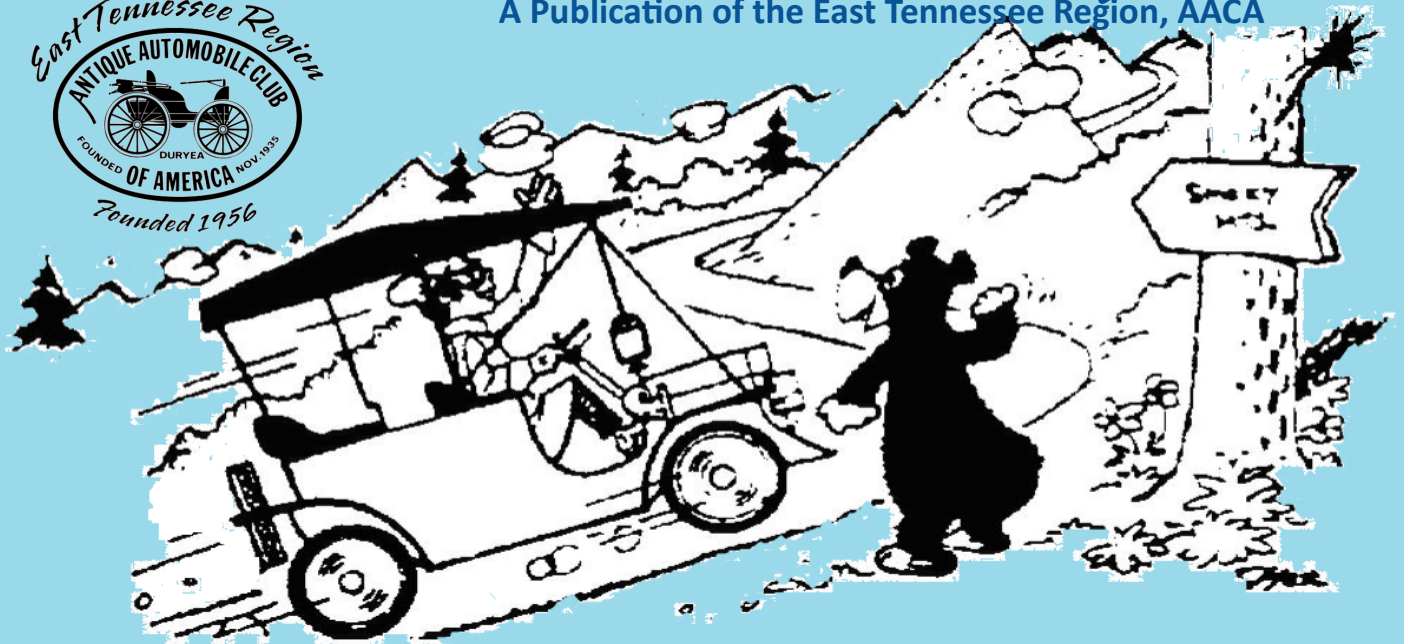


# Smoky Mountain Antiquer

A Publication of the East Tennessee Region, AACA



March—April 2021

Volume 56, Number Two



ETR member Matt Sartin purchased this 1972 Chevelle Super Sport while in high school.  
Matt and his father performed the frame-off restoration.



# Local and National Events

## ETR 2021 Calendar of Events

No ETR Events are scheduled at this time. It won't be long though. Spring is coming!

## Upcoming Events from Other Organizations

March 6, 2021	Swap Meet, Cherokee Racepark, Bulls Gap
March 19-20, 2021	Spring Corvette Expo, Pigeon Forge
March 20, 2021:	Swap Meet, Knoxville Drag Strip, Maynardville
March 24-27, 2021:	Ponies In The Smokies, Sevierville
April 15-17, 2021:	Spring Rod Run 2021, Pigeon Forge
June 11—13, 2021:	Cabin Fever Car & Motorcycle Show, Knoxville Expo Center
June 12, 2021:	Historic Rugby Classic Car Show, Rugby

## AACA National Events

April 8-10, 2021:	AACA Southeastern Spring Nationals in Concord, NC
April 15-17, 2021:	AACA Annual Convention in Philadelphia, PA
April 19-22, 2021:	AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour in Howey-in-the-Hills, FL
May 20-25, 2021:	AACA Founders Tour in Davis, WV
June 2-5, 2021:	AACA Eastern Divisional Tour in the Eastern Shore of Maryland
June 17-19, 2021:	AACA Eastern Spring Nationals in Saratoga Springs, NY
July 1-3, 2021:	AACA Central Spring Nationals in Auburn, IN
July 11-16, 2021:	AACA Vintage Tour in Lock Haven & Wellsboro, PA
July 22-24, 2021:	AACA Grand Nationals in New Ulm, MN
August 13-14, 2021:	AACA Western Fall Nationals in Loveland, CO
September 9-11, 2021:	AACA Southeastern Fall Nationals in Greenville, SC

### 2021

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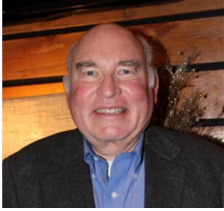
Roger Frazee





# Robert's Ramblings

From President Robert Quillin



First, I want to thank you, our members, for remaining loyal to our club and staying with our group during this terrible pandemic. It is my hope that as more of us receive the vaccine and more time passes, that we can get back to "normal" times.

One activity that is on my mind when we get back to more normal times is for our group to host our third annual "Autos Through the Ages" car show at the Townsend Heritage Center later this summer or early fall. I have been in contact with the staff of the Heritage Center and they are very receptive to our group having another car show as we did in the past.

As you know, this will require a lot of help and participation from our club members to make it a successful event. This activity gave our club and the Heritage Center a lot of exposure and good publicity. We are fortunate to have gained many new outstanding club members from the previous two shows. Please let me or one of our officers or Board members know if you are interested in participating in this event later in the year. However, if our Board does not consider it to be a safe event, we will have to wait until a later time.

With the better weather that we experienced recently, Sandra and I decided we would get out of the house and go for a good drive. We decided to do a little scouting for our 2023 Divisional

Tour based in the Oak Ridge area. Living in our Louisville location, we took the Pellissippi Parkway or I-140 straight to the location of the Oak Ridge hotels that we are considering for hosting our AACA guests in 2023.

The hotels are all located in proximity to one another and there are plenty of good restaurants nearby. Feeling a little adventurous, I suggested we drive the Devil's Triangle. Soon we passed Brushy Mountain prison and started the Devil's Triangle route. I had driven this route when our club visited the Brushy Mountain prison a few years ago. However, this was a new adventure for Sandra.

After a few minutes into our drive, Sandy commented that she had never seen so many black and yellow directional arrow signs warning us of curves ahead. I then commented that I had not driven on a road that lacked guard rails like this one. One comment that Sandy said was that with a road like this, she would never attempt to hold a coffee break for a divisional tour on this stretch of road!

Please be thinking about ways that you can participate in our club activities in the future as we undergo a "rebuilding process" for our group after this pandemic. We are fortunate to live in a part of the country that has mountains and lakes within easy driving range, and we can enjoy the beautiful scenery as we drive our old cars and make long lasting friends.

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## Editor's Corner

From Jan Frazee, Antiquer Co-Editor



According to *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, the astronomical first day of spring is marked by the spring equinox, which in 2021 occurs on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, and the meteorological official first day of spring is March 1st. I hope that Mother Nature reads *The Old Farmer's Almanac*

and chooses to use the meteorological version as the date spring begins. I associate the spring season with the hope of seeing the green sprouts of plants in our garden, the rain showers that will wash the salt off the roads so that it's safe to take a drive in the Corvair, and the perennial hope that the Cincinnati Reds will have a winning season.

This year I have those same hopes for spring, but there's an important addition to my list. It is that, with our continued efforts, we can stop the spread of COVID-19. On March 1, 2020, there were two documented COVID-19 related deaths

in the US. On March 1, 2021, there were 513,090 documented COVID 19-related deaths in the US.

There are now three vaccines approved for use in the US. The greater the number of Americans who are vaccinated, the sooner the threat of COVID-19 will be diminished.

I'm looking forward to the many things that will occur when the virus is no longer as prevalent as it is currently. Plans have already begun for future events. Sherry Seay is gathering a list of suggestions for monthly tours and the ETR board is pursuing the possibility of another "Autos Through the Ages" event at the Heritage Center in Townsend. Impromptu tours will continue to occur, as often as it is possible to do so in a safe manner. The ETR has been approved to host the 2023 AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour and planning has begun. Every ETR club member will have an opportunity to participate in the planning and execution of this event.

Until the time when I can see you in person rather than virtually, I hope you have a happy spring.



## Sunshine Report

By Sandra Quillin, Sunshine Correspondent



Thank goodness for a few days of sunshine, as well as warmer, drier weather!

We have several ETR members who have had health issues during this long winter. In January, I sent well wishes on behalf of ETR to Brad and Debbie Berger who were

recuperating from COVID-19 issues. Brad was hospitalized for a few days but is now doing well. I also sent well wishes to Bill Little who is in a rehab center. Also, I sent well wishes to both Judy Levy and Gary Bright who were both hospitalized in January but are currently doing well. I sent well wishes to Richard Crawford after his surgery in January and again in February when he was placed in rehab following his surgery. Richard is now home and doing well.



Heart Felt pins were distributed to residents of the Fairpark Rehabilitation Center in Maryville.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, I sent on behalf of ETR a sympathy card to the family of Dino Griffiths. Dino and Bob were long-time ETR members and have both served on the ETR Board of Directors.

Bob is 92-years old and would love to hear from his friends in ETR. Bob and Dino celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on December 30, 2020.

On behalf of ETR, I made 75 felt heart pins and donated them in celebration of Valentine's Day to the residents at Fairpark Rehabilitation in Maryville. I am planning to prepare something for Easter/spring to share with other nursing home residents. If any members would like to help me in this preparation, send me an email or give me a call.

Thank you again to ETR members who made a monetary contribution to ETR so that \$640 was donated to Connecting Hearts, a division of Meals on Wheels. These funds will be utilized to purchase individual packets of food for their recipients to keep on hand when they cannot receive meals due to bad weather.

Please keep me informed of any ETR AACA members who need a note of cheer or has lost someone dear to them. We have certainly all had a difficult year and could definitely use more sunshine – don't forget to spread some sunshine every day!

## Keeping the Wheels Turning

By Sherry Seay, Events Coordinator



The weather is starting to change and that means it may be time to get those wheels rolling again.

We have been unable to meet together to talk about planning some tours, so if you have ideas, please send me the information and we'll try to get something going. Also, if anyone is interested in coming to a ZOOM meeting, the club has an account to do so.

RG Lewallen has the information to allow us to meet and discuss some tour options.

I am sending out some upcoming events in the area and the Facebook page "Tennessee car shows and cruise-ins" has lots of information about upcoming events as does the East Tennessee Region AACA Facebook page and website, [www.etr.aaca.com](http://www.etr.aaca.com).





# East Tennessee Region

## AACA Board Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom January 12, 2021



By R.G. Lewallen, Secretary

### OFFICERS:

President: Robert Quillin, Present  
 Vice President: Tim Seay, Present  
 Secretary: RG Lewallen, Present  
 Treasurer: Charlie Simpson, Present  
 Sherry Seay, Events Coordinator, Present  
 Tom Howard, Past President, Present  
 Jan Frazee, Newsletter Editor, Present  
 Roger Frazee, Newsletter Editor, Present

### Board:

Wayne Tudor, Director, Present  
 Matt Sartin, Director, Present  
 Vic Varady, Director, Present  
 JW Weeks, Director, Present

### GUESTS:

Sandra Quillin, Sunshine Representative, Present

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President, Robert Quillin, at 6:44 PM. Roll call was conducted and all board members were present on the Zoom bridge and were accounted for, as noted.

**MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The November 10, 2020 Board Minutes were previously sent to the board by RG Lewallen, Secretary. Motion was made to accept the minutes as written, seconded and motion carried.

**President's Report:** Robert Quillin welcomed the two new board members, Wayne Tudor and Matt Sartin, and thanked them for their willingness to serve, as well as the other members of the board. He also stated that, with Covid vaccines being given, he was hopeful we could get back to a normal year.

**Vice President's Report:** Tim Seay stated he is hopeful our club can get out more and have more activities and events this year.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Charlie Simpson, Treasurer, previously sent out the financial report as of December 31, 2020.

**ANTIQUER REPORT:** Roger Frazee stated that the articles submitted by our club members are what make our newsletter so successful. He expressed appreciation of Tom Howard and Melissa Johnson for adding their input to each publication. Jan and Roger both stated they are very appreciative of receiving the Gillenwater's Award.

**WEBMASTER REPORT:** Roger Frazee said there is nothing new to report on our web page at this time.

**EVENTS COORDINATOR REPORT:** Sherry Seay reported that since the last report we had at least one family attend the Annual Mountain Moonshine Festival in Dawsonville, GA the weekend of October 24<sup>th</sup>. Our club had an impromptu tour to the Fort Loudon Park on November 21 with approximately 21 attending.

Sherry stated she has been monitoring other activities involving the antique automobile hobby and most of those have been canceled until March.

It was recommended that Sherry communicate with our members for ideas of activities we can do as a club once Covid counts have reduced significantly and more people get vaccinated.

**SUNSHINE REPORT:** Sandra Quillin's report was sent out earlier and cards were sent out as listed below:

### **Get Well:**

George Hodges	11-29-20
Loretta Rollins (re: Loretta's mother)	01-01-21
Richard Crawford	01-06-21

### **Sympathy:**

Debbie Bullen (loss of mother)	12-28-20
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### **Old Business:**

**ETR Dues:** Charlie Simpson reported there are 26 members who have not paid their dues for 2021. It was recommended that the members that have not renewed be contacted by the board member that is assigned to that member.

**National Dues:** AACA National requires that any member of our local club also be a member of the AACA National Club. Secretary RG Lewallen stated he will send a membership update to AACA National by the end of January. Robert Quillin reported that we are granted 4 free national memberships this year that are available for anyone interested that has never been a member of the National AACA.

**ETR AACA Report to State:** Robert Quillin stated Charlie Simpson and Rick Lay will be submitting our Annual ETR AACA Report as a non-profit organization to the state of Tennessee.





# News From National

## Keeping Up with Event Schedule Changes

By Tom Howard, ETR National Affairs Liaison



As we looked back and gladly waved goodbye to 2020, it was hard then to imagine that the pandemic would continue to shape the future of our AACA national activities. But now as we approach the new spring season we see it is already doing just that.

First, the really good news is that even though we are unable to be open to the public yet, the AACA club and Library entire staff is now operating from our wonderful new facility in Hershey. Members can access and use the library material by internet or may speak by phone with one of the four staff members. The same is true with the club staff employees who are hard at work dealing with any issues members might have.


Speaking of issues, our national activities have already been effected by change. Our National Business Meeting and National Awards presentation traditionally held in February in Philadelphia was cancelled and rescheduled for mid April. Recently, that has also been cancelled and hopefully can be held at a later date and place to be determined.

Our Charlotte Meet was effected by the cancellation of the annual Charlotte Region's Auto Fair, however our meet **will** be held as planned on the same dates at a new Charlotte location.

Our planned March meet in Puerto Rico was postponed until 2022. The annual National meet in Auburn has been moved from the original May date to the July 4th weekend. In view of these changes and possibly more to come, those region members interested in national activities should continue to watch the national activities calendar on the AACA website. Our sincere thanks go to our national office staff and board of directors for their dedication to dealing with these issues for the members.

Turning to the bright side, however, beginning with the April Divisional Tour in Florida there are still seven (7) National tours and eight (8) National Meets on the calendar for 2021 covering all areas of the country.

It is our wish that everyone is staying safe and healthy and looking forward to Spring. It is my hope that the next time you read this column we will be actively participating in the full slate of 2021 national activities mentioned above with no adjustments in sight.




**Marine Corps League  
Detachment 924**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Car Show**

**Saturday, May 15: 10 am to 3pm**  
~Rain date May 16~

**Parkway Drive-In Theater**  
2909 East Lamar Alexander  
Maryville, TN





## Pay Attention to the Engine

By Jim Elliot, AACA President



When preparing your car for judging, don't forget to pay attention to your engine.

First, our judging guidelines require that your vehicle be driven onto the show field. Almost more importantly, the engine provides a multitude of areas where the judging team can find deductions. Here are my top ten areas in the engine bay that require your attention.

**Cleanliness** – We judge cars to the condition that it was delivered to the original purchaser. Most judges believe cars were delivered new without leaks or rusted parts.

**Fan belts** – Find a period correct or proper reproduction belt. If it is marked with an aftermarket brand, remove the brand by using fine steel wool or paint thinner.

**Radiator hoses** – Make sure the labeling on the hose is correct for period and brand.

**Hose clamps** – A one point deduction can be taken for each incorrect clamp. Reproduction tower top and similar older style clamps are readily available from many suppliers.

**Radiator cap** – An aftermarket cap is readily visible and needs to be replaced with a cap identical to the one supplied with the car.

**Radiator** – Make sure it is clean and free from bugs and leaves. A small toothbrush can be used to clean it. A spray can of "radiator black" paint is a good way to make it look new again.

**Spark plugs** – When visible, the plugs should be period correct and match the original manufacturer.

**Spark plug wires** – Wires with millimeter markings or store brands can result in a one point deduction for each wire. Never use neon colors to "dress-up" the engine.

**Oil Filter** – Fram, Wix and K&N filters may be your preference but will quickly result in deductions.

**Hood insulation** – Make sure yours fits well and has the proper clips. If it is showing its age, it is time to replace it.

I hope this helps you to earn the trophy you are seeking.



## Remembering Dino Griffitts



Dora Dean Griffitts, better known to East Tennessee Region members as "Dino," passed away on January 20, 2021 at the age of 88. Dino, along with her surviving husband Robert, had been active members of the ETR car club for many years.

In addition to attending and planning club events, Dino served on the ETR Board of Directors. Dino and Bob were regulars at club activities and could usually be seen riding in their classic Thunderbird or their Lincoln Continental convertible.

One of the most memorable moments was when the club did a drive-by of the Griffitts home in the fall of 2018. It was a joyous reunion to see Dino and Bob again. Most recently, Dino and Bob attended the ETR "Cabin Fever" event held in February 2020. Dino maintained the mischievous twinkle in her eyes and her trademark grin as she enjoyed renewing old friendships and making new friends that day.

The Griffitts celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 30, 2020. In addition to her husband, Dino is survived by their two children, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Dino's obituary contained the following quote: *"Loved and missed and always near. Don't cry for me, I'm always near. I am the snowflake that kisses your nose, I am the mist on the morning rose. I am the bird up in the sky, I am the cloud that's drifting by. I am the river as it flows, I am the moonbeams as they glow. I am the love in every bloom. Loved and missed and always dear. Don't cry for me, I'm always near."*



## The East Tennessee Region Welcomes New Member Dave Hermanson



The ETR is fortunate to recruit new members, even in the midst of a pandemic. Our latest new member is Dave Hermanson, currently a resident of Knoxville. Dave's membership is sponsored by Tom Howard. Following is Dave's response to a request for information to share with fellow club members:

"I was born in Los Angeles and retired to Tennessee in 2006 from office-support roles in California and Maine. Interested in cars from a very early age, thanks to my father who was a lead mechanic for a large Dodge-Plymouth Dealership in downtown Los Angeles through the early 1950's. I never got interested in the mechanical hands-on side of automobiles from early on, but I have always been interested in the history, design and advertising promotion of American manufacturers. This is one of the reasons that I don't have a collector car at the moment. This interest led to developing a fairly large collection of showroom brochures dating back to the early 1930's not only from the United States, but models developed and sold by "The Big Three" in Canada, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

Through a longtime friendship with another collector, I have been fortunate to have design concepts and notes on the development of Dodge showroom brochures from 1969 to 1973 along with some original catalog are used in these brochures. I also have a nice collection of Dealership Promotional Models from 1949 through the 1960's along with a small collection of Passenger License Plates from California, Maine and a couple of Canadian Provinces. In addition to the AACA, I am also a member of the Society of Automotive Historians (SAH) and longtime member of the Automobile License Plate Collectors Association (ALPCA).

Living in Los Angeles resulted in one of my main interests, going back for well over 60 years now, the Mobilgas Economy Runs held in the 1950's and 1960's and its predecessor the Gilmore Economy Runs in the 1930's to early 1940's. I have been fortunate to acquire a large archive of Economy Run memorabilia which was capped off in 2014 with the publication of a book entitled *The Mobilgas Economy Run* which focused on the history of the economy runs."

Please make Dave feel welcome to the ETR whenever you have the opportunity.







# East Tennessee Region Board Member Matt Sartin Talks About His Passion for Cars

*By Matt Sartin, Reported by Melissa Johnston*

Growing up in a family owned auto parts business, cars have always been a part of my life.

Like most young boys, I could not wait to get my license. I wanted a Corvette or muscle car, but that didn't happen like I wanted. I had to wait for them both.



**This 1977 Silverado was Matt's first vehicle. He and his dad worked to make it the lowest ride in town.**

A friend of my Dad's had a 1972 Cheyenne Super that I thought was the hottest truck on the road. Dad thought about buying the truck for me, however he said no because it was loaded down with an LT-1 motor. He was worried I couldn't handle the power at that age and was probably right! Instead, my first truck was a 1977 Silverado that Dad and I lowered down to be the lowest truck in town. There were several advantages to having a low rider, however that is another story.

June 12, 1987 I got my first muscle car- a 1972 SS Chevelle and on July 31st we got the title. I spent my Senior year of high school with my Dad doing an off the frame restoration of this beautiful hot rod!

I still, to this day, enjoy driving and showing her off. A few years after restoring my Chevelle, I got my Corvette and then many years later a 1969 Chevy truck with a bigger engine to add to the fun.

*Editor's Note: Matt's restored 1972 Chevelle is featured on the front page. When Matt is not cruising in one of his beautiful rides, he can usually be found behind the counter of family-owned Jack's Auto Parts, in Lenoir City. Matt currently serves on the board of the East Tennessee Region, AACA.*

**WWW.ETR.AACA.COM**

## 2021 AACA Southeastern Spring Nationals



Hosted by

**Hornets Nest Region**  
Antique Automobile Club of America  
Charlotte, NC

**April 9-10, 2021**  
At the  
**Embassy Suites**  
5400 John Q. Hammons Drive N.W.  
Concord, NC 28027

*Face Masks and Social Distancing is  
Required by North Carolina Officials*

*Spring 2021 Charlotte AutoFair has been  
canceled because of Covid-19.*



**Registration Deadline March 22, 2021**





# David Tinsley's Ragtop Picture Cars in Lebanon TN Provides Cars for the Stars



The three 1930 Model A trucks shown above are part of the inventory at Ragtop Picture Cars. The vintage filling station is often used as a backdrop for projects filmed on the property. The filling station is also the office of the owner, David Tinsley.

By Jan Frazee

Ragtop Picture Cars, located in Lebanon, TN provides all types of vehicles for movies, country music videos, photo shoots and other production venues.

The inspiration for company came back in 1999. While David Tinsley was out cruising in his 1964 GTO along Donelson Pike near Nashville, a stranger pulled up beside him at a stoplight and asked if he could use David's GTO in a country music video. David realized there might be a business opportunity that would combine his interests and skills, as he had liked cars since he was a kid and had experience working in body shops.

David had also restored cars and had raced in NASCAR-sanctioned events during the 1980s.

The first production featuring one of David's cars was the Brooks & Dunn county music video for the song "Missing You."

Today, Ragtop Picture Cars ([Ragtoppicturecars.com](http://Ragtoppicturecars.com)) is Tennessee's largest film and movie car company. With his recent purchase of a 1989 Dodge Omni the first week of March of this year, David has 188 vehicles in the company's inventory. The vehicles include vintage, classic & current model vehicles, police



David Tinsley (left) and his family with Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz from the TV Series, "American Pickers."

cars from the 30's to modern day, vintage and modern taxi's, ambulances, milk trucks, and pickups. If a particular vehicle is needed for a production that David does not have, he is often able to locate it through local car clubs. "I enjoy driving the classic vehicles, and attending area

*Continued next page*





# David Tinsley's Ragtop Picture Cars in Lebanon TN Provides Cars for the Stars

*Continued from previous page*



The country music group Florida Georgia Line filmed their very first music video "Cruise" onsite at Ragtop Picture Cars in Lebanon. All the vehicles used in the music video were from David's inventory.

cruise-ins," David explained.

Additionally, Ragtop Picture Cars maintains a database of cars which are available through various other contacts. "I do my own mechanical work," he added. "Servicing and keeping the cars running is quite a challenge, especially when they are older model cars."

Ragtop Picture Cars has provided the film and entertainment industry with a variety of vehicles, auto related props and auxiliary services for over 20 years. Their credits include over 2000 music videos; Lady Antebellum's "Love Don't Live Here" and others. Several of these videos have been filmed on the property such as Alan Jackson's "Country Boy" video, and Florida Georgia Line's very first video for their hit "Cruise."

David still has the '71 Chevy truck that was used in Taylor Swift's first video "Tim McGraw."

Over thirty movies have featured vehicles from Ragtop Picture Cars including "The Green Book," "Water for Elephants," and "Hannah Montana." Also included in their credits are five na-

tional tv series, including the series "Nashville" and over 200 commercials.

"I never dreamed that I would be doing this," David said. "All these cars have character and personalities. If they are in a film or a video...it's something that will be around forever."



David Tinsley at Bristol Motor Speedway in 2015. "One of my most memorable shoots was just Dale Earnhardt, Jr. and me on the track at Bristol, putting down laps at over 100 mph for a Mt. Dew commercial."





## Tim and Sherry Seay Take Delivery of a California Ford Country Squire Wagon



Sherry Seay relaxes on the tailgate of their 1964 Ford Country Squire. The Seays will be providing progress reports to the *Antiquer* as they undertake the restoration of this rare wagon.

*By Tim Seay. Reported by Melissa Johnston*

Sherry and I began searching for a station wagon 3-4 years ago. We wanted something that was big enough to haul our friends and our dogs since our other vehicles are two seaters. We considered all makes and model years but ultimately decided something in the 1960's with the wood grain on the side would suit us best.

We get the greatest joy from driving our collectible cars, so we sought a rust free, well-equipped, dependable car that would be comfortable to drive to the local cruise-in or travel cross country.

We finally found one that was originally sold in California and remained there until 2017 at which time it was sold to the 3rd owner who lived in Mesa, Arizona. Needless to say, it is a rust-free example of a car that has lived its entire life in the dry western climate.

The 1964 Ford Country Squire was the top of the line wagon and has the wood grain panels all around. An extra plus is that the car is highly optioned with a 390 V8 engine, power steering, power brakes, power windows and seat, factory air and the very rare swing-away steering wheel.

The 2nd owner acquired the car in 1967 and kept detailed service records until the car was sold to the 3rd owner in Arizona. Some restoration work has been completed on the interior of the car and it is generally in good mechanical condition. Sherry and I have decided to work on improving the exterior by adding new paint and wood grain trim, so this will be a work in progress.



After taking delivery of the car, Tim Seay stands beside the Seay's 1964 Ford Country Squire.



# Is Jerry and Frances Hodge's 1908 Buick Model F The Oldest Car in the East Tennessee Region?

*By: Jerry Hodge*

I first saw my 1908 Buick in 1958 at the 4th of July Hillbilly Homecoming Parade in Maryville. It was owned by Roy Johnson from Jefferson City and driven by his son Danny, who was about my age.



**Jerry Hodge's 1908 Buick Model occupies an honored space in his basement-garage.**

Since my father had acquired the Buick dealership in Maryville a year earlier, I was curious about the Buick and Danny told me a lot of information about it. Danny's grandfather, who lived in Anderson, Indiana, had purchased the Buick in 1910 as the family's first automobile and used it for daily transportation until 1926. In 1932 he moved to Jefferson City, Tennessee, to open the Johnson Bed Spring Factory and he transported the Buick there by truck.

Over the next few years, I would often see Danny at the Hillbilly Homecoming Parades when he brought the Buick on a car trailer pulling it with a 1927 Packard Town Car. I told Danny that I was interested in the Buick and if they ever considered selling it, let me know. As a lot of car people have heard in similar situations, the answer was "We would never sell this car, it is part of our family."

In October of 1982, Danny called me and said that they were closing the bed spring factory and selling the building and that he needed to sell the 1927 Packard Town Car as it was stored in the building. He had started restoring it and had it disassembled with the body off of the frame and the motor out and he did not have time to finish the restoration. I was able to buy the 1927 Packard (literally a basket case). At the time, I asked about the 1908 Buick and his answer was still the same.

Over the next few years, I finished the restoration on the Packard and Danny and I stayed in touch as he still lived in Jefferson City and still had the 1908 Buick.



**ETR Members Rocky Rochelle and Jerry Hodge on the 2008 AACA Reliability Tour.**

As situations have a way of changing, in January 1993 Danny called me and said if I was still interested in the Buick, it was for sale. After knowing about the car for 35 years, I finally was able to purchase it from Danny.

I basically had to do very little to the car. Danny had maintained it very well and kept it in good storage and had driven it periodically.

The 1908 is basically the same as the first full body car made by David Buick in 1905.....a two cylinder opposed motor, 2-speed planetary transmission and single chain drive rear axle. It has to be started by a hand crank on the driver's side - more commonly known as a "side winder."

East Tennessee Region member Rocky Rochelle, who is the best driver of the Buick, and I drove it 375 miles in four days on the 2008 AACA Reliability Tour in Chattanooga without a minute's problem.

The Buick is still a good running and driving car considering it is 113 years old.





## East Tennessee Region AACA Board Meeting Minutes

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**Scholarship for 2021:** With the current Covid situation and several of our local schools not being 100 percent functional, it is recommended that we do not sponsor a scholarship for 2021. This came in the form of a motion and was seconded and the motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**2023 Divisional Tour:** Roger Frazee reported the need to appoint a Committee Chairman and a Registration Chairman for the 2023 Divisional Tour. He also stated the need to establish an official hub city for the tour to be based. Roger Frazee was nominated to serve as the Committee Chairman for the 2023 Divisional Tour. This was seconded and this motion carried. Tom Howard was nominated to serve as the Registration Chairman. This was seconded and the motion carried. In previous meetings it was recommended that Oak Ridge be the hub city. A motion was made to make Oak Ridge the official hub city for the tour. This motion was seconded and the motion carried. The dates for the Divisional Tour will be April 30, May 1, 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

**2021 Zoom account:** It was reported that if we converted our Zoom account to an annual account we could save 20%. A motion was made to convert our current monthly Zoom account to an annual account with a total cost of \$124.14 (including tax). This motion was seconded and the motion carried. This Zoom account is available for any subcommittee group that may need to use it. Anyone wishing to set up a meeting should contact RG Lewallen.

**Annual Christmas Party:** Tom Howard reported that Rothchild's Catering will honor our \$250.00 deposit that we made last year for our annual Christmas party for one year to hold our Christmas party at their facility.

**Award for most recruits:** Robert Quillin requested we think about the possibilities of rewarding the club member this year who has the most recruits to join our club. This could be something as simple as a plaque.

**Board Meeting Schedule:** Robert Quillin reported that the schedule for our Board meetings for the remainder of 2021 would be the following dates March 9, May 11, July 6, September 14 and November 9.

### **Adjourn:**

Charlie Simpson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

R. G. Lewallen, ETR Secretary

## It Takes a Village to Restore a Chevy

*By Roger Frazee*

It was a gloomy Saturday morning when the text came into my phone. "Do you have a transmission jack?"

I knew instantly that RG Lewallen was deep into a garage project and I had to go see what was up. So I loaded the transmission jack into the back of the Gator and headed down the street to RG's house. When I arrived, I was greeted by friends Robbie Gray, Jimmy Lawson, RG, and Roger Castile.



**Friends Roger Castile, Robbie Gray, RG Lewallen, and Jimmy Lawson swarm over Jimmy's 1957 Chevrolet.**

They were all hard at work disassembling a 1957 Chevrolet that Jimmy had just purchased. By the time I arrived on the scene, the front clip had been removed from the car and they were working on getting the glass out of the doors. The rear window had also been removed.

Their goal for the day was to get the engine and transmission out of the car, a task that was successfully completed in time for dinner that evening.

Jimmy Lawson, who recently retired after many years of doing body work in his own shop in Robbins, TN, plans to do a complete restoration on the Chevy. He intends to keep the original Canyon Coral color.

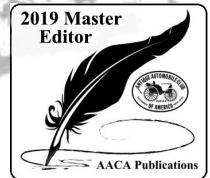
With all of the willing hands, progress on the car should be swift. But more important than the restoration is the bonding and friendship that projects like this provide. Few things in life bring friends together and provide friendship like an automobile in need of TLC. It takes a village to restore a Chevy!

## Smoky Mountain Antiquer

Roger and Jan Frazee, Editors

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Parting Shot: Dino and Bob Griffitts greet ETR friends as the club does a drive-by visit in 2018.