everything that you do. "B.A.G.I." Be Active and Get involved.

So Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas Dad (oh and GO PACKERS)...I Love You and "Thank You".  
You will always be "My Daddy!"  
Alisha



### MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Our membership is 106 family-memberships consisting of 189 members. **TCVCC and AACA renewals for 2026 are due by January 1<sup>st</sup>.** So far, only 20 households have submitted Chapter dues to our Treasurer, Barb Joyce. Keep in mind, **AACA dues** are required to be included in our region's Chapter roster. TCVCC 2026 Renewal Forms, as well as a link to AACA's renewal forms, are available on our website at: <https://treasurecoast.aaca.com>.

If you have not done so yet, please renew both memberships now so we can remain a strong Chapter of AACA. Please write clearly on the form and include all your information, including all your vintage and classic vehicles and any personal information changes for the roster. If there are NO changes for our roster, you can simply print your name(s), write "Same as last year," then submit the form and TCVCC dues to Barb Joyce as indicated on the form.

I heard the annual Thanksgiving meeting at The Elliott Museum was lively and well attended. Mike & I were celebrating the holiday on the Hi C's. The December Holiday meeting is always joyous with a full crowd. This year Barb & Ed Joyce are hosting it on Saturday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at the Bocchino Civic Center (Meeting details are elsewhere in this VT). Please join us for a heartwarming holiday celebration with like-minded old and new friends! Bring a guest whom you think would have an interest in becoming a new member.

Let's hit the road...*Sandee Searle*

### 2025 TCVCC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT**  
Denny Dahle

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**  
Andre Rayman

**SECOND VP / MEMBERSHIP**  
Sandee Searle

**SECRETARY**  
Ann Ridle

**TREASURER**  
Barbara Joyce

**SGT. AT ARMS**  
John DeLisa

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**  
Bob Ridle

#### DIRECTORS

Curt Francisco (1 yr.)  
Frank Lo Verso (1 yr.)  
Dick Hoffman (1 yr.)  
Jo Ann Smith (2 yrs.)  
Mary Anne Arnone (2 yrs.)  
Mike Franze (2 yrs.)

### VINTAGE TIMES

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Business card display 3 1/2 x 2  
Members only: \$50 per year  
Furnish Business Card or File

Classified ads 50 wds. max.  
Members: No charge  
Non Members \$20 per issue  
Submit copy via email Or MS  
Word Doc All ads are for one  
month and must be renewed  
and/or revised each month.



# Upcoming Local Events

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## LOCAL EVENTS (Courtesy of Jim Serra)

THESE EVENTS ARE FOR DECEMBER/2025 ONLY - NOTE: TOY DRIVE SEASON HAS BEGUN!!

- Sat, Dec 6th, 3 events in one day (including the cars & coffee in Stuart (851 Johnson Ave, Start 8 am), Keiser University Wheels and Motors Car Show 9400 Discovery Way Port St Lucie, \$25 pre registration, \$30 day of event, 8 am to 2 pm, 772-398-9990, rain or shine, all years/makes/models.
- Sat Dec 6th, Watson Realty Car Show 1648 SE Port St Lucie Blvd noon to 3 pm, Food Truck, Toy Drive, Live DJ by Carlos & Friends, 50/50 raffle 772-528-4247
- Sun Dec 7th, Angelo's Italian Restaurant noon to 4 pm, Free Event, 15% dining discount for cruisers, 155 Toney Penna Dr Jupiter, hosted by Lew and His Crew 772-708-3790 ( will repeat on 1/17, 2/21 and 3/21)
- Sun 12/7 , Recovery Room Sports Grill Cruise- In. Repeats on the first Sunday of the month 4 to 8 pm, cars should be in place by 330 pm, 10350 sw Don R Led Duke Dr Port St Lucie. 772-345-8490. Hosted by Riverland Car Club.
- Sat Dec 13th, Parrot Island Car Show/Toy Drive, 1001 S Parrott Ave Okeechobee, Fl. 1-4 pm, \$20 entry fee, music by Carlos & Friends 772-528-4247
- Sat Dec 20, Martin County High School car show to support the school automotive program, 8 am to 4 pm, 2801 S Kanner Hway Stuart, \$20 entry fee, eddy.cebrec@gmail.com
- Sat Dec 20th, Angelo's Italian Restaurant Stuart Cove Center 5801 se Federal Hway Stuart (at Cove Rd), noon to 4 pm, free event, 15% dining discount for cruisers, Hosted by Lew and His Crew 772-708-3790 (will repeat on 1/4, 2/1 and 3/1)

## EVENTS THAT REPEAT MONTHLY

- Sat, Dec 6th, Cars & Coffee on the first Saturday of the month that used to take place at McKees on Jack James Drive will be 851 Johnson Ave in Stuart and will be held using a different format. It will be called a monthly informal cruise in and will resemble the cars & coffee held on Becker Rd in that participants will be responsible for bringing their own coffee and other refreshments and we will not have a trailer with music, 50/50, etc. Event times will remain the same (8 am to 1030 am). Wawa and McDonalds are a short walk from the location and Max's Bagels, Publix and Dunkin Donuts are within a mile for those wanting to purchase "coffee/and" nearby.
- Sun 12/7 , Recovery Room Sports Grill Cruise- In. Repeats on the first Sunday of the month 4 to 8 pm, cars should be in place by 330 pm, 10350 sw Don R Led Duke Dr Port St Lucie. 772-345-8490. Hosted by Riverland Car Club.
  - Sat 12/13, Monthly Cars & Coffee at The Elliott Museum 8 am 825 NE Ocean Blvd Stuart. Free event - \$4 buys coffee/donuts/ice water - now featuring Jupiter Donuts. Sponsored by McKees 37. (Repeats on the 2nd Saturday of the month). THIS IS NOW A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT (in case of inclement weather, feel free to come down with your daily driver and we will move the refreshments inside).
  - Sun 12/14 and Sun 12/28, Valencia Cay Cars & Coffee 662 se Becker Rd, 8 am. Free event - Dunkin Donuts and Publix are in the plaza. (2nd and 4th Sunday of the month).
  - Mon 12/15, 5 PM – 8PM T/A Truck Stop Car & Truck Show I-95 & State RD 60,(repeats on the 3rd Monday of the month) Carlos 772-528-4247
  - Sun 12/21, 3rd Sunday of the month at Carmela's Coffee Shop, 10308 sw Discovery Way Port St Lucie (in the heart of Tradition) 8 am to 10 am 772-800-5711.
  - Sunday 12/28 Monthly Cars & Coffee at City Diner 2660 se Federal Hway Stuart, 772-291-2794, 9 am to noon, music, awards, Dining Discounts, Gift cards and more. Repeats the last Sunday of the month. Carlos 772-528-4247

# Upcoming Local Events

## LOCAL EVENTS (Courtesy of Jim Serra)

### EVENTS THAT REPEAT WEEKLY

Tuesdays, Weekly Car Show at Lowes, 5 pm - 7:30 pm, 3620 SE Federal Hwy, Stuart, FL 34997.

Free for spectators - repeats weekly, hosted by Lew and His Crew, Lew 772-708-3790 (Please have exact change or small bills to expedite entry to the show)

- Wednesdays, Weekly cruise in at Dairy Queen, 9019 US Hwy 1 Port St Lucie at 3:00 pm FREE event and a dining discount for cruisers. Butch White 772-618-3794.

- Thursday nights - WEEKLY EVENT - Lowes Jensen Beach, 4100 NW Federal Hwy. 4:30 pm to 7 pm. \$3 to show a car, spectators FREE. Hosted by Lew & His Crew...Lew 772-708-3790. Please have small bills or exact change PLEASE.

- Friday nights, Cruise in at Culvers in Jensen Beach 4 pm, located at 4151 NW Federal Hwy Jensen Beach 34957. 954-650-4356 (Brian), dining discounts.

Elks Lodge #2658 Motorcycle Riders  
**Annual**  
**CAR & MOTORCYCLE**  
**SHOW**  
Registration 9:00am Show 10am. - 2pm.  
**Sat, January 10th, 2026**  
**Registration fee: \$20 per vehicle**  
(Food is available) **50 / 50 Drawing & Raffles**  
Save \$5.00 with Pre Registration by: January 2nd  
Contact Pete Jordan 772-285-0123  
**THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT 1pm!**  
**FREE TO ATTEND**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME, BRING THE FAMILY**  
**ELKS CARE ELKS SHARE**  
Location: 2290 SE Lennard Rd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

**Vero Beach CONCOURS IN THE OAKS**  
INDIAN RIVER REGION ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA  
**47th Annual - March 21, 2026**  
Vero Beaches' oldest and largest Antique Automobile Show will be displayed under the magnificent oak trees at Riverside Park, Florida, Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 10 to 4pm. The Indian River Region of The Antique Auto Club of America (IRR, AACA) is proud to present its 47th Annual Concours In The Oaks Show.  
Approximately 325 incredible automobiles and 6000 enthusiasts who love to look at them are expected to attend. The show is FREE to the spectators and plenty of free parking is available.  
The cost for pre-registration is \$20 and \$25 on the day of the show. Registration starts at 8 am and ends at 10.30 am sharp.  
Dash Plaques will be given to all registered vehicles. We will judge 17 classes. Three trophies will be awarded in each class. There will be a "Best in Class", and "Outstanding Vehicle in Class" awards for second & third place and new this year, a Senior Class.  
There will be a full Food Court with a DJ providing great music. The Silent Auction Raffle and a 50/50 drawing are big crowd pleasers and if you are looking to purchase a cool classic car we have about 40 cars registered in our car corral. The DJ will periodically make sponsor announcements.  
The IRR AACA is a not for profit organization, all income above expenses goes to local charities and the 2026 featured show charity is United Against Poverty (UAP). Please consider bringing non-perishable food items to the show so UAP can pick them up.  
Contact info: Bill Maule 772-584-1842 or snappybill1@gmail.com.  
Additional information at [www.indianriver.aaca.com](http://www.indianriver.aaca.com).

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
TREASURE COAST HISTORY FESTIVAL  
LAW FIRM OF **Hoskins Turco Lloyd & Lloyd**  
St. Lucie Historical Society present:  
**2026 Treasure Coast History Festival**  
Saturday, January 10th: 9 am — 3 pm  
St. Lucie County History Center • 414 Seaway Drive, Ft. Pierce  
Free admission to St. Lucie County History Center  
Historical displays from Treasure Coast organizations. • Guest Speakers & Storytellers  
Vintage Car Show • Children's activities • Food Trucks & Summerlin Fish Fry • Live music  
For More Information Email: [tchistoryfestival@gmail.com](mailto:tchistoryfestival@gmail.com) OR FB: St. Lucie Historical Society



## Member Stories

### JDM 1993 Mazda RX-7 FD3S Series 6 Type RB (Bathurst Tribute) 3rd Generation 1.3-liter 13B-REW Engine

*By Russ Caterinicchio*

During the mid-1970's while I was pursuing my Ph.D. at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute studying statistical modelling and research methodologies, I became acquainted with W. Edwards Deming's pioneering work in the development and practical applications of statistical quality control in engineering and manufacturing. Most curiously, I learned that post-World War II Japan had earnestly embraced Deming's ideas and successfully applied them to their automotive designs and manufacturing. Their applied statistical quality control together with the regimented work ethic of Japanese engineers and auto workers became the impetus behind the astounding success of Toyota, Datsun, Honda and Mazda in dominating automobile sales in the USA especially in the aftermath of the 1973-1974 OPEC oil embargo.

I always had a keen interest in the simplicity, compactness and surprising power of the rotary engine. While the automotive giants had tried to develop and build a durable rotary engine, Mazda was the only company that successfully designed, manufactured and sold various rotary cars and trucks throughout the global marketplace. Compared to Toyota and Honda, Mazda was a boutique car company, but always innovative and always ahead of the curve. Mazda's famous rotary-powered Cosmo sports car proved that when it was introduced in 1967, and later successfully marketed in Japan as the luxurious Eunos Cosmo until 1995. Then Mazda, the former cork manufacturer from Hiroshima, stunned the motorsports world in 1991 by winning the prestigious 24-hour Le Mans in Category 2 (Car #55) running a 4-rotor naturally aspirated 787B engine, conquering Mercedes, Jaguar and Peugeot.

With all these insights considered and ignoring the popular notion that Mazda rotary engines are notoriously unreliable, I began my search for a Japanese Domestic Market (JDM) 1993 RX-7 combing the world wide web and reading every article I could find detailing the third generation Rotary Experiment (RX) 7.

I was driven by the uniquely flawless and timeless design of this car! In early October 2019, I finally located a vehicle presented in auction at G-7 Crown Trading Co., Ltd. in Kawasaki, Japan and imported under the "25-Year Rule" by Kuruma Imports, LLC of Doral, Florida. The CARVX report showed a 1993 RX-7 FD3S RB Efina trim painted in Sunburst Yellow (Mazda paint code HZ), certified mileage at 52,729 kilometers with a solid rating of 4 on the official auction sheet. Except for aftermarket 18-inch 3-part Gartmaier wheels, a MOMO "Monte Carlo" steering wheel and an aftermarket exhaust, this manual five-speed two-rotor, two-sequential turbochargers motor was all stock. No accidents were reported and there was no BONDO or filler detected anywhere on the sheet metal. Moreover, this car had two sets of keys, all the original Mazda Efina RX-7 factory manuals as well as a complete set of original service tickets! I took possession of this magnificent example on October 9, 2019.

What's all the excitement about? JDM RX-7s are made especially for the Japanese home market and present different trims and performance characteristics not available in the United States due to Federal safety and strict emissions regulations. That a JDM car is a right-side driver is the most conspicuous design feature which gets the most "mouths open wide-eyed" looks from other drivers on the road. My Series 6 RX-7 has other significant features not available in the USA (i.e., kph speedometer, no airbags, no pre-catalytic converter on the downpipe, the 2+2 rear seating, and the special edition Efina luxury brand).



## Member Stories

### JDM 1993 Mazda RX-7 FD3S Series 6 Type RB (Bathurst Tribute) Continued...

Owning a vintage JDM RX-7 is an adventure on several levels. The first adventure begins with the restoration and overhauling of the entire vehicle. While my RX-7's interior and exterior were in excellent condition requiring minimal to moderate refurbishing to bring into near-new condition, and with the rotary engine showing 52,729 certified kilometers at auction, I decided at the onset to focus on a total overhaul of the engine, keeping it as stock as possible by limiting modifications to assure reliability, performance and longevity.

JDM RX-7s are exotic front-mid engine, very high-performance, high-revving sports cars which need to be broken in properly the first 1000 kilometers when brand new, and subsequently driven spiritedly at high speeds and RPMs at the proper times. Moreover, oil and coolant levels are super-critical for a sequentially turbocharged engine that naturally runs very hot. Because Japanese roads are primarily limited to two-lanes in high-density communities, many of these imported low-kilometer JDM RX-7s were driven at moderate speeds and with plenty of idle time. Such driving may promote high carbon deposits on the rotors and the ignition side of the rotary housing which could result in detonation and destruction of the apex seals under load conditions. Excessive idling can cause high operating temperatures potentially compromising the rotary housing side seals. In short, a low kilometer engine doesn't necessarily guarantee a good engine; since how the new motor was properly broken in, driven and subsequently diligently maintained remains unknown. In short, the buyer has to be aware and ready to expect surprises.

Accordingly, over a period of three years, my JDM RX-7 engine, drive train, suspension and exhaust were overhauled by Cameron Worth of Pettit Racing/Excellent Performance in Riviera Beach, Florida. (Cameron "Cam" is a former GT racing champion with his #75 RX-7 in the Rolex 24 as well as setting time trial records at Homestead-Miami Speedway.)

The new motor was hand-built and autographed by Cameron Worth with new rotors using Mazda cast iron apex seals, new rotary housings and forged eccentric shaft. The motor was blue printed, balanced and street ported yielding more than 300 brake horsepower for a vehicle weighing 2700 pounds. The factory ECU was kept intact. The vacuum lines, relays and solenoids were replaced with new units as needed; the so-called "rats nest" was completely overhauled and retained; the sequential turbochargers were checked and retained. All other engine components were replaced or overhauled including the factory intercooler and air box. The air pump was removed, and a new aluminum powder-coated coolant swirl box was installed. A lightweight flywheel and Stage I Exedy rally clutch were installed. New Pettit Racing Stage II Trak Pro coil-overs, brakes, and a Magnaflow low restriction catalytic converter matched with a three-inch stainless steel Japanese Medallion exhaust system were installed. Finally, the restoration was finished with the complete refurbishing of the driver and passenger seats. The seats were reboastered and newly upholstered with imported Italian black Alcantara suede with "Sunflower" 138 thread following the OEM patterns.

My 1993 JDM RX-7 is a time machine taking me back to an automotive era when cars demanded a connected and focused driver, period! No fancy tricks and options. Just raw rotary power and sounds of the turbo blow-off valves. I run my JDM RX-7 on weekends usually along scenic A1A and the Intracoastal Waterway's winding secondary roads in Martin and St. Lucie Counties enjoying the salty smell of the ocean breezes with my windows down or just chilling with a fully functioning air conditioner. The driving experience in a JDM RX-7 is an exhilarating adventure: a rigid low chassis and dampened suspension attacking the turns with instant smooth boosted linear power all the way up to the 9000 RPM redline, although the "sweet spot" is around 7500 RPMs. The modifications have been worthwhile, producing a car that has improved performance and reliability, plus the longevity that a Cam Worth built Pettit Racing rotary engine is famous for. JDM is "Just Damn Marvelous"!

# Member Stories

## Our November General Meeting

The TCVCC November Monthly Meeting was held at the Elliott Museum and featured the club's Election of Officers for 2026. After a delicious meal served by Philly Down South in the museum's meeting room, the 41 members on hand proceeded to unanimously approve the slate offered by the Nominating Committee. 2026 Officers... President - Andre Rayman, 1st VP - Dave Brown, 2nd VP/Membership - Sandee Searle, Treasurer - Barb Joyce, Secretary - Molly Hoffman, Sgt-at-Arms - Curt Francisco. 2026 Board of Directors...COB - Denny Dahle...Serving 1 Year Terms - Mary Ann Arnone, Jo Ann Smith, Sally Franklin. Serving 2 Year Terms - Russ Caterinicchio, Charlie Ulrich, John DeLisa.

To see all the images from the November Meeting click [HERE](#).



Twelve classic cars showed up for the meeting today. Including this Graham from Fort Pierce!

Great turnout for lunch



The new Board for 2026






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### FOR SALE

Long time TCVCC members Joe and Fran Vicini are selling some of their cars. Please contact John Giltinan for more information at 772-285-2125.

#### 1975 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible:

22,200 miles, always garaged. Medium blue metallic, Navy-blue top, blue leather interior. 500 cubic inch displacement V-8 engine with 4-bbl carburetor, front wheel drive, PS, PDB, tilt wheel, climate control (A/C blows cold), Convertible top, and tires replaced in 2022, new fuel pump and battery 9/25. This is a very clean, carefully maintained car. \$22,000.

