



Garage Gossip

Spring Issue
March 2014

Stones River Region-AACA Car Club
In Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Dear Members:

March 2014

The meeting Tuesday night went very well without reading the minutes helped to speed things up. The treasurer's report showed we did very good from our swap meet.

Several of our new members were in attendance. Derrell announced that Marilyn Hunkins will be taking over Benevolence as he is working by phone everyday on 2015 swap meet and talking with venders. Thanks Derrell for the job you are doing.

A plaque was donated from early AACA and Ron Merritt will mount it permanently. Bruce Hickerson suggested we put a number by each board members name so that we will know when their term is completed. I personally thank Richard Lewis (Capt. Hook) for his involvement as a board member and work with our swap meet.

Shelia brought up new important dates to remember and told of the new plaque's going up on the buildings at Cannonsburgh and showed us a sample we could buy for the garage and post our club house history.

Tom gave a talk on the "Taylor Tot Strollers". Celia reminded everyone of the appreciation dinner Saturday at Olive Garden. The dinner was very nice and worked out well. The food and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone present.

Remember our military in harms way and keep in mind our local law enforcement, our sick friends and their families.

Sincerely,
Jerry

Special points of interest:

- Highlights of the Special Presentation by Tom Murrah of the Restoration and History of the Taylor Tot Strollers
- Reminder-Pioneer Day "Cruise-In" Sat., April 26th
- Field Trip early in May

Inside this issue:

Birthday and Anniversaries & Committee Reports	2
Re-Cap of the Presentation on Taylor-Tot Strollers	3/ 4
Connecting with People: Their stories	4
Our Car Club's Up-coming Events:	5
Car Events in the Community:	6
Sheila Says...	7
AACA Events & Irish Blessing	8

COMING UP:

Tuesday, April 1st 6 p.m. Business Meeting and 7 p.m. Club Activity

Friday evening April 18th begins the '3rd Friday Evening each month "Concert at Cannonsburgh Village"

STONES RIVER CAR CLUB Annual Pioneer DAYS "CRUISE-IN" is Saturday, April 26th

This is a FREE Event and Registration begins at 9 a.m. till 12 noon.

-Club Members invite your friends and neighbors to bring their car or truck that day; and join us for a day of fun and fellowship at Cannonsburgh Village.

Our "Lucky" Members Celebrating their March Birthdays:

1st Daniel Fry
10th Dennis Boles
14th Michelle Boles
20th Danny Outland
Clinton "Buzz" Busbee
22nd Bill Anderson
28th Andrew Cloud



April Birthdays:

3rd Celia Murrah
6 Wanda Gasser
7 Shelia Hodges
11 Jeremy Byrd
16 Sandra Nichols
19 Don Strang
22 Donna Lee Fry



Members Celebrating their Anniversary:

9th Juan & Wanda Gasser
29th John & Peggy Klindt

Committee Reports from the March Meeting:

Activities Report by Celia Murrah: Special Presentation tonight by Tom Murrah on the Restoration and History of the Taylor Tot Strollers. Next month is our annual Pioneer Days "Cruise-In."

Benevolence Report by Derrell Billingsley: Cards were sent to members, who celebrated their Birthday or Anniversary this past month. 10 Gideon Bibles were sent in honor of Phyllis Clanton's mother, who recently passed away. Derrell told that flowers are sent to the ladies of our car club, and the men our car club receive a bouquet of Hershey's candy for their 'get well wishes' from the club members. President, Jerry Dunlap also told that John Klindt had been in the hospital with a heart attack, and had a stent put in; and Phil San Angelo had a medical procedure done recently. A list of members having birthdays or anniversaries, and who have been sick or recovering from surgery was made available for members to pick up.

*Also, Derrell told that Marilyn Hunkins has joined the Benevolence Committee.

Garage Report by Ron Merritt: Ron announced that Dennis Boles has accepted the position of Garage Foreman to help keep the our Garage/Museum ready for all the up-coming events. Dennis will be filling the position left by Ron Von Storch.

Membership Committee Report by Carylon Hickerson: Bill Anderson, Jim Walker, and Ethan were presented to the Executive Board for membership. All approved their membership, and glad to include them as active members. (Ethan was one of the volunteers from Central Magnet School at our February Swap Meet.)

New Business to Report:

- Bruce Hickerson presented a plaque, that was given to him by a member of the Mid-Tenn Region of AACA, that commemorates the first joint meeting of Stones River Region and Mid-Tenn Region of AACA in 1964 at the MTSU campus.
- Sheila Hodges, Program Coordinator of Cannonsburgh Village, said that 'Each of the Buildings at Cannonsburgh is going to have a sign, that has the name of the building and some history.' She asked if our club wanted to have a sign (She brought in a sample of the sign), and the Executive Board voted in favor of having a sign made. The Executive Board and long time member, Bruce Hickerson, will be working on the wording for the sign.

THE TAYLOR TOT STORY

Believe it or not, Taylor Tot is a ... stroller. But not just any stroller...it was the premiere baby stroller of the 20th century. From hours on hours of research, it seems they were made from the 1920's till the 1980's. The company was the Frank F. Taylor Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Here's the tale... in May of 2004, my wife and I were at a West Tennessee Antique Auto Club car show around the square in Jackson, TN. We were walking along and checking things out and one side street was the location of the 'swap meet' (EVERY car show has to have one of those areas - it's in the rules). Anyway, I spotted this kool looking baby stroller sitting there and told my wife, 'hey, that's gotta be old'. So we looked it over a bit- thinking wow, this would be a neat thing to restore and use for the grandkids. There were no nameplates on it anywhere, so I had no idea what brand it was or how 'old' it really was, only that it looked 'old'. I asked the fellow who was in the area how much he wanted for it and he said "40 bucks"... Well, we started to walk away, slightly wondering what we would do with one anyway...but then, the deal clincher.. "But I'll let you have it for 35"... yep - SOLD.

Well, we get the thing home and I start trolling the internet to find out more about what we had. It turns out that ebay had some pictures that looked just like it...and that's how I found out the name; Taylor-Tot. At least I now knew what it was...ok. Now I go trolling for Taylor Tot...and lo and behold, I find a guy who was a college professor who was restoring the actual Taylor Tot stroller from his childhood. Man, he had his looking sweet! So I emailed him and we started talking. Sure enough, he knew a lot about them and had even figured a way to copy his front decal. He was kind enough to send me one for mine.

So, here we go... I started taking it apart and media blasted everything to get it down to bare metal. If I'm gonna do it, it's gonna be done right. I know you guys understand.

Well, during this time of reworking and learning all I can about them, I found another one on ebay and it had the 'high-class options' of "wheel pants" and a foot tray. These are groovy little fenders that cover the wheels and don't let the rider's feet scrub on the tires and a tray that is put under the rider's feet when the stroller is used as a 'pusher'. Lucky me, I won the auction- so now I had 2. (it really does end, but who knows where?). So I get the second one and right off, I discover that it still has the date code that was stamped underneath the seat AND it has most of an original seat decal still in place - oh my...a prize catch indeed! This thing was made in 1949. Ok, change of priorities... the one from ebay became the project.

I completely disassembled the entire stroller, media blasted everything on this one and primed it. I had the original color matched at Dupont and shot it with color, and then went back and sprayed it with a hardening clear coat. Wow - this thing shines better than my truck did. It turned out nice...but it has to be just RIGHT. That leaves the decals, buggy bumpers and wooden roller beads to need the same attention.

During the time I was restoring the body parts and the mechanical parts, I was also looking at the various decals that came on them. As I said earlier, the professor sent me a copy of his front decal - it was paper. I suppose I could have glued it on and no one would have been the wiser...but I would know, and I did something different. The wooden roller beads (1956 and up used plastic roller beads) sit on a rail around the food tray that sits right in front of the rider. They are something for the rider to play with. As it turned out I found some wooden beads, and all I had to do was drill holes thru them and paint them with a child-safe paint.

So, now you know. I'm the resident expert on Taylor Tot strollers. I reproduced more decals than I needed and have sent a few sets to other restorers. In 2009, I decided to create a website especially for the

Re-Cap of Tom's Restoration of Taylor-Tot Strollers. History of the Company and connecting with people.



Tom's granddaughter, Ella, in her newly restored stroller!



TAYLOR-TOT Stroller-Walker

For some of us, these were our first set of "Wheels".

Pictured above is Tom Murrach in his Taylor -Tot stroller.



Pictured above is the stroller I received from Mr. Langford, and below is how the newly restored was returned.



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strollers and as of right now, I have the ONLY website in the world that is dedicated to Taylor-Tots. I've restored 6 strollers for customers and sold lots of parts and met dozens of interesting folks... all because of a swap meet find.

While it should be pretty obvious that I love these old Taylor-Tot strollers, the strollers aren't the most important part. People are what is important. Connecting with people, refreshing their memories of a childhood gone by is what really makes me tick. One of the blessings of having the only website about Taylor-Tots is that people are finding it. People who I would never have known about otherwise have found my little website and that makes all the work worth it.

Langford Story: I received this stroller from Mr. Langford from Texas. He wanted to restore this stroller, that his dad bought for him and his five siblings. The Taylor-Tot stroller was in bad shape, and it have been painted a different color for each child. I completely disassembled the entire stroller, media blasted everything, worked on the bent metal pieces, and broken handle and seat. I primed it and painted it the original color. Mr. Langford was sure proud of how good it looked!

Emanuel's Story: A few months ago I received an email from a nice lady named Rachel. Rachel is from Vancouver, Canada and her request was even more interesting.

Rachel sent me a photo of a young child sitting in a stroller. She said that the picture was probably taken in Lithuania in the late 1930's and she wondered of the stroller could be identified as a 1930's vintage Taylor-Tot. [Emanuel's Story Part 2](#)

Rachel's father, Sender Mines, never talked much about his life in Europe before WWII. I knew that before he immigrated to Canada in the early 1950s, met my mother, and started a new family, he had had a previous wife and two children in Lithuania. His children, my half-brother and sister, had been murdered in the Holocaust, together with the rest of the family, aside from one brother and some cousins who had emigrated to the US in the 1920s.

After my father's death in 1982, we found an unsigned, undated photo in his album of a toddler sitting on a ride-on toy. For years, we all wondered who the child was and why Dad had never shown us the picture. We assumed we would never find out.

A few years ago, I started seriously researching my family's history. I had assumed that all our records had been lost or destroyed during the Holocaust, but I was able to discover the name of my father's first wife and those of their two children, Miriam and Emanuel. When they died in 1944, Miriam had been 11, Emanuel 6.

Now I was more than ever intrigued by my father's mysterious photo. I wondered if there was anything I could do to find out the child's identity. Could he or she be one of my half-siblings? It occurred to me that the ride-on toy might be a clue. After checking around the Internet, I sent the photo to the experts at Tricycle Fetish, who identified the toy as a 1940s Taylor Tot. If they were right, the child in the picture couldn't be one of my European relatives, as by 1941 they were either dead or living under Nazi occupation.

However, I thought I'd try another opinion, and after finding Tom's site, I sent him the photo. Tom thought the ride-on toy was not a Taylor Tot, but a look-alike, possibly based on Taylor Tot's 1932 model. To both Tom and me, it made sense that a look-alike 1932 Taylor Tot could be a prop in a Lithuanian photo studio by the mid-to-late 1930s.

I will probably never know for sure who the child in the photo is. Certainly the photo couldn't have survived the war, and must have belonged to, or been sent to, a relative in the US before 1940. The child might be one of our American relatives. But if so, why did my father never show us the picture? My guess is that he found it too painful to talk about, and I think the child was my father's son – my half-brother – Emanuel.



Up-Coming Events:

Tuesday, April 1st 6 p.m. Business Meeting and 7 p.m. Club Activity

Date and time to be Announced for some "Spring Cleaning" at the Garage and Clubhouse to get ready for the opening of Cannonsburgh Village for "Pioneer Days Festival" on Saturday, April 26th.

Beginning Friday, April 18th is the monthly Friday night Concert at Cannonsburgh Village—starting about 7 p.m. These concerts will be held on the 3rd Friday night each month.



The opening of Cannonsburgh Village with the Pioneer Days activities is Saturday, April 26th.

Come out and enjoy a day of old-fashioned fun.

STONES RIVER CAR CLUB Is inviting anyone to bring Car or Truck to our Annual Pioneer DAYS "CRUISE-IN"



This is a FREE Event: Registration begins at 9 a.m. till 12 noon

For those 'Car and Truck' enthusiasts participating in our Cruise-In come by our clubhouse for a cup of hot coffee and a donut while they last); and take a moment to check out the automobile memorabilia in our museum.



The 1st Field Trip of the season is Sunday, May 4th is the Free Day

Club Members are needed To serve as Hosts for visitors to our Garage/Museum that Day!



From our Garage Tour Committee:

Tour to Jim Hery's Garage in Belfast, Tennessee will be later on this year.

We are planning other tours this year. We will announce these tours at the club meetings, and information will be in the newsletters.

Jay Says, "He wants you get your antique car or truck out and drive them to some of these events."



Community Car Events:

12th Annual Spring Thaw Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet

April 5th at the Mid TN Expo Center

Doors Open at 10 a.m. Contact www.bothbarrelspromotions.com for more information

Starting the month of May every Friday night the Murfreesboro Hot Rod Club will have their Weekly "Cruise-Ins" at the Belk's Parking Lot at 'The Avenue' from May through September.



Decatur Cruise-In - 3rd Friday Every Month—2nd Avenue-Decatur, Alabama
Kick-Off begins March 21st

3rd Annual 'CRUZIN for the MUSIC' Car-Truck & Bike Show

Sponsored by General Motors Spring Hill and UAW Local 1853 and Lyon Chevrolet Buick GMC

On Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 held at the Spring Hill High School

(next to the GM Plant-right on Hwy 31 in Columbia/Spring Hill, Tennessee)

Show runs from 8 a.m. till 4 p.m. Show Registration: 8 a.m. till 12 noon/fee: \$20

Vendor Set up from 6 a.m. till 8 a.m.—Awards at 3 p.m.

Show info/contact: www.cruzinforthemusic.com or call Tabitha @931-446-7879

Kruizn River Bluff

19th Annual Car/ Truck/ Motorcycle Show Presented by the:
Boy Scouts of America Troop # 458

On June 14th, 2014 at River Bluff Park (Tennessee Waltz Parkway) Ashland City, Tenn.

Registration 8:00 a.m. till 12 Noon * Participation by Donation

For information contact: David Birk (615)-405-7629 or Fred Nordquist (615)-815-5481

AUTO FAIR & SWAP MEET

10 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

\$55-Vendor, \$25-Car Fee, \$15-General Admission, \$12-Sr & Military, \$10-Children 6 -10 yrs old

Rat Rods, Hot Rods, Classic Cars, Show Cars, Race Cars & Muscle Cars

Drive your ride on the world-famous Fairgrounds Speedway

FAIRGROUNDS SPEEDWAY NASHVILLE—Saturday, June 28th, 2014

Call: 615-364-1828 or www.bothbarrelspromotions.com

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www.gearheadgazette.com

Sheila Hodges, Program Coordinator at Cannonsburgh Village, came and told us of the up-coming events starting in April at Cannonsburgh Village on South Front Street in downtown Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Sheila says...



The village is starting their 3rd Friday Night Concert series in April!



Their first concert is featuring Emilie Burke on April 18th

7-9p.m. Free Admission

Bring your lawn chair or a blanket

Under the pavilion at Cannonsburgh Village



Hayrides, music, dancers, demonstrators, blacksmith demo, antique auto show (cruise-in) and the Murfreesboro/Rutherford Art League will be on hand for the annual

Pioneer Days Festival at Cannonsburgh Village

Saturday, April 26th Open from 10:00a.m - 4:00p.m

Schedule of Entertainment:

- Cloggers 10a.m. Jerry and Gloria Gardiel
- 11a.m. Mid Tn Cloggers
- 12(Noon) Amy Sain Group
- 1p.m. Sharon Whitley group
- 2-4p.m. Hands of Time Band

The Community is Invited to Cannonsburgh Village On Sunday, May 4th for “Free Day”



Come by for a tour of Stones River Car Club's Clubhouse/Museum, that is patterned after a 1930's Service Station.



Historic Cannonsburgh Village represents approximately 100 years of early Tennessee life from the 1830s to the 1930s. Within the village is a gristmill, school house, telephone operator's house, the University House, the Leeman House, a museum, a caboose, the Wedding Chapel, a doctor's office, a general store, a blacksmith's shop, a well, and other points of pioneering interest.



UP-COMING EXHIBIT AT THE AACA Museum in Hershey, PA

Date: Friday April 25, 2014

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

An incredible evening centered around Tucker – the automobile and the family.



On view will be the original “Tin Goose” prototype courtesy of the Swigart Museum located in Huntingdon, PA.

Preston Tucker’s family including grandson John Jr. and great-grandsons Mike and Sean Tucker will reminisce about amusing antidotes and host a question and answer session.

Steve Tremulis, the nephew of famed designer Alex Tremulis will explore designs for the ‘48 and other stories.

Rob & Bob Ida will be on hand to examine the design features and construction of the Tucker along with information on the New Tucker ‘48 currently on display at the AACA Museum created by the Idas.



Join us this year for some ‘Scenic Road Trips’, Garage Tours and our annual Fall 3-D Tour!

An Irish Blessing



*May the road
Rise up to meet you,
May the wind
Be always at your back,
May the sun
Shine warm upon your face
And the rains
Fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May god Hold you
In the hollow of His Hand.*

We are on the WEB:
STONESRIVERCARCLUB.COM