

The Generator



Mid-America AACA Region

February 2023 Vol. 6 No. 02



Happy Valentine's Day



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Welcome New Members

Mark and Margo White

Trivia Challenge

On February 4, 1922, a major car company was acquired by another major car company. What company was the buyer and what was the price paid?

President's Message

What a wonderful start to 2023 for Mid-America! Since the club was chartered, the member attendance at the January 28th meeting was one of the highest, at 35.

As each board member conducted their portion of the meeting, it was evident that there are many plans and ideas for the coming year.

Congratulation to Tom Wedbush for sponsoring the most new members in 2022. There were 14 new members and with the spouses that was a total of 25.

I encourage everyone to always have the new member applications with you. It is easy to talk to someone when it is about THEIR car!

A special thanks to Jack Boyle for the presentation on the Sweeney Automotive School.

Get ready to wake up those old cars, the season will be here before we know it.

Looking forward to 2023,

Bonnie

February Activities & Meetings

There are no Official Mid-America activities for February

FYI Kansas City Auto Museum February feature car exhibit will be GM Chevrolet Corvairs.

Coming March 10th—12th Kansas City World of Wheels

Exciting news for our meeting on Sunday, February 19th, 2:00 pm at Your Classic Ride:

Bill Cook, Executive Director of the Kansas City Auto Museum, will be our speaker

2022 Mid-America AACA Member Meeting Date

*Club meetings are held at Your Classic Ride,
2711 Warwick Trfway, KCMO*



February 19, Sunday, 2:00 pm at YCR

Bill Cook will be our speaker. Snacks, desserts, appetizers are always welcome.

March 19, Sunday, 2:00 pm at YCR

April 16, Sunday, 2:00 pm at YCR

May 21, Sunday, 2:00 pm at YCR

Note: June and following months will be posted soon.

First Member Meeting of the Year

As Bonnie said in her President's message, we had a wonderful 35 member attendance. Thanks to all of you who brought snacks, literally the icing on the cake, before Jack Boyle's informative talk. It was such a fun meeting!



*Bonnie Johnson conducting the meeting
(L-R Penny Boyle, Tom Robson, Sharon Cygan)*



Bonnie looking on as Gary Crispin, Member-at-Large discusses Harvester contributions and our sales trailer at the Lawrence Swap Meet.



Meredith Williamson, Membership Chair, awards our traveling trophy, the 2019 I.C. Kirkham Award, to Tom Wedbush for securing the most members in 2022.

Mid-America AACA Region received this national award in 2020 for the largest member percentage gain over the previous year.

At that time, we decided to make it a traveling trophy passing it each year to the member who had sponsored the most new members.

Congratulations, Tom!

Meredith, talked about the Membership Recruiting Process (see page 15 of this *Generator*.)

Not pictured:

Dan McGrath, Vice President, spoke about activity possibilities as we near Spring. He encouraged all to please send in ideas for car events.

Paul Williamson, Treasurer gave the Treasurer's Report.

Martie Kernodle, shared the results of the Member Survey.

Details of the meeting are in the Minutes (see page 19 of this *Generator*.)

Editor's note:

See the next page about your 2023 Board

Meet Your 2023 Board

I ask each Board member to tell me how they became interested in the car collecting hobby. The answers are interesting.

Bonnie Johnson, President

I have been involved in cars all my life. Daddy was a one-man operation in the business of buying, repairing, and selling cars. One uncle worked at GM Fairfax, another at Ford. My first attraction to Bill was his 1950 Ford (also his blue eyes and flat top haircut). I worked 28 years at Leeds and transferred to the central office in Detroit for 2 years until my 30-year retirement. My 1940 Plymouth is an AACA Grand National winner.



Dan McGrath, Vice President

I started building model cars at age 8. Built hundreds over the years and wish I had time to do it today. But I build full size cars for a living now, so I had to give up the small scale for now. My dad dragged home a 1966 Pontiac Tempest convertible for me in 1979 and we rebuilt it together. I still have it and am in the process of rebuilding it to my current standards. I have owned more than 50 cars, none of which are very noteworthy. Always just considered myself a dumb mechanic. I can fix anything from appliances to rotting siding on a house or building a custom shower in our bathroom. Lived by the saying "If you want it done right, do it yourself." A curse today. But I have no less than 10 customer cars waiting for me to get back on the road...

Sharon Cygan, Secretary

I became interested in the car hobby because Jerry decided he wanted a "different" car. He picked a Peacock Blue Thunderbird for what he wanted. We joined the Classic Thunderbird Club International 4 or 5 years before we bought the T-Bird. He used that time to get ideas and finally help with coming up with a car. We bought it sight unseen from Arizona on the recommendation of a friend who knew the person selling the car. It turned out NOT to be such a good bargain, but we have had a lot of fun with it over the years. Jerry calls the car his "Chick Magnet", but the only "Chick" he has gotten with it is me.



Paul Williamson, Treasurer

My interest in old cars came from my Grandfather. He had a Packard Clipper, that my Father occasionally spoke of, and then a series of Cadillacs. His first was a 1950, however, the first that I remember was a 1955. I usually sat in the back seat on the center armrest. That certainly wouldn't fly today! He then had a 1964 Sedan Deville, a 1976 Eldorado, and a 1977 Eldorado. After he passed, we purchased the 1977 out of the estate and that was my first Cadillac.



Gary Crispin, Member-at-Large

When I was 16 my uncle and I would look through the Sunday want ads for cars I always liked the looks of the older cars, but mainly I just love to drive them and talk about them. That's my story.

Other volunteers, who serve our club, but not on the elected Board are:

Meredith Williamson, Membership Chair
Tom Wedbush, Webmaster
Martie Kernodle, Newsletter Editor

Next month, I would like Meredith, Tom and (me) to answer the same question, "How they became interested in the car collecting hobby."

WAIT! BETTER IDEA!

By February 25th PLEASE EVERYONE, send me your answer to the question:

"How did you become interested in the car collecting hobby?"

Article by Martie Kernodle

McPherson College \$500 Million Endowment

Editor's note: This reminder will be in the Generator each month through June. This is such a great opportunity for McPherson. Please pass this on to car friends, mechanics, garages. Thank you.

Jack Boyle brought the McPherson College Endowment to our attention at our last member meeting. We can all be a part of bringing millions of dollars to this small Kansas Liberal Arts college.

From the McPherson website here is the scoop:

McPherson College has received an irrevocable \$500 million estate commitment to its endowment. It is the largest single commitment to a small, liberal arts college in the United States. **As part of the "double-match" estate gift**, the anonymous donor will contribute two dollars for every dollar given by others, up to \$500 million in total to the college's endowment.

The college has until **June 30, 2023** to meet this target, and is well on its way having raised \$130 million to date.

The match donor has asked to remain anonymous. The donor values their privacy and was adamant the attention be placed on the students and the good work of McPherson College, not themselves. The McPherson College community will honor this request and not comment on the identity of the donor.

As we know, McPherson College has an amazing Automotive Tech Program. While the monies will go to assist students and the various college endeavors, certainly this will bring more students into the college. Just remember any amount you give, will be matched.

To contribute to the endowment match go to www.mcpherson.edu/500match

Thank you for supporting this amazing opportunity.

Martie Kernodle



Dean Weller, A Classic Car Icon

Editor note: I was talking with Bonnie Johnson and shared how I was searching for a way to tie Valentine's Day with our car hobby. Thank you, Bonnie for the idea. For those of you who do not know Dean Weller, he was an amazing person, a car guy through and through. Club members in March 2018 had the opportunity to tour Dean Weller's Garage in DeSoto, Kansas. So let's start with a little history about Dean. This story was written by Roscoe Yoder and published in the April 2018 Generator:

There are some things you won't see in Grandpa's Old Ford Garage. No metal brake. No English wheel. No CAD program. No Corvettes. There is no plastic and not a computer to be found at the 100 year old soot-stained Ford dealership in DeSoto where Dean Weller works his magic.



Dean with his illustrated notebook

A retired home builder, Dean is an agile, alert, genial artist, craftsman, and every inch a gentleman. His 92nd birthday was recently celebrated by parachuting down to awaiting friends. Creativity here seems to know no bounds. Case in point: each car built has a detailed, comprehensive, illustrated notebook of its construction, replete with exploded views showing every single part. But no computers, remember? Every illustration is drawn freehand in pen & ink! Even on close inspection these appear to be computer generated. An artist in wood, metal and on paper Dean is quick to share his love of people and creativity.

A few of the 30+ cars shoe-horned into the building came as is, but most he either restored or built on a Model A frame. There is far too much to absorb in a single visit. Walls, ceilings and beams are a honeycomb of organized chaos--thousands of auto parts awaiting the next project. A 1915 Mercer recreated with neither mold nor model.

Five buggies custom built for Wiley Post's travelling road show. Boat-tail speedsters, open roadsters, all-wood open delivery truck, wooden depot hack, each hand-built and hand-finished.

Last week our own club was privileged to get a peek into Dean Weller's world. We were astounded and delighted. Each left with a smile on our face, a new friend and very, very grateful for being allowed behind the curtain to see how the magic is created. Again, thank you, Dean.



L-R Gary Crispin, Dean and Jerry Cygan



Ally Edwards, Penny Boyle, Martie Kernodle admire a



Mid-America Members

Seated L-R: Penny Boyle, Jerry Cygan

Row 1 L-R: Linda Radford, Ally Edwards, Konnie Crispin Sharon Cygan, Martie Kernodle, Bonnie Johnson

Row 2 L-R: Dennis Radford Bill Johnson (hiding) Jim Edwards, Norm Kressman, Toni Hall, Fred Hall

Attending also: Jon Kernodle Roscoe Yoder, Bill Johnson

Okay so now you know a bit about Dean Weller, so what is the Valentine connection. It is one of his most beautiful works of art— “ America’s Sweetheart, a Henry Ford Model A



This special vehicle is representative of all 5 million Model A's built from 1928-1931 and a tribute to all of the Model A's and Henry Ford.

So with hearts carved on this art piece, it minds us of the love Dean had for cars, the love we have for the car hobby and the love that is expressed on Valentine's Day! Thank you, Dean

Our club member, Tom Robson, had the honor of taking Dean to his final resting place. Our tribute continues...



Dean Weller's Obituary from the Bruce Funeral Home

Dean Weller, 95, of De Soto passed away on July 2, 2021. A funeral service will be held at De Soto Baptist Church, 8655 Copeland Way, De Soto, KS at 2:00 pm, Friday July 9, 2021. The visitation will precede the service at 1:00 pm. Burial will follow the service at De Soto Cemetery...

Dean was born in Mountain View, MO to Charles and Mae (Ellis) Weller. As a teen he joined the Merchant Marines during WW II. When he came home from the war, he married Delores J. Allen in 1945. Dean built and operated a gas station in Mountain View and later moved to Oregon. The couple then moved to De Soto, KS, where Dean built the El Rancho Motel which they owned for 29 years. Dean also owned Weller Construction and built houses until he retired at age 52. He retired when he bought the old Ford building, known as "Grandpa's Garage" in De Soto where he built antique cars piece by piece, including tooling the engine parts. He enjoyed meeting with fellow car enthusiasts weekly in his shop and periodically hosted hands-on seminars there. Dean was a member of "Plain Old A's" Club as well as Heart of America Car Club in Lawrence. He was a former member of Rotary and Oddfellows...

Tom Robson, has a beautiful 1923 Ford Model T, one-ton, Pick-up Truck. He was ask to participate in the funeral procession, taking Dean to his final resting place. I said to Tom, what an honor that must have been and it was.



Below:
Tom, passes by Dean's "Grandpa's Garage and Body Shop."

So this Valentine's Day, remember the man and his Sweetheart Model A.



Story: Martie Kernodle
Photos of Tom Robson's truck provided by Tom

The One That Didn't Get Away

We have published some of your stories about the “One that Got Away.” That car, truck or motorcycle that you wish you had back.

We would like to publish a short paragraph about the “**One that Didn't Get Away.**” This is a car that you still have that may have belonged to your parents, grandparents, been in your family for years, was your first car, a car you restored and have kept for many, etc.

As you know the winter months are tough for car event stories, so your short story could be a lot of fun for members to read. So which member will be the first to send me your story. Please text or email a photo of that special car. You can send your story and photos to editormidamerica@gmail.com or text to 816-686-6700. Thank you, Martie Kernodle

Don't like empty space, so here are a few gems:



This and That

PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO PAUL WILLIAMSON @ pawmew54@GMAIL.COM if you would like to share your birthday or anniversary.



February Birthdays

Kitty Block	2/9
Jon Kernodle	2/14
Diane Nygaard	2/15
Barry Herbert	2/26
Dennis Roberts	2/26



Norm & Margaret Kressmann 2/24

Welcome New Members!

Mark & Margo White

Trivia Challenge Answered

On February 4, 1922, a major car company was acquired by another major car company. What company was the buyer and what was the price paid?

Answer:

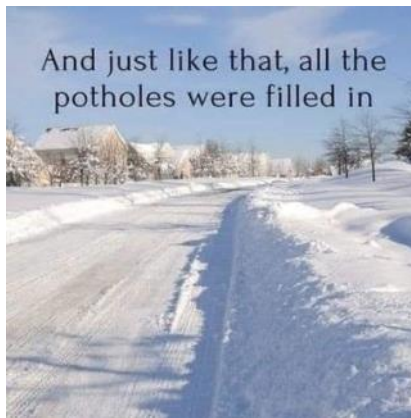
The Lincoln Motor Company was acquired by the Ford Motor Company for \$8,000,000. Today that value is approximately \$110,000,000. The acquisition came at a time when Ford was losing market share.

Henry Ford's son, Edsel, went on to be named the President of Lincoln.

This and That

Just for laughs!

Pro Tip: Save business cards of people you don't like. If you ever hit a parked car accidentally, just write "Sorry" on the back and leave it on the windshield.



I'm in a Wal-Mart parking lot watching a woman who can't remember where she parked. Every time she holds her remote in the air, I honk my horn.



**If you get a LOAN at a bank, you'll be paying it back for 30 yrs.
If you ROB a bank, you'll be out in 10 yrs.
Follow me for more financial advice**

**MY WIFE ASKED ME WHY I SPOKE SO SOFTLY IN THE HOUSE.
I SAID I WAS AFRAID MARK ZUCKERBERG WAS LISTENING!
SHE LAUGHED. I LAUGHED.
ALEXA LAUGHED. SIRI LAUGHED.**

When we're young, we sneak out of our house to go to parties. When we're old, we sneak out of parties to go home.

Mid-America Member Recruiting Process

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING

Mid-America AACA

New Member Packet

AACA Brochure

AACA National Application

Mid-America AACA Application

(Meredith Williamson, Membership Chair, has the packets)

New Member Process

Please put your name as sponsor along with your AACA membership number on the National Application. If you sponsor a new member, National will send you a sponsorship pin. *At the bottom of the Mid-America AACA Application, please put your name, email address, and phone number in case your sponsored new member has any questions.*

Your applicant must first join National, \$45.00 and secure their Membership Number before sending in the Mid-America AACA Application and \$25.00 to Treasurer, Paul Williamson. This can be accomplished two ways:

1. They can call National Headquarters at 717-534-1910, ask for the Membership Department, pay the annual dues of \$45 with a credit card. Membership will start the process and will email their AACA number to them prior to sending out their AACA membership card in the mail.
2. They can mail in their National Membership Application to headquarters and wait for their membership card to be sent to them.

Once the member has their National AACA number, fill out the Mid-America AACA application and send with a check or money order payable to Mid-America AACA to:

Paul Williamson, Treasurer
Mid-America AACA
4525 N. Baltimore Drive
Kansas City, MO 64116

Full-year/Half-year memberships

On July 1 of each year, you may offer Half-Year Memberships

AACA National annual dues are \$45.00

AACA National half year dues are \$25.00 from July 1 through December 31.

Mid-America AACA annual dues are \$25.00 January 1 through June 30.

Mid-America AACA half year dues are \$12.50 July 1 through September 30.

Mid-America AACA dues October 1 and later are \$25.00 and will include the following year.

There is no proration made throughout the year. Half-year memberships are for first time members only.

March 2023

Upcoming Events

Mid-America AACA Official Event

No official events February 2023.

Other Events

EDITOR'S NOTE: Activities posted in **blue** text mean new activities or message. **red** text—you need to take some type of action, **black** text—activity reminder.

2023 AACA National Meets & Tours

Winter Nationals

January 26
Miami, FL

AACA Annual Convention

February 9 - 11th
Williamsburg, VA

Indian River AACA 44th Annual Antique Auto Show

March 18
Vero Beach FL

AACA Southeastern Spring Nationals

April 30 - May 3
Concord, NC

Southeastern Divisional Tour

April 30 - May 3
Oakridge, TN

Eastern Spring Nationals

May 18 - 20th
Gettysburg, PA

AACA Founders Tour

July 16 - 22nd
Ontario & Quebec

AACA Special Eastern Nationals

July 26 - 29th
Norwich New York

AACA Vintage Tour

August 2 - 5th
Aroostook County, Maine

AACA Grand Nationals

August 10 - 12th
Bettendorf, Iowa

AACA Western Divisional Tour

September 25 - 29th
California Central Coast

Eastern Fall Nationals

October 3 - 6t
Hershey, PA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Activities posted in **blue** text mean new activities or message. **red** text—you need to take some type of action, **black** text—activity reminder.

Chef's Corner



At meetings and special events, when we have brought food to share, the one thing we know is that we have some fabulous cooks. So this new page has been added based on member requests,

PLEASE send recipes to your editor to share.

Tammy Suddeth/Dan McGrath Layered Salad



Ingredients:

2 Small Bags of Shredded Lettuce (or 1 head of iceberg lettuce)
1 Bag of Frozen Peas
1 Med Red Onion chopped
8 Hard Boiled Eggs
1 Package of Cherry Tomatoes cut into halves
1 Pound of Bacon (cooked well)
10 oz Bag of Shredded Cheese
(Optional/substitutions: Celery, Cucumber)

Dressing Ingredients:

1 ½ cups of Mayonnaise (depending on the size of your dish)
½ cup of sour cream
2 tsp of sugar
½ tsp of garlic powder
¼ tsp of salt and pepper to taste

In a separate bowl mix dressing ingredients together, set aside

Directions:

Step 1

In a glass dish, layer all ingredients starting with the lettuce, add tomatoes, onion, peas, eggs, bacon (save some for the top).

Step 2

Gently spread dressing mix over the top and sprinkle cheese and remaining bacon.



Thanks for the recipes!

Gary Crispin's Better Than Sex Cake

Ingredients

1 box yellow cake mix
1 can 20 oz crushed pineapple (undrained)
1 cup sugar
1 small box vanilla pudding mix
3 firm bananas
1 container 9 oz Cool Whip or fresh whipped cream
½ cup coconut
1 cup crushed pecans

Directions

Step 1

Make cake according to box directions
Bake in a 9 x 13 pan

Step 2

Put pineapple and sugar in a sauce pan. Boil 5 minutes. When cool, pour over baked cake.

Step 3

Mix pudding according to directions and pour over cake.

Step 4

Slice bananas over all

Step 5

Top with whipped cream

Step 6

Sprinkle with coconut and chopped pecans

NOTE: *The "Better than Sex" cake recipe is courtesy of a listener in Farlington, Kansas. It's been around for years and has been referred to by many names, such as: "Sex in a Pan" and "Robert Redford Cake." The recipe has been handed down generation to generation. According to legend, the town spinster made it from scratch and took it to her married neighbor to find out if it was really better than sex. The following morning, when she looked out her window at her neighbor's house, there was a sign in the widow. It read: Please send over another cake. We can't decide.*

Minutes of Member Meeting

Minutes of the Mid-America AACA Car Club Meeting

January 28, 2023

There were 35 members in attendance.

President Bonnie Johnson lead the Pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting. She then introduced the officers.
Dan McGrath Vice President

Paul Williamson Treasurer
Sharon Cygan Secretary
Gary Crispin Member at Large
Martie Kernodle Editor
Tom Wedbush Webmaster
Meredith Williamson Membership Chairman

She said we had received a thank you note from the Tonganoxie High School Automotive Class for our donation to them at the Mecum dinner.

Bonnie has asked the Board Members to chair their segment of the meeting.

Dan, Vice President, started by talking about all the possible events he has considered for the coming year. He asked members to offer any suggestions they may have. We talked about our activities, that you did not necessarily have to drive your antique car.

Secretary, no minutes to approve as the Christmas party was the last event and no meeting was held.

Paul gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Meredith presented the revised guidelines for Membership Recruiting for Mid-America AACA. She also announced the winner from our group for the Kirkham Membership Award this year. Tom Wedbush and Bonnie Johnson both signed up 4 new members, Roscoe Yoder signed up 3 new members, Jack Boyle signed up 2 new members and Tom Robson signed up 1 new member. The traveling award was given to Tom Wedbush for this year.

Bonnie introduced our new members in attendance at the meeting: Dennis Hedberg, Rick Fielder, Steve Hartwick and Jim Gustafson.

Gary Crispin, Member at Large, talked about our donations to Harvesters. He is willing to continue to store them at his house and take to Harvesters when he has a good amount to take. He requests can goods or money donations only. We have not had a good response lately and Gary asked if people wanted to continue to donate. The majority of the members at the meeting want to continue. Jack Boyle suggested a reminder to donate to Harvesters when the meeting reminder is sent out. He then talked about the Lawrence Swap Meet Trailer. He also is willing to take charge of this, if we decide to do, but we need "good" stuff to sell. He asked people to start getting things together now. Our first year we made \$1200, but only \$400 last year. He asked are we running out of the "good" stuff and maybe need to stop? Lawrence AACA gives us the trailer spot for free as long as we work the parking lot. Roscoe said he would be at McPherson and not available to chair the parking lot position.

We thanked Tom Ricker for the use of his building to have our meetings.

Martie passed out the survey review results and talked about the results of the survey. She needs information from all of us to put in the Generator. She especially wants member stories about their cars and recipes. She would like to include if you have a favorite mechanic, etc.

Barry Herbert talked about an event called White Wave Run that will occur on May 6th near Frankfort, Ks. It only happens every other year and people drive from Chicago to Colorado Springs and meet near Frankfort.

Jack Boyle gave a very, very interesting program on the Sweeney School of Automobile Mechanics.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Sharon Cygan

Mid-America AACA Mission Statement

Mid-America AACA mission is to:

- share our hobby and love of classic cars with fellow club members
- promote our club to others who share our interest in classic cars
- promote and organize outings to car shows and other functions
- build the interest of youth in our hobby
- support charitable organizations
- follow the guidelines of National AACA
- have fun together!

Advertising space is free to Mid-America AACA members.

Non-members, ad rate pricing is on our web site

www.Midamerica.aaca.org

or

contact:

Martie Kernodle

816-686-6700

editormidamerica@gmail.com

Any errors, please forgive your editor and send corrections to:

editormidamerica@gmail.com

Thank you.



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