

THE CLUTCH CHATTER

Volume 33 Issue 11 December 2014



The President's Page by Luke Stakenborg

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www.bullrunaaca.org

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Hello everyone! I hope that all of you had a Happy Thanksgiving. Congratulations to all of the new officers and board of directors for next year. I want to personally thank each of you for re-electing me for a third term! This upcoming year will be eventful with several new proposed items in the works. This will be touched upon in the upcoming meeting. I would also like to call a separate meeting with the newly elected officers and board of directors after our scheduled meeting.

Remember that this meeting is our annual cookie exchange. Make sure that you bring two dozen cookies for everyone to share. We will also have Bill Holmes present a how to session on small parts electro-plating. A must for do it yourselves! Please attend this meeting if you were ever interested in learning more of this practice. The annual Christmas parade will be on Saturday the 6th. Please contact Pete Pandolfi if you are interested in this event. The annual installation banquet will take place at the City Tavern restaurant on January the 11th at 3:00 p.m. More will be discussed at the meeting.

That is all I have for now. See you at the VFW on December the 14th at 4:00 p.m.

Luke

December Birthdays:

Lori Beer	Larry Pleasants
Gary Belt	Marty Rendon
Bob Mantz	George Richardson
Sandy Mantz	Kathryn Sessler
Nancy Newland	Roberta Wilhelm

December Anniversaries:

Hal & Kathy Hermann

Calendar of Events and Activities

- Dec 6 Greater Manassas Christmas Parade – More details in this newsletter
- Dec 14 Meeting at the Manassas VFW Hall at 4:00 pm. Special Presentation on Home Plating by Bill Holmes**
- Jan 11 Bull Run Installation of Officers and Holiday dinner – City Tavern, Manassas, VA
- Feb 8 Meeting at the Manassas VFW Hall at 4:00 pm. Special Presentation on Hudson Terraplane by Jon Battle**
- Feb 12-14 AACA Annual Meeting Philadelphia, PA

Editor's Notes by Peter W. Pandolfi:

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Please let me know if you have any pictures while participating in Bull Run or other AACA events. Please submit any articles, pictures or ideas to me at email: rr4pwp@gmail.com.

As a reminder, our meetings are usually the second Sunday of the month at the VFW Hall in Manassas unless advised differently.

I hope to start the New Year with a redesigned Clutch Chatter. The present format is good and very functional. The new format promises to be more attractive and easier to read. In addition to the Car of the Month, instituted in the November issue, I will be adding a list of birthdays (no years) and anniversaries of Bull Run members. I will also create a Welcome section to introduce new club members and expand the events calendar to include other area events. I ask for your patience and help as I put this together. I may not have everyone's birth date or anniversary date and welcoming new members will depend on when people apply. If you do not see you name listed, please contact me at the above email address to provide the information. Likewise, if you do not want your birthday or anniversary listed, let me know.

Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2014 by Scott Patton, Secretary

On Sunday November 9 our monthly meeting at the Manassas VFW was called to order by President Luke Stakenborg at 4:08 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance Treasurer Nicki Hudson gave her report and it was unanimously accepted on motion by Scott Patton.

Sunshine: no report

Luke begins by thanking all veterans for their service. Also Luke reintroduced our newest member Brandon Bazon who owns a 1966 Mercury. Brandon was also elected to our Board of Directors along with Pete Pandolfi and George Richardson. Nicki Hudson will remain Treasurer, Luke Stakenborg President, Scott Patton Vice President, and Pam Pandolfi Secretary. Warren Bain will be our ODMA representative. Our installation of officers and awards banquet will be at the City Tavern at 3 pm on January 11.

There was a discussion about establishing a committee for the Arthur Ault award and the Continuous Service award. The Ault committee is the previous two Ault winners and the Continuous Service committee is chaired by George Richardson with Nicki Hudson and Bill Sessler completing the committee. It was also recommended the club select a new chairman for the 2015 Rohr show to get additional members familiar with how to put this show together. Bill Sessler and Pete Pandolfi will both assist whoever would like to volunteer. Pete recommends that we have a car of the month for our Clutch Chatter. Any member can send in a picture with a brief story. This can be a car you currently own or used to own. Send to Pete Pandolfi or Bill Holmes.

A discussion was held about adding a "save the date" to next year's Rohr show flyer since it will be the 40th anniversary. Our most important discussion held was talking about ideas to help increase our membership. Dave Claveloux recommended that since some of us attend the cruise in at the Manassas Burger King during the warm months that we park together and hand out information to help promote our region. This is just one of some ideas talked about. Bill Holmes reminds us to check the website as new things are added.

Joanne Richardson motioned that we spend \$200.00 for door prizes and a few decorations for our banquet. All were in favor and Nicki volunteered to handle the task.

Brandon Bazon wins 50/50 and all 13 members present adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Special Presentation Schedule by Jon Battle

DATE PRESENTER THEME

December 14...Bill Holmes.....Home Plating
February 8..... Jon Battle.... "What's a Terraplane?"

Editor's Note: Jon is soliciting speakers for next year. Please consider contacting Jon to get scheduled to speak about any antique vehicle related topic – to include discussing your pride and joy, your first car, your first restoration, or any technical topic. Got a short movie or friend with automotive skills, these resources can be used for a possible presentation.

Christmas Parade Schedule by Pete Pandolfi

The local Christmas Parade is just a week away, and I am looking for club members who would like to participate with their antique vehicle. There is no entry fee for Bull Run Region since some of our members provide convertibles for the dignitaries. We have all the dignitary cars we need, but there is plenty of room for more vehicles in the club entry. We are unit 58 which is about the middle of the parade.

Greater Manassas Christmas Parade - December 6, 2014

Line Up: 8:30 am at Manassas Shopping Center
Mathis Ave.

Manassas, VA 20110

Parade Kick Off: 10 am

Parade Theme: A Christmas Fantasy

Parade Route: See Attached Route Map

The club group is limited to 10 vehicles. All antique vehicles are welcome. The parade is a lot of fun and the spectators love to see our vehicles. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are going to participate. As in years past, it will be first come, first served until we reach our limit. You are free to decorate your vehicles along the theme of the parade, Christmas Fantasy. You may not dress as Santa Claus or toss candy or other promotional items from your vehicle in either parade. Refreshments for club members will be provided.

Please contact me soon by email, phone or in person if you are interested.

Thanks.

Pete

General Announcements:

Don't forget to renew your membership! Region renewal form is attached or available on the website.

The Dec 14 meeting will be our annual cookie exchange. Bring two dozen of your favorite holiday treat and exchange them for two dozen treats brought by other members.

Register for the annual Installation of Officers and Holiday Celebration on Jan 11. Flyer and RSVP form is attached.

If you know of a member having medical issues or a happy event such as the birth of a child or grandchild, let the Sunshine Committee know.

Bull Run Region Car of the Month
1967 Pontiac Firebird

Editor's Note: Special thanks to Vern Parker for permitting use to republish his article on Bull Run member John Zampino's Firebird. The article originally was published on August 16, 2011 and is also available on Vern's website.

By Vern Parker

In the mid-1960s public transportation was plentiful in Queens, N.Y. Still young John Zampino wanted a brand new car.

Ford had great sales success with the Mustang, so much so that Mustangs were everywhere. General Motors spent a couple of years developing a Mustang fighter. Finally Chevrolet introduced the Camaro as a response to the Mustang. A few months later Pontiac brought out the Firebird.



Now that was a car that captured Zampino's attention. In late 1966 he went to the Myrtle Motors dealership in Maspeth, N.Y. And placed an order for a new 1967 Pontiac Firebird. He was about to order a Pea Green colored car when his girlfriend suggested that a Tyrol Blue might be a better choice.

Money was not plentiful in the mid-1960s so Zampino did not opt for any of the power assisted equipment such as steering, windows or brakes. Nor did he check off the box for air conditioning.

He did, however, order some extra cost optional features including:

- 4-speed manual transmission...\$184.31.
- Custom trim package.....108.48.
- 326-cubic-inch Firebird V-8.....95.04.
- Push button AM radio.....61.09.
- Floor console.....47.39.
- Safe-T-axle.....42.13.
- Rallye cluster gauges.....31.60.
- Rear fender antenna.....9.48.

Front floor
mats.....6.11.
Rear floor
mats.....5.69.
Door edge
guards.....4.74.
Heavy duty
battery.....3.48.



Eventually Zampino's blue Firebird arrived and he took delivery on April 28, 1967.

Of course the dealer had already applied under coating.

After financing was arranged through GMAC and Zampino agreed to make 36 monthly payments of \$90.78 he drove his new Firebird to his parent's house because they had a garage and he did not.

There the Firebird sat protected from the elements. Zampino would take his car out on fair weather weekends. He went to Rockaway Beach one nice day and upon returning to the parking lot found evidence that an attempt had been made to break into his car.

Thereafter his Firebird spent even more time in the garage. Zampino purchased a very used old Datsun to use as a beater around the city.



In 1976 Zampino's job took him to northern Virginia. When all of his household goods were loaded onto the big Mayflower van, he says the last item to be loaded was his Pontiac.

Besides being extremely protective of his car Zampino has kept his Firebird as original as possible. Because the cargo capacity of the trunk is so limited the designers created a "Space Saver" spare tire. This is an uninflated smaller than usual tire that came with a can of compressed air so it could be inflated if needed. Zampino has yet to remove the spare tire from where it was installed 44 years ago.

The tires on the ground are the third set on the car. After the original set wore out he installed a set of radial tires. He returned to the bias-ply tires on the car now. The E70x14-inch tires have the correct narrow white sidewalls. Original trim rings add some flash to the wheels on the 108.1-inch wheelbase.

When ordering his Firebird Zampino did not want the standard 165-horsepower six-cylinder engine. Nor did the optional 215-horsepower six-cylinder engine have any appeal. That left two optional V-8 engines. The 285-horsepower version had a thirsty four-barrel carburetor which Zampino says he could live without. He selected the 250-horsepower V-8 with a more economical two-barrel carburetor.

Whenever Zampino settles into the all black interior and grips the three-spoke steering wheel he feels comfortably at home.



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