



The Headliner



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It was this month in June 2022 that we started having meetings and dinners at the Italian American Civic Association. It was supposed to be a one month event!

However, it has proven to be very popular.

A Note from our President

Hopefully this note finds you well. If you were at our last meeting, you know some of our northern friends are going back North for the summer.

We will continue our normal activities through the summer including Downtown Vero which has moved to the South End of 14th Ave, south of Rt60. Thanks again to Scott, Bob, and Al for finding things for us to participate in so keep an eye out for Phil's emails on up-and-coming events. I can't think of anything else right now, so we'll see you at the next meeting.

Respectfully
John Stefanacci

Message from the Editor

As many of you know, I am in my 5th year of publishing *The Headliner*. My first issue was October 2019. Usually, I have plenty of topics to cover but, the June edition was a bit of writer's block.

So I reached out to our members and asked for photos and stories. I got a great response. Starting with this month you will see their stories and some great photos.

Future editions will continue these stories. I hope everyone enjoys the articles. Hopefully many more will submit material!

Phil LoGiudice

Next Meeting: June 11th at the **Italian American Civic Association** located at 1600 25th Street, Vero Beach, Fl.

Dinner is at 5:30 pm—menu details will follow soon.

Remember, **RSVP for dinner is mandatory.** If you plan to attend for dinner, send **an Email message to Fred Kiesel—**

ofcrfred@bellsouth.net

Anyone who has not made a reservation with Fred via Email will not be served.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting that starts at 7 pm.



1987—My New Interior

General Meeting Minutes



Indian River Region AACA May 14, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by John Stefanacci. Craig Waskow led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. The meeting was held at the Vero Beach Italian American Civic Association. Dinner was served to 44 members earlier. There were 52 members in attendance at the meeting.

Secretary's Minutes—John asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the April meeting as published in the May Headliner. Bill Dennison made the motion to accept, and Brian Banks seconded it; everyone voted to approve.

Treasurer's Report – Bruce Hawkins read the treasurer's report for the month ending April 30, 2024. A motion was made by Herb Lillibridge and seconded by Craig Waskow to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. All voted in the affirmative to accept.

Health & Wellness – Richard Fischbach passed away earlier in May due to complications with pneumonia. Private burial services are planned in Illinois in the near future.

Events – Bill Maule reported on a recent trip to the Freedom Road Rally. The rally extended from Texarkana to Mississippi over a five day period. The club members on this Freedom Road Rally were John & Helen Stefanacci, Geoff Newcombe Steve & Lynne Gabor, George & Sam Gordon, & Mary and Bill Maule. Sixty cars and trucks participated. They visited some great museum and other attractions.

Bill also surveyed the group regarding custom window stickers with our IRRAACA icon. There is a positive interest, and he will get some made. The stickers will be sold at upcoming meetings and events for a nominal price.

John mentioned that the Friday night Downtown Vero Beach cruise will move our cars to the south side of 14th avenue near Firestone Tire.

Phil Canal received a copy of a Model A Ford Foundation magazine article from John Schoenfelder, who is a member of the Foundation. The article featured the 1928 Ford Model A Phaeton (body style 35-A) that Richard Fischbach donated in late 2023. The car now resides in the Gilmore Car Museum at Hickory Corners, Michigan.

Al DiDomizio told about plans for a cruise to the OK Corral in October featuring German food and beer. He said there is a chance that antique airplanes will be on site for our cruise. Additional information will be shared when it becomes available.

Our breakfasts this month on the 2nd Saturday will be at CW Willis and on the 4th Saturday at CJ Cannon's. We meet at 8 am for these events.

50/50 Drawing –There was a 50/50 raffle this month, half of which was won by Beth Khail. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Submitted by,

Phil LoGiudice - Secretary/Editor

Danielle Rigos—Restomod Truck Her Story



Danielle's Restomod 1956 Chevy 3100 with a Name That Just Fits

By Scotty Lachenauer – Photography by the Author

"I may not have understood what was under the hood when I was a little kid, but I knew what I liked—the cars. I always had an interest in them," Danielle Rigos states when talking about her lifelong love affair with hot rods, muscle cars, and trucks. "It was all around me when I was growing up. My brother is 10 years older than me and always had some sort of hot rod around. At that age I knew I wanted to be part of that scene."

In her formative years there was a steady procession of cars around Danielle, courtesy of her brother. "He had a '55 Chevy, a '68 Mustang, a '69 Mach 1, and some Corvettes. My brother and his friends would wrench on them at the house. Then he moved to California and the cars were sold off. After he left the car thing was still relevant to some degree because I hung out with guys who had cars and would work on them. But I still had the desire to get a ride of my own to work on."

Things got interesting when Danielle bought a car with a warped head. "I took matters into my own hands and bought the *Chilton* repair manual for it. I was so determined to fix it myself. I did the best I could. It was the first time I took on a big engine repair." The flame ignited.

"I've always had the desire to get a hot rod to build the way I wanted but I never pulled the trigger. The turning point was watching Chip Foose's *Overhaulin'* where they surprised Chip with the old truck he bought from his dad. I was sold! I knew at that moment I was going to seek out a vintage truck to build."

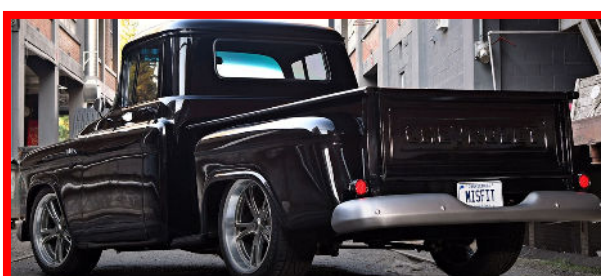
After seeing that episode it still took Danielle years before she made the move. "I woke up one morning in 2019 and literally said 'screw it. I'm buying a truck' ... and that's when the search officially began."

So, now the hunt was on for a buildable, bedded hot rod. "My husband, Greg, was a mechanic (turned firefighter) who has his own Tri Five Chevy. He was very supportive from the start and helped me get going." The duo started looking for a particular Chevy truck that Danielle wanted, expanding their search from coast to coast. They found what they were looking for close by in New Jersey.

"We took a ride out to Jersey and checked out a '56 Chevy 3100. It had some issues, like a bad 5 speed transmission and a poor stance." After driving the truck Danielle knew it had potential and suddenly all of her hard negotiating skills went right out the window. "I then dropped a deposit down and went back the next week to get it." Danielle finally got the opportunity she had waited her whole life to have.

Interestingly enough, the pickup truck started its life out west. "Its history begins in Alaska, of all places, and then spent some time in Seattle before being claimed by the last owner. I love knowing the history; it's pretty cool being aware of where it's been."

Prior to the purchase, Danielle did her homework, researching past builds and making a bullet list of things she wanted in her new ride. "I knew it was going to be a restomod, I love the mix of vintage and modern, so we started ordering parts that would work with the build."



Danielle's Story Continued



The truck was already built into a hot rod by the previous owner. "It had a good black metallic paint job with some flake in it that was nice, so we kept it and moved on." The heart of "Misfit" is a Chevy 350 0.030-over power plant built with TRW forged pistons, forged crank, and a full roller valvetrain. "We gave the engine a face-lift by powdercoating and Cerakoting the engine's accessories to the truck's chosen color theme." A Performer Edelbrock intake manifold and Edelbrock 650 cfm carburetor feed the small block Chevy and a billet MSD distributor, 6A ignition, and blaster coil tie it all together.

A TCI Street Rodder 700R4 transmission was installed to get the truck through the gears. It feeds a 12-bolt rear taken from a C10 that was rebuilt with an Auburn posi unit and stuffed with 3.42 Richmond gears. A TCI four-link now sits out back. It was converted to single-adjustable Ridetech coilovers both front and rear. Up front, 2-inch drop spindles get the truck down where Danielle wants it. A TCI Mustang 2 front end with tubular A-arms and power rack help keep this truck pointed in the right direction.

As far as the body goes there are plenty of aesthetic mods. "The emblems, door handles, wipers, and mirrors were all powder coated satin black. The front hood emblem and front and rear bumpers were wrapped in brushed gunmetal vinyl!" Halo headlights and LED tail lights add some pop to the build. The back bed is built on mahogany planks finished in mocha stain, which is finished off with flat top hidden bolt aluminum strips in brushed gunmetal. "We added a hidden hinged fuel door in the bed with soft close hinges." Lastly, the front grille was color matched for a cohesive look.

To fit the big rear meats that she wanted, Danielle, along with friend Eric Woodin, installed 4-inch tubs out back. 606s Ridler Wheels, 20x8.5 up front with big 20x10.5s in the rear. The rims are shod in Continental tires, 245/45-20 and 275/40-20 respectively. They are mounted with 1-inch spacers. For stopping power, the owner went with Wilwood brakes all around. Massive 14-inch drilled-and-vented rotors with Superlite six-piston calipers are up front and 12-inch drilled-and-vented rotors sit with four-piston calipers under the quarters. A frame-mounted Wilwood master cylinder helps pinch the quad-disc setup.

As the truck's build progressed, the interior needed some attention, so Danielle carried the satin black, gloss, and gunmetal theme into the cab, which helped the ostrich-covered bucket seats the truck came with pop even more. The previous owner had installed a Grant steering wheel that was pulled and replaced with a '56 stock piece now mounted to a Flaming River steering column. A Dakota Digital dash keeps track of the vitals and a Lokar shifter gets it through the gears. Tunes are important to the owner so a Sony XM-GS6DSP amp was installed along with a Bluetooth direct-to-amp receiver. Morel Virtus Nano Carbon Integra speakers push out the decibels to her liking. After the perfect storm that was this Chevy rebuild, Danielle could reflect about her new ride. "This build was a snowball effect. Greg and I have touched just about every part of this truck, and we have had help along the way from some family and friends who helped this build come to fruition. There are still things I am going to do to it, and I know it will always be a work in progress. Yet when you build something yourself and put hours of hard work into it, you create a special bond so when you drive it, it's a feeling like no other."

Thanks go out to several very important people and businesses. "I want to thank Broken Silence Custom Audio, Prodigy Performance Coatings, Mamaroneck Auto Body, Motorwerks, and De Dona Enterprises for their products and hard work. A special shout-out goes to Uncle John, Anthony G., and others who gave their support, time, and effort."

On a final note, we must ask; why was the truck christened Misfit? Danielle explains it this way: "One, because people don't expect a female to be driving it. They always assume it's Greg's. Two, there were so many things that were giving me a hard time when we first got the truck that it reminded me of the Island of Misfit Toys in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. That's why I have the elephant with the pink dots hanging from the mirror. Third, I love the band the Misfits. And fourth ... it just fit."



The '57 Chevy Bel Air was a dream since 1967.

By Art and Deb Stone

A turquoise and cream '57 Chevy was, hopefully, to be my first car, when I returned from Vietnam in October of '67. I was given a two-week leave period upon returning to the States, which quickly became one-week due to my critical MOS (Military Occupational Specialty). That didn't give me much time to find my '57 and, sadly, I was unable to find one anywhere. I ultimately ended up with a '65 Corvette Stingray Fastback, which got me back and forth to Camp LeJeune for the last two years of my enlistment.

After driving it for two years, and customizing it just a bit, I saw the body styles change in 1968. It was in such good mechanical shape that I was able to trade it in on a British-racing green, '68 Corvette Semi-hardtop, with the removable roof panels.

When my military time was up, I was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps and returned to Massachusetts. The '68 'Vette was new and certainly "different", but it had its own ghosts and issues, causing me to trade it in during the Summer of 1969. I traded it in on a new, 1969 Chevrolet Camaro SS 350, blue and white, 2 door, coupe.

One weekend evening, two friends and I went to Lucifer's, a Boston discotheque, where I met and ultimately married my wife, Deb. Deb was very helpful and became quite proficient at shining up the super-wide rims. The Camaro won several trophies at the Boston Autorama.

I had taken the Civil Service exam for police in 1970 while working for the Pinkerton Detective Agency doing background checks and undercover investigations for commercial businesses experiencing internal theft.

I had several other vehicles over the years. I eventually was hired by the Weymouth, Mass. Police Department in February, 1971 and retired as a Sergeant/Patrol Supervisor on January 6th (yep, THAT January 6th), 2000.

During those 29 years I had a Pontiac, a Monte Carlo, a GTO, Chevy K5 Blazer, a C10 Chevy truck, Mazda 626, Mercury Grand Marquis, Chrysler Concord, GMC Terrain SUV Terrain and currently, a Chevrolet Traverse SUV which has taken us back and forth, from Florida to Massachusetts for the last 4-5 years.

This past year, I had to give up riding my Indian Chief trike motorcycle due to medical issues and Deb and I decided to see what was out there within the vintage car community.

We found that turquoise and white Bel Air on the web in Ft. Myers and drove over to check it out. Unfortunately, the photos looked far better than its actual condition. Fluids were all over the floor when it was pushed out for us to see.

Deb began checking the internet again, while at that dealership, and found a deep metallic blue '57 in Tampa for ten thousand dollars less, so we headed there. We did buy it and had it shipped to Sebastian, where we live. We know Frank and Dorrie LaMacchia and joined the Indian River Region AACA. So far, we've spent several thousand on it and expect that to double before it's 'presentable'. Nonetheless, we're looking forward to the challenge.



The Freedom Road Rally

From Vero Beach to Texarkana



Our Cruise by Mary Maule

The club members on this Freedom Road Rally were John & Helen Stefanacci, Geoff Newcombe, Steve & Lynne Gabor, George & Sam Gordon, and Bill & Mary Maule.

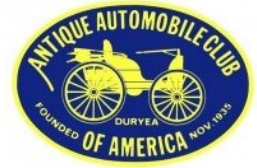
John and Geoff pulled into our first hotel stop for the night in Marianna, FL, and while parking their cars was George and Sam! Not planned! We traveled from Vero Beach to Texarkana to meet up with the Freedom Road Rally participants.

There were close to 60 cars. Day 1 - from Texarkana, Arkansas to Monroe, Louisiana. We toured the Four State Auto Museum and the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources. Day 2 - Monroe to Natchez, Mississippi. There was a bus tour of the town and a tour of Rosalie Mansion.

Day 3 -Natchez to Natchitoches, LA. Where we saw Delta Music Hall of Fame and Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. Day 4 - Natchitoches to Shreveport, LA. Nobody Customs and Restorations shop and boat trip to dinner on Cross Lake. Day 5 - Shreveport to Tyler, TX. Tours of Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, Oil Museum, Museum of Broadcasting. Ending the day with Victory Dinner at the hotel.

Another funny story occurred when we needed a potty break. Six cars pulled over at a gas station. Right behind the station was a yard full of old cars. Of course, we had to check that out! The gas station bathroom was out of order, so we were all standing around deciding where to find the closest bathroom, when the sheriff walked over. His office was right next door. He opened his office, let us use his bathroom, gave us a tour of his office, and introduced us to the mayor of Wisner, LA, who was the chairman of the Catfish Festival that was held the weekend before. He even gave us all Catfish Festival tee shirts! Fun stop along the way.

Upcoming Events



Jun 8 – Indian River County Sheriffs Classic Car Show. 11 am to 4 pm.
IRCSO Admin Complex (Front Parking Lot) 4055 41st Ave, Vero Beach, FL. \$30 pre-registration, \$35 Day of Show. Cars will be allowed access from 10:00am and 10:45am. No entry or registration after 10:45am. Cars must be ready by 11:00am. Cars may not exit prior to 3:00pm. You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and umbrellas.

Fire extinguishers are mandatory for all vehicles. No outside food or beverage will be allowed as this is a fundraising event for the United Way of Indian River County. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd top point vehicles will receive an Outstanding Vehicle Award. Awards will be announced at 3:00pm. **Payments are cash or check only. Payments can be dropped off at the IRCSO Admin Building Lobby (4055 41st Ave, Vero Beach, FL).**

Jun 29 – Burgers and Brews in the Oaks Area at Riverside Park, Vero Beach. 11 am to 4 pm, hosted by and benefiting United against Poverty. Riverside Park under the oaks. For info call 772-770-0740.

AACA Calendar

AACA NATIONALS AND TOURS

Always verify information. Notices contained in event registration materials take precedence. This information is for official use only and is not for public dissemination without the express permission of the AACA Vice President of National Activities (see page 4).

March 17-23
Founders Tour (1932-1999)
Louisiana • Louisiana Region • 337-581-7776

March 21-24
Special Winter Nationals
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico • Puerto Rico Region • 787-635-8976

April 4-6
Southeastern Spring Nationals / Grand Nationals / Zenith
Charlotte, N.C. • Hornets Nest Region • 704-847-4215

June 9-13
Eastern Divisional Tour (Up through 1999)
Fredericksburg, Va. • Buzzard's Breath Region • 407-261-9318

June 20-22
Eastern Spring Nationals
Saratoga Springs, N.Y. • Saratoga Region • 518-863-4987

July 10-13
Western Divisional Tour (Up through 1999)
Big Horn Mt., Wyoming • Nebraska Region • 402-475-5563

August 22-24
Special Fall Nationals
Hampton, Va. • Historic Va. Peninsula Region • 757-871-6701

September 12-14
Western Fall Nationals
Loveland, Colorado • Poudre Valley Region • 970-686-9291

September 22-27
Revival AAA Glidden Tour® (Pre-1943)
Fairfield, Pennsylvania • Sugarloaf Mtn. Region • 240-344-2922

October 8-11
Eastern Fall Nationals
Hershey, Pennsylvania • Hershey Region • 717-566-7720

October 23-26
Southeastern Fall Nationals
Huntsville, Alabama • 256-653-4036

REGION / CHAPTER EVENTS

APRIL 2024

4-6 Greenville, Tex. North Texas Region. Greenville swap meet/car show. Roy 903-454-8575; reg.gvswmpt@yahoo.com
6 Palm Springs, Calif. Palm Springs Chapter. Regional meet at Ruth Hardy Park. John Hetzler, jhetzler@comcast.net
14 Landonberg, Pa. Brandywine Region. Swap meet at New Garden Twp. Hal Kevin Gonon 302-354-2209; kcgonon383@gmail.com

MAY 2024

4-6 Hanover, N.J. New Jersey Region. 72nd spring car show/swap meet Vince DeLisi 908-803-1570; vincentdelisi@comcast.net
11 Winchester, Va. Shenandoah Region. 64th apple blossom car show/swap meet. Duane Catlett 540-533-7376; catlettbd@gmail.com
27 Boalsburg, Pa. Allegheny Mt. Region. Annual auto show at Penn Military Museum. Scott Dene 814-571-8790; nsdeeds@hotmail.com

JUNE 2024

8 York Springs, Pa. Gettysburg Region. 49th Lattimore car & truck show. Larry Rohrbach 717-890-3058; GettysburgRegion.aaca.com
9 Waterford, Pa. Prosser Isle Region. 48th antique automobile show. Howard Krack 814-881-1015; piraaca15@yahoo.com
15 Upper Freehold, N.J. Mid-Jersey Rgn. Prewar display at Historic Wainford midjerseyregionaaca@gmail.com

JULY 2024

14 Arkport, N.Y. Chemung Valley Region. 68th car show/summerfest Rocco Mesiti 585-409-3310; rmesiti3@gmail.com

AUGUST 2024

2-4 Macungie, Pa. Ontelaunee Region. Das Awkscht Fescht. Susan Manwiller 610-823-5033; awkscht.com

SEPTEMBER 2024

15 McAdoo, Pa. Anthracite Region. 38th annual car show/lea market Dave Bielen dbielen1951@gmail.com

Local Cruises:

2nd Saturday Breakfast will be at CW Willis Farms, Oslo Road in Vero Beach. Hosted by the Indian River Region, AACA

4th Saturday Breakfast at CJ Cannon's at 8 am. Hosted by the Indian River Region AACA

1st Tuesday - Vero Vintage Volkswagens monthly meeting 5 pm to 8pm. Walking Tree Brewery – A food truck will be available.

3rd Wednesday IRRAACA Lunch Cruise. Destination will be announced. Contact Bob Kaufman with questions.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Five Guys, Sebastian 5:15 to 7:45 pm

2nd Thursday – Shift Culture presents a cruise at Ft. Pierce. Take US1 to Avenue C and left to the end at Indian River.

3rd Monday – T/A Truck Stop SR 60 in Vero Beach.

1st Friday monthly – Brass Monkey Sports Bar & grill 5 pm to 8 pm. 7781 Lake Worth Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467. Music, 50/50 Raffle, Discount inside the restaurant on food for cruisers, Hamburgers/hot dogs available hot off the grill on the outside patio. Call Carlos for more info 772-528-4247

Weekly on Saturday Night: Cruise to McDonalds in Vero Beach on US1 and Oslo Road. Gather at 5:30pm. Contact Billy D'Arton for details.

3rd Saturday monthly - Dunkin' Donuts Beachside. 1220 N. A1A, Indialantic, FL 8am to 12 noon. Questions, call Bill at 321-725-3648



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By Sal Livoti

In 1980 my friend with the Black Tiger and our other two buddies drove to Georgia for the 1980 Annual Shelby American Automobile Club Convention. This was held on Road Atlanta Raceway, and we had two days of events and track time. Here are a few pictures that I have from that weekend. Most of us drove cautiously and still spun off the track!

My car with a stock suspension and the smaller Hi Po 289 and the other Tiger safely ended in the dirt, but a small block aluminum Cobra tried to take out a guard rail and the guard rail won. The #48 Cobra and the Griffith were given track time for a personal showdown and the Griffith won that race. All in all, it was a great weekend and a fun road trip with the cars.



Antiques for Sale

Fred Kiesel is selling his **1939 Mercury Sedan**. This is an original car. Contact Fred at: ofcrfred@bellsouth.net or 772-770-6339



1939 Plymouth Sedan—**\$18,500**—Stroker 383, aluminum radiator, VDO Classic gauges, custom interior and lots more! Call Bruno at 805-801-1759.



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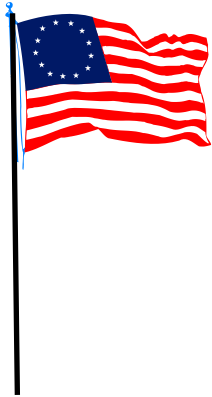
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Fred Kiesel
Bill Maule
Geoff Newcombe
Craig Waskow



Officer/Director Team

Left to Right

Phil LoGiudice, Doug Gleim, Geoff Newcombe, Fred Kiesel, Billy D'Arton, Bruce Hawkins, John Stefanacci, Craig Waskow & Bill Maule

Our Mailing address:
IRR AACA
PO Box 2616
Vero Beach, Fl 32961-2616

The Headliner is The official publication of Indian River Region,
Antique Automobile Club of America
Phil LoGiudice—Editor

Indian River Region, AACA
P.O. Box 2616
Vero Beach, Fl 32961-2616

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