



GAS BUGGY GOSSIP



NORTH FLORIDA REGION AACA, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

WEB SITE : NEFLAACA.ORG

MARCH 2024 VOLUME 46 NUMBER 03
CELEBRATING 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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EDITOR: RICHARD BENDETTI	631-2046

ACTIVITY/SUNSHINE

KRIS GEDDINGS

50/50

WOODY WITCZAK
.....

EXECUTIVE BOARD

KEN LAWSON
WOODY WITCZAK
RICHARD BENDETTI
ROB DALY
RICHARD WAGNER

LUNCH MEETING AT BOB EVANS ON 3/14 AT 11 A.M.

NEWS AND NOTES:

Many club members attended the memorial service for Mary Ann Witczak which was held on 2/22 at Aaron, Burney and Bivens Funeral Home in Orange Park. It was a moving service in Mary Ann's Memory. Woody shared photos and memories of their life together.

KEN LAWSON: notes that he and Carol were on a pre planned cruise and were not able to attend... "Carol and I always enjoyed visiting with Mary Ann; she was witty, insightful and a Storehouse of medical news and information.RIP Mary Ann "

KEN REPORTS: Carol and I visited Wayne Hodges, our newest member at Brooks Rehab where he has been since suffering cardiac arrest at the end of December. He was treated at UF Medical downtown until his transfer to Brooks. Wayne has come a long way but still has a long way to go to regain his health and quality of life. Please keep him in your prayers.
(members may recall that Wayne was gifted a Corvair last year as a Birthday present by his wife)

BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn Lyman	3/10
Marissa Pinter	3/13
Carol Wyman	3/16
Katherine Easley	3/22
Peggy Cyrano	3/27

NO ANNIVERSARIES TO REPORT

AACA MINUTES – MEETING 2/8/24 – JOSEPH’S PIZZA

CALL TO ORDER: Ken Lawson

PLEDGE: Bill Gillespie

MINUTES: Published in Newsletter. Motion – Bill Gillespie, 2nd Bob Easley, All in Favor.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Woody provided copies to everyone, Income \$135.00, Expenses, 86.25, Balance \$3603.30. Woody Motioned, 2nd by Jim Orth.- All in favor.

ATTENDANCE: 25 – Woody Witzcak; The Breslins’; The Bendettis’; The On-sagers’; Chris Parker; Stephanie Forquer, The Wagners’; David Pinter; Chris Conover; Bill Gillespie; The Easleys’; Brenda Daly; Dee Scott; The Rogers’; Pat Schudel; Ken Lawson; Jim Orth.

Guests: Kim Witzcak; Joyce Hernandez,

BIRTHDAYS – Dave Pinter 2/22, Sandy Wintz 2/24, Cindy Gillespie 2/28.

ANNIVERSARIES: Johnsons 2/9, Lawsons 2/22.

SMYPATHY: We are deeply saddened with the loss of two members within days apart, Mary Ann Witzcak, and Lynda Orth. Our deepest sympathy and prayers for Woody and Jim and their families during this time of loss and healing. We as a club, need to reach out to them with love and encouragement.

OLD BUSINESS: Club Cruise to Corkey Bells, Palatka 2/29/24 (Leap Year Day) We will meet at 9:30 At Buddy Boys Country Store CR 13 N. We have about 10 members planning to go. Thanks to Chris Parker for organizing this fun Time.

NEW BUSINESS: Richard Wagner and his committee, have made a schedule for the year listing the meeting dates and venues. Copies were given to everyone. This should cut down some of the confusion of trying to come up with a place to go. These are places where we have gone before with some new ones added.

First Saturday of each month, Azelia AACA sponsors car show Green Cove Springs at Riverfront Boat Ramp. Meet 8:15 am.

Chris Parker discussed the Club sponsored Cruise-in at Players Grill (Formerly Village Inn) Mandarin. Players would like us to do this twice a month.

NEXT PAGE

MINUTES

Wednesday and possibly Friday. Players will pick up Tab. Chris Conover will furnish Music. Wednesday is “WING SPECIAL” which is well attended. There is room for 60 cars. We will do a 50/50 to benefit the club. The first trial will be WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 3:00 – 9:00 PM. Let’s support Chris with his hard work coordinating this with Players, and bring our cars to the event. Motion by Richard Wagner, Accepted by All.

50/50 \$63.00 – 31.50 (Bill Gillespie)

**CAR STORY: Bill Gillespie (Updated us on his Packard)
Jim Orth – Discussed a book on Ford History.**

MARCH MEETING – BOB EVANS 11:00

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by Joan Wagner, Secretary 2/28/24

MORE INFO REGARDING PLAYERS

Ken will update us at Bob Evans lunch meeting regarding volunteers for parking as well as 50/50 ticket sales.

NEW FEATURE: CARS FOR SALE AS WELL AS MEMORABILIA

This is free listings...Members are urged to give fellow members the first shot at items that will be put up for sale prior to being offered to the general public.

***** Contact Ken Lawson as he is giving away his collection of books and magazines *****

NEW-OLD FEATURE CAR STORIES

Thank you to Bill Gillespie for articles submitted thus far.

CORKY BELL ROAD TRIP

Our first Road Trip to Corky Bells, Palatka, was enjoyed by all. Even though the weather was cool and windy, 12 of us showed up for a nice ride to Palatka. Those who took Route 13 had a scenic ride once we were away from the big city traffic.

The following club members were in attendance: Bill & Cindy Gillespie, Richard & Joan Wagner, Chris Parker & Stephanie, Ken & Carol Lawson, Karel Daniel, Dee Scott, Linda Crider, and Dave Pinter.

We had 4 Collector Cars. Gillespies' drove their beautiful 1937 Burgundy Buick, Wagner's, (04 Chev SSR), Chris & Stephanie (02 Plymouth Prowler) David Pinter, 1999 Porsche. Dee's Buick's Battery died, so she drove her Elantra, and Ken drove his Mercury.

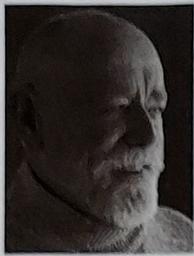
The food and service was excellent. We enjoyed the fellowship around the table.

A big THANK YOU to Chris Parker for organizing this event!!

Looking forward to seeing you all at our regular meeting at BOB EVANS, Mandarin, MARCH 14.

Richard Wagner, V.P.





Jim Richardson

THANKSBILL GILLESPIE

Thwarting Thieves

“The anti-theft systems I outlined are still suitable for my needs.”

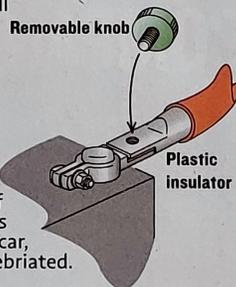
IN MY LATE teens I aspired to become a musician. Some friends had formed a band, and they needed a bass player, so I borrowed an old, full-size bass fiddle, and learned to gut tub it. We called ourselves the Paragons, and our first big gig was at the Teen Canteen in Lakewood, California. I saw it as a stepping stone to a star-studded future.

There was a great crowd, and we played our hearts out. Afterwards, we left the building tired but elated just in time to see our transportation—the drummer’s 1954 Ford station wagon—speed off into the night. Two minutes sooner and we would have caught the thief, but here we were, standing at the curb with our instruments and no way to get home. We called the police, but the thieves were long gone.

Our saxophone player’s father collected us, but my bass fiddle wouldn’t fit in his car, so I walked home—about a mile—wrestling the giant instrument as I went. That ended my musical career and taught me a valuable lesson: To theft-proof my car for whenever I had to leave it in a questionable place. I have been doing it ever since, especially on my classics. Theft-proofing your vehicle is as easy as employing one of these four techniques.

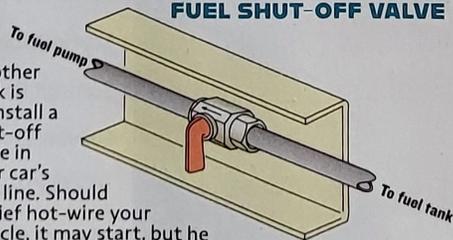
THEFT-PROOF BATTERY CABLE CONNECTOR

The simplest way is to install a two-piece battery cable terminal with a knob on it that allows you to quickly disconnect the battery. Take the knob with you when you leave the vehicle. It’s also a convenient way to cut off your battery when working on the car. Of course, if the thief brings his own knob he will have your car, but it might confuse the inebriated.



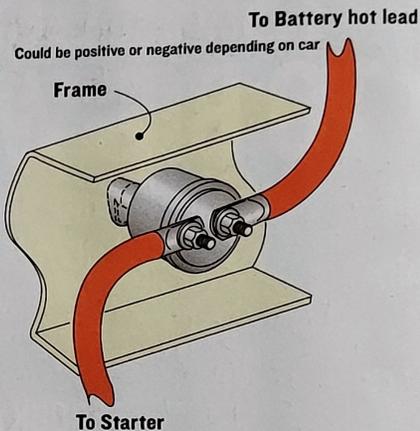
FUEL SHUT-OFF VALVE

Another trick is to install a shut-off valve in your car’s fuel line. Should a thief hot-wire your vehicle, it may start, but he will only drive a few feet with the valve closed, and he will not know what to do next. Be sure to double flare both ends of the fuel line to make sure the connection to the shut-off valve is leakproof.



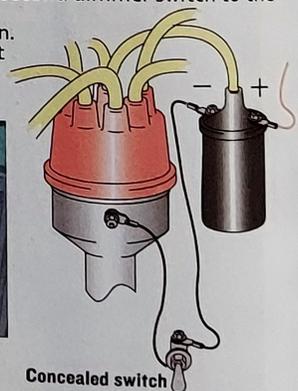
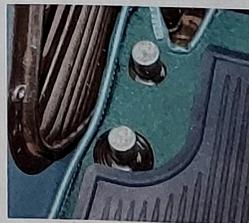
BATTERY CUT OFF SWITCH

The next option is to install a heavy-duty battery cut-off switch on one of the battery cables and mount it in a hard-to-find location. Ideally, that location could be in or under the car, which would require terminal wire extensions. It could take precious minutes for a thief to figure out why the vehicle won’t start, during which time you could bust a bass fiddle over his head.



THE DISTRIBUTOR SWITCH

My favorite solution is to connect a toggle switch to the wire that goes from the negative side of the coil to the distributor. When you flip the switch, it will immobilize the ignition system. The engine will turn over but won’t start. The switch could be mounted inside the vehicle’s glove compartment, for instance. An even more devious version of this trick is to mount a second dimmer switch to the floorboard of your classic where it can’t be easily seen. A simple tap with your foot will disable the ignition system.



These days, car thieves aren’t relegated to only questionable areas. They’ll strike almost anywhere, any time. Fortunately, the anti-theft systems I outlined are still suitable for my needs, and can help other collector-car owners, too. But I know there are other devices and creative methods that some of you folks use. Let us know. 🚗

WOODYISMS

February is in the rear-view mirror and we're looking at March through the windshield. As winter draws to an end, March offers a glimpse of warmer days ahead. The spring equinox on March 19th heralds the arrival of a sunnier season. As Robin Williams once quipped, "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"

It's also time to spring forward and adjust your clocks for the beginning of daylight savings on March 10th.

Beyond St. Patrick's Day and National Corned Beef and Cabbage Day (March 17th), March is full of creative holidays to lift you out of the winter blues.

As nature begins to bloom again, environmental enthusiasts can celebrate with holidays like National Plant a Flower Day (March 12th), National Agriculture Day (March 19th), and National Learn About Butterflies Day (March 14th).

March is also a busy month for animal lovers. World Wildlife Day (March 3rd) is a great occasion to learn more about our furry, fanged, and winged friends, and nobody can resist the double-dose of cuteness on March 23rd, which marks both National Puppy Day and Cuddly Kitten Day.

March hosts two significant religious holidays this year. Ramadan (March 10th thru April 9th) is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community.

Good Friday (March 29th) is the Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary. It is observed during Holy Week as part of the Paschal Triduum. Easter Sunday (March 31st) marks his rising from the tomb.

Let's take a look at the Cash Flow Summary for February. Our income was made up of \$31.50, the club share of the 50/50 drawing at the February meeting and \$20.00 in 2024 dues collected. Our expenses were \$25.00 payment of 2024 dues to the First Coast Car Council and a \$100.00 donation to the Rodeheaver Boys Ranch. As of March 1st, we have \$3,554.80 available funds in our bank account.

The "Budget versus Actuals" report for February shows no variances that require discussion. For this point in our fiscal year, we are tracking to our budget.

Our next meeting is 11:00 AM at the Bob Evans Restaurant, 3163 Hartley Road. Jacksonville. FL (located just Northeast of the intersection of I-295 and San Jose Blvd). Looking forward to seeing you there.

I want to thank the membership for the cards and calls offering sympathy and prayers to comfort me as a result of Mary Ann's passing. Your support in this difficult time was critical and so important.

Regards,

Woody