

Vintage Times

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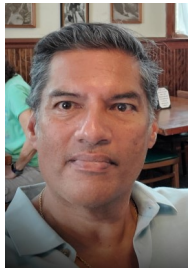
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Upcoming Meetings

The May General Meeting will be on **Sunday**, May 22nd. Please see the announcement on page 3 for details.

Greetings Fellow TCVCCer's!

It has been a whirlwind month of April. Later in this newsletter you will read about our trip to the AACA dual meeting in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, where we dipped our toes into the knowledge of AACA judging. It was a trip that was well worth it, and the cars were very nice.



Our hosts were very generous covering transport, meals, and discounted hotel rates. We also saw what might be the largest Toyota collection in the western hemisphere. Unfortunately, we could not get back to the main land (that's island talk) in time for Dogs and Drones. Based on the pictures that I have seen, it was quite a nice meeting. After learning about the format of the meetings of many clubs like our own, I made a few interesting observations. Our format of an entertaining meeting sure beats a drowsy meeting format. In addition, I could proudly tell other chapters about our nearly 100% significant other participation. I believe that is a key as to why we are successful. Speaking of success, other clubs mention that they are all feeling the effects of aging out. We are trying our best to offset that. Recently we have ordered new and improved TCVCC business cards that you can hand out to interested parties. Check with a board member for some. You can write your name, cell and email on the back. Since my penmanship is poor, I got some with my name pre-printed with my car on the front and my info on the back. Sally Franklin gave me the idea of creating a package for prospective new members. I have done that.

It consists of: AACA membership form, a TCVCC membership form, and my TCVCC business card. I am also handing out old copies of AACA Antique Automobile magazine (remember how I said I don't throw things out) If you have old copies, I am sure we can use them to hand out to prospective members. It is a world class publication, and maybe, just maybe we can round up a few new members by doing this.

Till next time,

Andre'

Secretary's Report

Treasure Coast Vintage Car Club General Membership Meeting , April 24th, 2022

The April General Meeting was hosted by Ann and Bob Ridle. The outing took us to the All Villages Presbyterian Church in Port St. Lucie for a demonstration by the St Lucie County Sheriff's Deputies with their K-9 dogs and their use of Drones.

After this informative show we adjourned to Duffy's in St. Lucie West for the General Meeting.

In the absence of President Andre Rayman , our Vice President, Bob Ridle, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Guests attending were Bob and Lou Lambert's son and daughter-in-law.

Secretary Rosemary Rayman was not present. Jo Ann Smith took the minutes and submitted them to be published.

Treasurer Sandee Searle was not present, but her husband Mike assured us we have lots of money!!

Membership Report: It was reported we have 87 members. The roster is being worked on and will soon be available.

Special Events Chairman, Denny Dahle, passed around a sign up sheet for the Memorial Day Parade, which will take place on Monday, May 30th. He also has lined up a show that we will be paid for at Addington Place in Stuart, to take place on June 19th, from 12 – 3 PM. Details on these and other activities will be in the Vintage Times and on our website.

Our club store has several new car related items for sale along with the new club shirts. Contact Chairman Barb Joyce if you need a shirt or a sun shade for your car. Legislative Chairman Jay Smith reported that the EPA is going to issue a temporary waiver for the summertime blend of gasoline allowing up to 15 percent ethanol in an effort to offset high fuel costs. Be careful what you pump into your older cars!

In regard to our Website, Sally Franklin and Bob Ridle have it up to date and new Board Member photos are now included on the site.

Sunshine Chairman Ann Ridle informed the members that cards were sent to Bob Elzin on the death of his father, and get well cards were sent to Willa Jo Maugher (hip surgery) and Pat Musto (hand surgery).

The Cool show committee has started to work on our show for October 8th. More to follow.

No old or new business was discussed, no tours were discussed.

The May General Meeting will be hosted by Bob and Kerry Sees. See the details later in this newsletter.

With no further business before the general membership, the Ridles were thanked for hosting another interesting club outing. Meeting adjourned at 2:04PM.

To see pictures from the meeting, click on this link: [April 2022 General Meeting:](#)

Respectfully submitted, Jo Ann Smith, substitute Secretary



General Meeting Announcement

May 22nd, TCVCC General Meeting...

The club will be visiting Project LIFT in Palm City. They are dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk teens and their families through treatment of substance use disorders, mental health counseling, mentoring, and vocational skills training.

Project LIFT trains students in automotive repair, welding, metal forging, carpentry, HVAC, etc., and have recently been given a Model A Ford. They will soon begin teaching automotive restoration to the students.

They will provide us with a tour of their facilities and tell us about how they fulfill their mission. There will be walking and standing throughout the tour. If someone needs to sit periodically, please bring something to sit on.

Meet at Project LIFT, 1330 SW 34th Street, Palm City, at 10:30 AM. We will tour until 12:00 and then have lunch in the Project LIFT multi-purpose room. Lunch will be:

Pizza, Caesar Salad, Brownies & Drinks, cost is \$10 per person

Please RSVP by 5/18/22 to Bob and Kerry at:

rsees@att.net or 772-260-6238

For more information about Project LIFT, please visit their website at

[Project LIFT](#)



AACA Events

SUNDAY, MAY 1

[NJ Region AACA – 69th Annual Collectible Car Show](#)

Host: New Jersey Region AACA Location: Lakeview Elementary, 44 Cooper Road, Denville, NJ 07834 Car show for all makes and models. Modified AACA judging for AACA eligible cars 1997 and older in 17 classes. Peoples choice awards for: Modified Vehicles - Through 1997 Modern Classics 1998 or newer. Car corral and swap meet. Food available. [...]

SATURDAY, MAY 7

[Shenandoah Region's 62nd Annual Apple Blossom Meet](#)

Car Show and Flea Market. Class judging for pre-registered vehicles, plus special awards eligibility for all entrants. Flea Market opens 7:00 am. Show Field opens 8:00 am. Special Awards at 3:00 pm. Contact: Meet Chairman, Duane Catlett (540) 869-6668 Vehicle Registration, Linda Comontofski abmeet@huskyclub.com

THURSDAY, MAY 19-21

[Grand Nationals – Virginia Beach, VA](#)

Tidewater Region

SUNDAY, MAY 22-25

[Eastern Divisional Tour – Johnstown, PA](#)

Flood City Region

SATURDAY, MAY 28-29

[Ontario Region AACA Automotive Flea Market & Car Show](#)

Host: Ontario Region AACA Location: 134 Angeline Street South, Lindsay, ON K9V 3L6 Largest automotive flea market east of Toronto, classic cars for sale, car show both days, onsite camping and free parking. Contact: Leon Butterworth, butterworthle-on@gmail.com or 705-764-6564; Kim Sommers, kim.sommers@hotmail.com Web-site: www.aacaontario.ca

For more information, visit the AACA website at [Upcoming Events > AACA National Calendar > – Antique Automobile Club of America](#)

Sunshine & Happenings

SUNSHINE REPORT

A sympathy card was sent to Bob Elzin for the death of his father. Get well cards were sent to Willa Jo Maugher (hip surgery) and Pat Musto (hand surgery). Please pass on information to Ann Ridle: email: ahr3206@verizon.net phone 540-255-6181. Let me know so we can shine some Sunshine for our club members.

If you would like to participate in the Stuart Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30th, please contact Denny Dahle to get your name on the list. The deadline to register is May 21st.

Denny has also put together a show at Addington Place of Stuart, 3400 SE Aster Lane, for June 19th. This will be a paid show, (we get paid for each car that shows up) so the more the merrier. They will not be feeding us lunch but may have some snacks available. Please let Denny know if you will be attending.

RSVP directly to Denny at koda06@bellsouth.net for both events. Please don't wait to register, as there are limited spaces available for each event.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS BY JAY SMITH

Jay Smith reported that the EPA is going to issue a temporary waiver for the summertime blend of gasoline allowing up to 15 percent ethanol in an effort to offset high fuel costs. Be careful what you pump into your older cars!

Ethanol, especially in higher concentrations such as E15, can cause metal corrosion and dissolve certain plastics and rubbers in older automobiles that were not constructed with ethanol-resistant materials and in certain specialty high-performance equipment installed on newer vehicles.

NEW PROJECTS

Do you have a new (antique) car you have recently purchased? Or would you like to share with the club the progress on a restoration project?

Please email pictures and a short story to sfranklin_2000@yahoo.com to have it included in a future issue of the Vintage Times.

2022 TCVCC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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SECOND VP / MEMBERSHIP
Marie Flaherty

SECRETARY
Rosemary Rayman

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Bob Sees

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Barb Joyce (1 yr.)
John Delisa (2 yrs.)
Ron Ingles (2 yrs.)
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VINTAGE TIMES

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Sponsors & Classified Ads

Like Old Club Pictures?

Here is the link that has pictures going back to 2003 (so far), and will be expanding in the future.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/135383894@N05/albums/with/72157661067140746>

Save this link on your computer and you can pull up pictures from years gone by, anytime you want.

Visit our new website by clicking on the link below. Be sure to save the site to your favorites so you can get there easily.

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Upcoming Events

SHOWS FOR MAY / 2022 ONLY (From Jim Serra)

- **Thursday May 12th Car Show at The Saints Pub 6 pm to 8 pm Cruise-in, 2601 SE Morningside Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952.** All years, makes and models welcome. Hosted by the Noname Car Club. Music by Carlos & Friends. More info: nonamecarclub@outlook.com or 772-528-4247.

- **Friday May 13th 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Morningside Church Car Show. 2180 SE Morningside Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952.** Music, fun, fellowship, gifts and Herbie-Q BBQ food truck. Open to all years, makes and models. Contact is: Jim Sunderwith 772-528-2707.

- **Saturday May 14th 10 am to noon "K-9's for Warriors" benefit car show at Discovery Village 2625 SE Cove Rd Stuart FL.** Music, food truck and more. (You can start the day at the Elliott Museum for Cars & Coffee and then caravan over to this event which is 9.9 miles and 22 minutes away).

- **Saturday May 14th South East Classics will hold their annual show at the Jupiter Light Masonic Lodge, 600 S. Loxahatchee Dr. Jupiter.** The venue has lots of shady parking spots and there will be live music and food. Roll in starts at 11:00, \$10. entry, show begins at noon.

Saturday, May 21st The B&A Flea Market event has been rescheduled from April 30th to May 21st because of the weather forecast which is calling for a 70% chance of rain this Saturday. Here are the event details: - **Saturday, May 21st, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Car Show and Special Salute to Our Troops at the B&A Flea Market. 2885 US-1 Stuart, FL 34994 Free hot dog lunch for each car & driver. Donations needed for care packages for our military men and women deployed.**

SHOWS THAT REPEAT WEEKLY

TUESDAY NIGHTS - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Elliott Museum Tuesday Night Car Show by Lew's Crew. 825 NE Ocean Blvd., Stuart, FL 34996. \$3 to display a car (portion of proceeds donated to the museum). Spectators are free. Oldies Music. 50/50. Philly Down South food truck. Elliott Museum, McKee's 37 and the True Oldies Channel are sponsors. More info: Lew, 772-708-3790 (every Tuesday)

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS - 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Dairy Queen Car Enthusiast Drop-in 9019 S U.S. Hwy 1, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952. Not a formal show, more of a "Schmooze-In". Grab a bite to eat and socialize with other car guys. **20%** discount for cruisers. Contact is Ira Fluss, 772-485-7145. (every Wednesday)

FRIDAY NIGHTS - 4:30 PM until ?. Sonic Drive-In Car Enthusiast Drop-in. 3177 NW Federal Hwy. Jensen Beach, FL 34957. Weather permitting. **Free sundae with your order.** Contact is Mike Gelter, 772-485-0162 (every Friday)

Upcoming Events

SHOWS THAT REPEAT MONTHLY

- **Valencia Car Club Cars & Coffee** will occur on **May 1, May 15 and May 29 (every other Sunday)** at **662 SE Becker Road, Port St. Lucie, FL 34984, 830 am to 1030 am**. Informal car enthusiast gathering located in the parking lot between Dunkin Donuts and Bonefish Mac Grill. Welcoming all cruisers, not just the club. Contact is Jaime Stern, 516-849-8696.

- **Sunday May 1st 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Cinco de Mayo Car Show and fundraiser event. First United Methodist Church of Port St. Lucie. 260 NW Prima Vista Blvd., Port St Lucie, FL 34983.** Everybody is welcome to come and display their classic cars at the Holy Grounds Cafe. More info: 772-878-1155. **(This a new event that will repeat on the 1st Sunday of the month)**

- **Friday May 6th 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Brass Monkey Cruise-in. 7781 Lake Worth Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467.** Free admission. Hosted by Donnie, Betty and Carlos. Music by DJs Donnie & Carlos. Food discount inside the restaurant for cruisers every day (not just the day of the show) In-fo: 561-968-9559 or Carlos 772-528-4247 (repeats every 1st Friday)

- **Saturday May 7th 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, McKees 37 Cars and Coffee. 7744 Jack James Drive, Stuart, FL 34997.** Free admission. Car Care Tech Tips and, product demonstrations by Nick Rutter. Music, tent sales, discounts and factory tours. \$3 buys Coffee, donuts and pastries. (repeats every 1st Saturday)

- **Saturday May 14th 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Cars and Coffee at Elliott Museum. 825 NE Ocean Blvd. Stuart, FL 34996.** Free event. \$3 buys unlimited coffee and danish. Bob McKee is the event sponsor. (repeats every 2nd Saturday)

- **Sunday May 22nd 8:00 to noon. Palm Beach Outlets Cars and Coffee.** Use I-95, exit 71 and head east to the mall entrance. Address for your GPS/Phone is: 1751 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33401. \$10 to display a vehicle. Gates open at 7 AM. Spectators are free. Expect over a thousand cars... Restrooms open all morning in food court. Mall shopping opens at 11 am.

- **Saturday May 28th Harborside Show - 2 PM Roll In Time, 129 Soundings Ave, Jupiter, FL 33477.** \$10 entry fee. Gate closes at 4:00 PM. Trophies, including Participants & Spectators Choice. Now open to ALL years, makes & models. Nice restaurants. Contact is Pete Needre - Pete2350@comcast.net or call 772.216.9488. (repeats every 4th Saturday).

- **Sunday May 29th 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Cars & Coffee at Hobe Sound Social and Coffee** 11844 SE Dixie Hwy. Suite A, Hobe Sound, FL 33455. <https://www.hobesoundsocial.com/>. (Repeats on the last Sunday of the month)

To keep up with local car happenings, check out "Treasure Coast Automobile Enthusiasts" on Facebook, administered by Jim Serra. With over 220 members and growing, it is a great place to see what's happening and even what's for sale in our area.

Member Stories

2022 AACA Dual Nationals—San Juan, Puerto Rico

By Andre Rayman

To begin, I must apologize for missing the April meeting of Dogs and Drones, but hopefully my “excuse” as told by this story will allow me forgiveness.

Prologue- For the last several years, I had been considering taking a trip to San Juan Puerto Rico for their dual national event. Unfortunately hurricanes and covid have interrupted those plans for several years. With a new opportunity for 2022, and being the president of the TCVCC, I thought that this was the perfect time to “represent” and take a trip.

After some mild cajoling, Sally Franklin and Larry Atkins were up for the mini adventure. I have done some travelling and been to Puerto Rico before on a Cruise ship. It is relatively close- 2 hours 20 minutes by air, and a US territory and very Americanized so there was not too much trepidation about making the trip. Club member Joe Vicini had been before and gave it a good enough rating for us to feel that it was worth going to.

We booked our flights for mid-day Wednesday April 20th so that we would be able to make it to the welcome reception that evening. We were most disappointed to learn that our flight was cancelled, and we were put on a later flight that would cause us to miss the welcome reception. Sally would have no part of that and spent some time on the phone and finally got us changed to the earlier flight 10:30 am out of Ft Lauderdale and at no price increase.

Day 1: Of course, leaving from Martin County to be there 2 hours early meant hitting the road at 6:30 am because you never know what mayhem you might encounter on the highway.

We were fortunate that Jennifer, Sally’s daughter would drop us off at the airport, as she lived just a short distance away. That was a good plan as we would not have to search for parking etc. The plan was smooth, and we cleared TSA with no problems. No one asked about vaccine cards, and soon we were waiting on the concourse to board. I was a bit put off as the Jetblue plane was painted green in the Boston Celtic colors and logos, but there was no choice.

The flight was uneventful, and make even more so by using only carry-on luggage.

Arriving in San Juan, the taxi manager asked where we were going, and scribbled onto a piece of paper Zone 2- \$23. I thought that was a good way to avoid getting charged too much by the cabie. In less than 15 minutes we were at the host hotel and getting checked in. Other guests were mulling around the lobby waiting for our room to be ready, but not us.



A quick few minutes of rest, and we were off in search for some lunch, as it was now 2pm. We didn’t have to go very far, and found and enjoyed the local fare at a restaurant across the street- cod croquettes, a plantain soup, Churrasco steak, rice and red beans, sweet plantains, and passion fruit juice to wash it down.

Followed that by a walk of several blocks down the street to see what was there. There was not too much exciting to see, so back to the hotel we went. By then many of the AACA board members had begun arriving. We were directed to be in the lobby for the bus at 6pm for the welcoming reception.

Sure enough we were greeted by a nice comfy tour bus that took about 40 of us to Antonio’s. I later learned that this restaurant was owned by one of the club members as well as the hotel that we were staying in. We rolled up on a table that had a pair of what may well be the youngest AACA members, and settled in. Although it was a cash bar, the meal consisted of appetizers of stuffed sweet plantains, fried cheese, ham croquettes, and eggplant. Nice start. Dinner consisted of salad, delicious hard rolls, choice of chicken or seafood paella and cheesecake for dessert.

Member Stories, continued...

San Juan, continued...

It was great conversation and nice to hear what other members were doing. In this case Kristen was a legacy member as she had been attending AACA events since she was a young girl. At the end I asked who I needed to pay, and was surprised to learn that the host club was covering this. Whaat!! Back to the hotel to get some rest as we had the next morning off before Judging school at 1 pm.

Day 2: A quick breakfast in the hotel, and a short cab ride later, we were in Old San Juan. We toured the fort, and walked the streets checking out the stores, and of course sampling the available foods. We ended up at the "State Department" building and called our airport cabbie to come get us to take us back to the hotel.



At noon, two busses ferried us off to a site in nearby Guaynabo for 2 hours of judging school. School started at 1pm sharp, and I was sure there was going to be lunch, but alas there was not. The building had some of the best air conditioning that I have ever been in, and was so cold that I had to stand by the window to warm up. We each received our 2022 judging guidelines manual, and had a chance to start meeting some of our fellow mainlanders and our hosts.

There was a lot of listening going on, and we were given our "pay cards" to fill out so that would be accounted for and receive our "pay

tab" and associated credits. We were reminded that we would need clipboards for the next day. We were also issued blue shirts for Friday judging, and Black shirts for Saturday judging and nifty Valvoline black baseball caps. Being that we were rookie judges, I knew that we would definitely not be judging on Grand National day, so it was unlikely we would have to wear the black shirts. I noticed many people had clipboards that had a storage compartment built into them. Serious stuff this AACA judging. Serious stuff.

We returned to the hotel for a short rest at 4pm. The reminder went out that the buses would be back to get us at 6:30 pm. A quick shower and a change of clothes and we loaded up for the trip to the famous Toyota collection owned by the Amaro family, a local car dealership owner. You might have seen them on TV when Dennis Gage visited them sometime back and Nicole Amaro hosted him. I was not sure what to expect, but upon entering the building I was overwhelmed by the vast amount of cars (over 100) and the quality of them. Many of the models I had never seen before as I guess they were not sold in the United States. I did however take pictures of every one of them so you could see what I was talking about. The collection started over 20 years ago. Check it out on Youtube.

Our host went above and beyond and had a nice buffet, and open bar for us. There was the chicken on a stick, cold cuts, empanadas, and some other things, but I learned about 2 new Puerto Rican delicacies- a piece of sweet plantain stuffed with a piece of pork, and a thin white bread sandwich with the ends cut off. The filling was comprised of cream cheese, pimientos, pimento stuffed olives and SPAM blended together. Its called Sandwich de Mezcla or Mezclita. Before you balk at the ingredients, I highly suggest you try one. They were very good, and made up for the missed lunch.

Back on the bus because we had to leave for the judges breakfast at 7am. This is my kind of vacation. No sitting around wasting time.

Sally went off to the nearby drug store which was more of a convenience store that had a little bit of everything and was able to get us some clipboards. Thank goodness because we had our fair share of paperwork to deal with.

Member Stories, continued...

San Juan, continued...

Day 3: The buses were ready to leave at 7am sharp, and off we went to the show site which was held at the basketball arena in Guaynabo- Coliseo Mario Quijote Morales. It holds 5,500 people for games and they had spread a tarp on a portion of the hardwood to protect it from the hordes. Everything was organized with a placard placed for each judging team so they knew where to sit.

Breakfast was buffet- scrambled eggs, ham, fruit, rolls etc. As our "team" were all rookies, we were a compliment of about 7 who would be trained by Dain King. I'm not sure he knew what he was in for, but after everyone left for the show field we got organized.

By now, many of the cars were sitting in place and so there were many choices for our first judging victim. Coincidentally the first car he choose for us was a 1992 Lumina Z34 which was owned by a fellow on our team, Juan. Typically this would have been a bit precarious, but since the car only had 18,000 miles and looked like it just came off the showroom floor, there was nothing for the judges to deduct. It may well be the nicest 1992 Lumina in existence. Well, not much learned there, so on to our next victim- a black 1967 Chevelle.

While this car was very original and was Historical Preservation of Original features "HPOF". Alas it had seen better days, and the rookie judges let the point deductions fly. Lots of learning here. After a review of individual scores, we moved on to our third and final victim- a Jaguar E Type race car.

By now the rookie crew were feeling confident and everyone took their turn judging the exterior and asking some great questions. When it was over. Dain proclaimed that we were ready for prime time. Hurray.

Apart from the 4 of us from the club, we were also joined by TCVCC member and past AACA president Joe Vicini. I think he got roped into judging Corvettes.

Now that we were off duty, that meant it was picture taking time. I took pictures of every car on the field and interesting spectator cars. I learned a few interesting things of the way they manage their show on the island. Firstly, there was no music playing at all. Secondly, they kept it quiet from the public and didn't invite spectators though there were some.

Apart from that the quality of the cars were top notch and you would not know that you were not on the mainland.

The nearby concession stand had a bar selling liquor, but an empanada and some wings were sufficient for lunch. We got to hang out with John from Washington State- a retired pipeline expert, and Packard restorer, and a couple from Oklahoma. After lunch, we didn't want to wait for the provided transportations so I called up our cabbie, but he was too far away and we needed a cab for 6, so he sent over his buddy Alex with a 10 passenger van. We filled it up with others who were ready to return and off to the hotel we went.

A shower and some rest and we organized a quick dinner for some of us that had ridden together in the taxi- Myself, Rosemary, Larry, Sally, new friends Jerome and Karen from Philly and Mike Engard also from Philly who sort of knew Jerome. Mike had owned a British car resto shop for about 30 years.

Off to "Rare 125"- A top notch steak house just a few steps away from the hotel which turned out to be the flagship meal of the trip. I won't go into my usual detail, but the final touch was an amazing Tres leches con coco- that translates to three milk cake with coconut for you gringos. Back to the hotel to get some sleep and prepare for the next day of Grand National judging.



Member Stories, continued...

San Juan, continued...

The dual meet is a different animal. The cars going for Junior and Senior awards were judged on Friday. Those who got a senior were then invited to show on Saturday to compete for a Grand National, and there is no presentation till Saturday night banquet.

Day 4: This was mostly a repeat of judging much like day 3 with about 75 cars being on the field. The rookies helped out with admin tasks and got our play cards filled out. We also helped out a few entrants prep their cars, and then the usual judging commenced. I went off to take pictures, and then that was it. We caught the early bus back to the hotel around noon.

This gave us extra time to do some extracurricular activities and Rosemary found a nice rum distillery for us to visit called Ron Del Barrilito. We grabbed a cab driven by Edwin, who had never heard of the place, and off we went. We had actually driven by there before, but had no idea what was behind there.

It was a spotless visitors center, and admission included a drink. I had the national drink – Pi-na Colada. Did you know it was invented in San Juan in the early 1960s? Yep, I didn't know that. Afterwards we had a guided tour of the distillery. They age their rum in wooden barrels that had previously stored Spanish Oloroso sherry. The barrels were marked with the year they were corked and I saw barrels going back to the 70's. They were dwarfed in age by "La Donna" (the grandmother). Allegedly corked in the 1950's, it may not be drank until Puerto Rico becomes a nation. This seems unlikely at this time. We wrapped up our visit and headed back to the hotel. Edwin was kind enough to wait for us and delivered us back. I told him we needed a 7 am cab ride the next day, and he replied.. okay, call me at 6am to remind me. Haha Island life.



Word was passed around that the buses would be there to get us at 6pm instead of 7. I'm

not sure if everyone knew that, but we were sure to be in the lobby at 5:30. Off we went to the facility where we had attended judging school. There was no way this place was going to be as cold as before with all the people, talking eating etc. The other attendees had already started queuing up. Since I had nothing to do, I proceeded to take some organized group pictures. That made the time go faster and soon the doors opened up and they let us in.

We found a table that was close to the front but not too close. I spied a large pig on a spit, and noticed that the caterers were ready for action. Relying on my many years of training attending Palm Beach league of cities luncheons which have a similar format, I knew how to edge to the start of the line without being too obvious. Sure enough, the call for chow came down and I was number 3 in the line. Did I mention that I missed lunch and was quite famished? I opted for the meatloaf and rice, along with swine. The cold macaroni salad was excellent. As I sat down to devour my meal, the band, led by an excellent Elvis impersonator began getting the crowd hopping.

Member Stories, continued...

San Juan, continued...

He was a great entertainer, and although I was more than 500 miles from home (meaning I can act the fool), I was not on the dance floor! After several tunes along with Elvis leaving the stage and serenading the ladies, it was time for the real action to begin- the presentation of trophies! This included winners from day 1 and day 2.

There were many trophies handed out, and although the crowd was in excess of 200 people, many winners were not in attendance. I think the big winner was a fellow who had entered all of his Whizzer motorized bikes. They were all very nice, and deserved to win, and win they did. His table was so loaded with trophies that we thought it was going to collapse. It was quite a sight.

I tried to clap and yell for everyone and try to get our table to win the imaginary Spirit award. I think if there was one, we would have easily won it, and there was no one at our table getting a trophy. After what seemed like hours, they ran out of First Junior trophies, and then took a break before they handed out Grand National trophies. About 22 of us begged for an early bus to the hotel because we had early flights. In our case that was true.

Day 5: Uneventful- Edwin was at the hotel at 7am sharp even though I had not called him, and off we went to the airport for a non-eventful flight back to the mainland.

It was a great trip and certainly worth the effort, but my hat goes out to all the other AACA members that travelled from as far away as Washington State to help judge etc. That is certainly commitment.

Epilogue: The four of us are now christened judges and can judge at any up-and-coming AACA events. It's unlikely that I will be at any shows this year, but I heard that Winter nationals will be in Miami in 2023. The spot for 2024 is still open, so who knows... maybe it will be in your backyard!

Due to the length of this article, few pictures have been included. But don't despair! Click on these links to see all the pictures: [AACA San Juan 2022 Day 1 | Flickr](#) , [AACA San Juan 2022 Day 2 | Flickr](#) , [AACA San Juan 2022 Day 3 | Flickr](#) , [AACA San Juan 2022 Day 4 | Flickr](#)



Member Stories

April 24th General Meeting

By Bob Ridle

Approximately 32 TCVCC members and guests gathered outside on the grounds of All Villages Presbyterian Church in St. Lucie West for the April 24th club meeting. The activity for this meeting was expected to be “something a little different”...at it was.

Two of the Tactical Units of the Saint Lucie County Sheriff’s Office, K-9 and Drone, were on-hand to demonstrate their capabilities. Over the course of their presentation, we learned how poised, well trained, and capable the SLSO K-9 Unit was...and the Deputies were pretty well trained too! You guessed it, the dogs, Mac and Doc stole the show and the hearts of the membership, while the drone units were a technical wonder.

There’s not enough space to go into all we learned Sunday afternoon, but here are just a few highlights.

K-9 Unit - The dogs generally come from breeders in Europe who specialize in raising animals specifically bred and raised for police work. The most popular breeds are German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois (Mac & Doc). Price of a dog is around \$8K, but the SLSO dogs cost the taxpayer nothing, as gifts, donations, and foundations pick up the bill. The dogs have a working life of about 8 to 10 years, before they are retired. They are with the same handler (Deputy) during that time, and live with the handler’s family. Although we generally think of these K-9’s as being used to “bring down a perp”, they are also useful in tracking, finding lost articles, and sniffing out drugs or explosives. Thanks to Deputies Brandon Nuccio (Mac’s handler), Randy Hunter (Doc’s handler) and Paul Cialini (the “perp”) for a great experience.



Drone Unit – Drone units are typically among the most recently added tactical units to police departments. The SLSO unit has been in existence for just 4 years, but has quickly shown the ability to get on-site and in the air to extend the vision of any police operation. Their maneuverability, lighting, and night-vision are a boon to ground units and bad news to those seeking to evade law enforcement. The SLSO uses primarily 3 types of drones...a small tactical drone that can be deployed quickly at a crime scene, an orange colored “marine” drone for use in aquatic settings, and a larger tactical drone with more on-board detection features. The Officers who fly these drones receive thorough training, and must qualify for an FAA Remote Pilot Certificate. Thanks to Deputies Dennis Devaney and Steve Wise, the drone pilots.

Thanks also to Master Deputy Bob Lee of the SLSO Community Affairs Dept. for arranging the demonstration, and to All Villages Presbyterian Church for the use of their grounds and restrooms. A TCVCC donation was made to each from the April Meeting budget.

To see more pictures of the General Meeting, click [TCVCC April 2022 Meeting | Flickr](#) .