

MEET HARRY BOONE



If you've not already met Harry Boone, you'll easily recognize him. His smile is as bright as the polished stainless steel on his 1930 Model A coupe. Harry also owns a beautiful 1940 Ford Coupe that he had out recently on our trip to North Carolina for lunch at the historic Nicholson house in Belvidere, North Carolina.

Harry joined TRAACA in 2017, based on the recommendation of long-time member Joe Burroughs.

Harry tells of how he met Joe and discovered TRAACA with that car. He was driving through the Pungo area and began experiencing some problems with his car. He spotted Joe, also in one of his antique cars parked at a nearby gas station, and pulled in. Joe immediately tried to help and ended up inviting him to his farm to see his other cars and to tinker with the 40 Ford. That chance encounter, and Joe's willingness to extend the hand of friendship, is what led Harry

to join AACA and TRAACA. Their friendship remains strong and they continue to visit regularly.

Harry's love of old cars goes back a lot farther though. Raised in Suffolk, Harry drove a 1940 Chevrolet Coupe as his regular everyday car. He bought it for \$50! Those were the days, for sure. He has always been fond of cars from the 30s and 40s but has not always been brand-particular. The 40 Chevrolet was eventually replaced with a ten-year newer 1950 Chevrolet. Although he currently drives a Buick, the 1930 Model A and the 1940 Ford are both ready to join in for tours with TRAACA or the Cape Henry Model A Ford Club, which he also belongs to.

Harry has lived in Virginia Beach for 50 years but still considers Suffolk as his home.

Harry spent 20 years in the Army Reserves and Air Force National Guard. Later, he was a personal assistant for a well-known local realtor, Harvey Lindsay. He retired shortly after Lindsay's passing.



Harry's long-time girlfriend, Carlease, is a TRAACA member also, and enjoys the old cars, too, although she resides some distance away in Louisa County.

For Harry, it was the friendship with Joe that brought him to the TRAACA and AACA. It's the fellowship of club members that he enjoys most

and is what keeps him active. His favorite events are those where people are having fun. He singles out the Annual Christmas Brunch and the spring swap meet in particular as fun-filled opportunities to socialize. It's a clear message to everyone - extending the hand of friendship, or offering to help each other out, makes the club great.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Good day fellow TRAACA members and welcome to this month's President remarks.

Spring has sprung in the Tidewater Region as you can see by the lovely pollen all over the cars. Activities with the various clubs in the area are starting to pick up. I have been attending the Tuesday evening classic car cruise in the Edinburg area of Chesapeake by the Target starting around 4 p.m. If you are free on a Tuesday, this is a fun activity to meet other enthusiasts of the car hobby. Tom Spina has set up a group tour of

the Backbay Wildlife Refuge on the April 18th with lunch to follow at Pungo Pizza. On April 19th, the club had pre-purchased tickets to the annual Norfolk International Tattoo and all the tickets sold out in record time. Look for future activities.

ODMA is right around the corner on May 1st and 2nd. You can register up until April 17th. We still need volunteers to help with the show in various roles, so please consider helping out with our event.

Until next month's edition, please consider attending an event or a monthly dinner meeting.

Remember there is no dinner meeting in May so if you want to attend the ODMA luncheon on May 2nd, the deadline to register is April 17th.

Harry Park
TRAACA President
(757) 274-5426
harrygpark@yahoo.com

FROM THE EDITORS' KEYBOARDS

Terry & Susan Bond

And all of a sudden it's summer! We've waited for short pants and T-shirts long enough. I don't want to hear anyone complaining about the heat.

Do things really slow down in the "dog days of summer"? Not here! We just got back from the AACA meet in Charlotte NC. The ODMA meet is a MUST for all TRAACA members. Plans are in the works for AACA meets in Las Vegas NV and Green Bay WI. The Annual Grand National in Allentown PA is eagerly awaited. Next it's all things MG in Sandusky OH. We'll probably squeeze in more local events, including the Pre-War Swap Meet in Luray.

Between it all, we continue to squeeze in the Mudflap. Monthly issues will be out in the month

of that issue, hopefully before the dinner meeting. While we will make every effort to get time-sensitive information in before it becomes history, be sure to watch for Bob Stein's "Mudspeck" on Mondays and visit our club website at www.traaca.com for the most up-to-date details on our activities.

We're doing everything possible to keep everyone informed, so don't forget to do your part and use these tools to stay involved in the world's greatest hobby with TRAACA.

As you travel, keep us in mind for stories and photos of your adventures.

Thanks to our contributors again for what's unfolding as a great year for Tidewater Region.

Let's have a GREAT OLD CAR SUMMER!
Terry & Susan

Board Meeting Minutes

13 Mar 26

Y-Not Pizza, Virginia Beach

Attendees:

Harry Park	Pres	Nick Smith	Board	Tammy Park
Mike Haag	VP	Wayne Milligan ...	Board	Dan Ciccone
Chris Ciccone	Tres	Rick Seaman	Board	
Jerry Adams	Secr	Skip Patnode	Board	
Bill Treadwell	PrEm			

6:05 meeting called to order

President's Remarks:

Harry called to order and noted Swap Meet was a Success and thanked Bill & team.

Vice President's Remarks:

Mike nothing to report, has a few comments on swap meet, will wait till we get to it in agenda

Treasurer Report:

Chris addressed questions in regards to reports, noted she has corrected and rerun the reports. Comment was made that club is spending more than is coming in. Harry noted he addressed this in his president's notes in the Mudflap. Chris to rerun reports and send to board for review & approval.

Secretary Report:

Jerry noted that the report was emailed out to board for review & feedback. No feedback provided, Board accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

- Activities
Harry went over upcoming activities, March 14 trip to Nicholson House, Tammy noted that no one signed up to bring desserts, asked board for money to get desserts for trip. Board discussed, and approved a budget for Tammy to get desserts.
- ODMA Meet, May 1 & 2, Real Life Church
ODMA Committee plans to set up date in April to go walk field and iron out details, Dan noted he has a few volunteers for judging, registration is open, 4 received to date. Next meeting is March 23 6pm at Harry's house. Tammy noted the raffle for vehicle dash plaque, bring your raffle tickets, and they will be selling at the next dinner meeting and at end of dinner will draw winner.

Old Business:

- SCC Corporation Status
Harry inquired about status, Jerry noted he has paperwork from Sandy and is working to get it completed. Chris noted she mailed payment in with invoice she got from Sandy. Jerry to get with Sandy and make sure everything is in order.
- ODMA Temporary bank account
Tammy is treasurer along with Mike H, noted all payments and inv• invoices for ODMA to go to Tammy.

New Business:

- Update on club's logo design
Mike noted existing logo and he is working on updating to possibly include lettering around the logo similar to what was used in 2023 Annual Meet. Logo to be cleaned up and used for new club merchandise. Mike is taking lead on logo project.

- Working on QR code design
Rick is working on QR Code for business cards to pass out that people can scan and get you to our website
- Swap Meet Recap
Bill noted success of swap meet, weather was foggy but cleared up. Nansemond Suffolk Academy already scheduled us in for March 2027. We had 5 new club members sign up at meet. Great kick off to start of season for TRAACA.
- Donation to Nansemond Suffolk Academy (Host of Swap Meet)
Bill requested donation for NSA, board discussed, motion was made and approved. Wayne noted batch of letter templates used by club in past for donations, will forward to board to review.
- Harry discussed Shriners Rodeo coming up June 12-13 at Shrine Possible meet up, go in together, food at event, Pay on own.

Final Comments / Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made at 6:50 and accepted.

SWAP MEET AT LANDSTOWN

Or - The Coldest, Windiest Day at Landstown

By Dot Parrish

On March 28th the George Smith Memorial Car Show at Landstown, in Virginia Beach, was held on what proved to be the coldest day yet of winter's continued cold spell. This year was the second time to also have a flea market there in conjunction with the show.

Believe you me, it was the worst day I have spent outside. (Most of the time I was sitting in the car), I decided I would walk over to nearby Kohls to get warm and out of the wind. I did not know they had closed the entrance in front of the Dollar Tree so, after walking over there, I had to change directions and go all the way around the other side. I could hardly walk over there as the wind kept blowing me backwards. I finally got in there to warm up a bit. When I left, the wind was to my back and it kind of helped me get back across the parking lot!!

A few TRAACA members were there – Harry Park, Gerry Massie, Herbert Mumford, Harry Boone, Dan and Chris Ciccone, Bob Parrish, and Bob Stein were all seen bundled up. Andrew Sitar, Mickey McChesney and Scott Davies also had swap meet booths) .

Next year I'll check with the weatherman before deciding to go.



Harry, Dan and Bob Parrish



Bob Stein and Harry



APRIL

16 - April Dinner Meeting, 5:30pm, Holiday Inn Convention Center, 5655 Greenwich Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

18 - TRAACA Guided Tour of Back Bay abandoned cars. - Starting at 2 PM from the Back Bay Refuge Lot. Limited to 10 people. Dinner after at Pungo Pizza. RSVP ASAP to john605muray@gmail.com and houndbud-dy@hotmail.com for a seat.

19 - TRAACA to Virginia International Tattoo at Scope, 2:30pm (Contact Chris Ciccone at chrisie1236@gmail.com for tickets)

MAY

1 and 2 - ODMA Meet, Hosted by TRAACA (The Real Life Church, 900 Centerville Turnpike N, Chesapeake, VA 23320)

2 - 26th Annual Williamsburg British and Import Car Show - 10 AM to 2 PM at the Williamsburg Premium Outlets, Williamsburg, VA

JUNE

13 – Richmond Collector Car Show and Swap Meet, 8 AM to 3 PM, St. Joseph;s Villa, Richmond

Watch the *Mudspeck* electronic newsletter for full details.

THE MUDFLAP is the newsletter for the Tidewater Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America.

Editors: Terry and Susan Bond
Reporters: Aubrey Austin, Rick Seaman, Bob & Dot Parrish
Reporter and Photographer: Bob Stein

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2025 TRAACA Officers & Board

President - Harry Park
harrygpark@yahoo.com

Vice President - Mike Haag

Secretary - Jerry Adams

Treasurer - Chris Ciccone

Board - Wayne Milligan
Board - Skip Patnode
Board - Rick Seaman
Board - Nick Smith

President Emeritus—Bill Treadwell

Visit us on the Internet at: traaca.com

For a complete list of local events, visit www.ccchr.org, the Car Club Council of Hampton Roads

**National AACA
2026 Event Calendar**

APRIL

23-25 Grand Nationals/Western Spring Nationals, Las Vegas, NV

MAY

28-30 Eastern Spring Nationals, Indiana PA

JUNE

11-13 Southeastern Fall Nationals, Oak Ridge TN

15-19 Sentimental Tour, Mechanicsburg PA

JULY

23-25 Central Spring Nationals, Green Bay WI

AUGUST

5-8 Southeastern Divisional Tour, Flat Rock NC

19-22 Grand Nationals/Zenith Awards, Allentown PA

SEPTEMBER

9-14 Founders Tour, Williamsburg VA

20-26 Revival Glidden Tour (Pre 1943), Dover DE

OCTOBER

6-9 Eastern Fall Nationals, Hershey PA

TRAACA MEMBER'S PAGE

April Birthdays

Boe B Bostjancic
 Taylor Bostjancic
 Mike Brown
 Joe Burroughs
 Robyn Burnham
 Diana Etheridge
 Cori Fuqua
 George Galyo
 Preston Garner
 Joe Geib
 Gerry Massie
 Mickey McChesney
 Jane Schaubach
 Marty Sugermeier
 Dalton Williford
 Carol Williford
 Susan Woolfitt

April Anniversaries

Casey & Mary-Ellen Bostjanic
 Larry & Jane Cutright
 Jody & Lisa Dudley
 Alfonso & Patrizia Lo Betti
 Ludovici
 Wes Neal & Nancy Soscia
 Ken & Jessica Packard
 Dwight & Jane Schaubach



May Anniversaries

Mike & Denise Haag
 Frank & Grace Sheleheda
 Boyd & Debra Swartz
 Alan & Laurel Swenson

May Birthdays

Allan Becker
 Sonny Butler
 James Carnforth
 Dickie Clifton
 Larry Cutright
 Jeanie Downing
 Charline Geib
 William Gross
 Mike Haag
 Julie Hobbs
 Josie Kinker
 Kit Lawrence
 Cindi Nash
 Tina Pack
 Dot Parrish
 Rhonda Russell
 Grace Sheleheda
 Alan Swenson



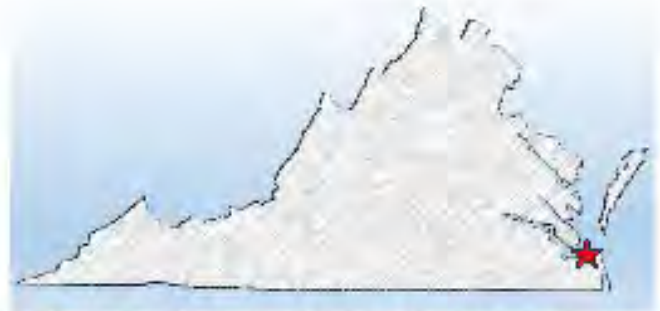
Dinner Meeting Corner

Chief Contact: Skip Patnode

Members will be contacted via e-mail to obtain their RSVPs for the club's monthly dinner meeting. (Members without e-mail will be contacted by phone.) If you will be attending, please respond to Skip Patnode's e-mail by the requested date and let him know how many people will be coming. (There is no need to respond if you are not coming.) Skip will reply to you once he adds you to his attendance list. **It is critical that you respond** so we can let the hotel know how many people will be attending & they can prepare enough food. If you are not receiving Skip's e-mails or want to be taken off the list, please contact him at skippatnode@cox.net or (757) 672-8495. Thank you for your cooperation!

73rd Annual ODMA MEET

May 1st and 2nd, 2026



The Tidewater Region of The Antique Automobile Club of America will host the 73rd Annual Old Dominion Meet. The Meet will be held at the Real Life Christian Church at 900 Centerville Turnpike North in Chesapeake, Virginia, on May 1st and 2nd, 2026. Onsite trailer parking will be available at the church from 1 p.m. on May 1st through 6 p.m. on May 2nd. Trailers will need to be moved from the church parking lot before 6 p.m. on May 2nd.



Friday Night Social: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Pizza at Real Life Christian Church.

Saturday:

- 8:00 a.m. Vehicle registration and parking fields open
- 10:00 a.m. All show vehicles on the field
- 11:00 a.m. Judging will begin
- 2:30 p.m. Dinner followed by Presentation of Awards

Saturday Awards Dinner: Pork and Chicken BBQ Dinner with baked beans, green beans, rolls and dessert at Real Life Christian Church.

To register:

Complete the form at www.traaca.com and mail with your check made out to TRAACA to:
Jerry Adams, 3400 Commerce Street, Portsmouth, VA 23707

For registration questions, please contact Jerry Adams at (757) 673-3240 or traacameet@gmail.com

First 100 pre-registered cars will receive a dash plaque.

Hotels:

Hilton Garden Inn, 1565 Crossways Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23320, (757) 420-2515, www.hilton.com
Homewood Suites, 1569 Crossways Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23320, (757) 213-0808, www.hilton.com
Fairfield, 1565 Crossways Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23320, (757) 420-1300, www.marriott.com
Spring Hill Suites, 1565 Crossways Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23320, (757) 410-9406, www.marriott.com
Comfort Suites, 1550 Crossways Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23320, (757) 420-1600, www.choicehotels.com

Registration Deadline is April 17th

Questions? Please contact Harry Park at 757-274-5426 or harvopark@yahoo.com

Here come da Judge!



And he's looking for a little help.

Folks, we have a car show coming! In May we're going to host the Old Dominion Meet. The ODMA Team has never taken their foot off the gas pedal in planning for a great show this year, and a big part of that is of course the judging that takes place.

Judging can be such a rewarding part of your car show experience! You will be with a team of dedicated, highly regarded individuals who have tremendous judging background at our National events. Even if you've never judged before, you will be working with true mentors in the judging arena. They will guide you in your work that day and help make the task light and easy and – most of all -- enjoyable.

We will have a meeting of volunteer judged prior to the event and you will know what to do before the show begins.

It all begins with you volunteering to get involved. If you are interested in signing up please contact Terry Bond or Dan Ciccone as soon as possible.

Even if you've never judged before, you'll learn something about how to prepare your own car. So, raise your hand and sign up now to get involved.

Terry Bond:
terryaaca@cox.net – 757-403-4614

Dan Ciccone
ciconeclassics@gmail.com - 757-391-9006



You are invited to participate in the 57th annual Richmond Collector Car Show and Swap Meet, to be held on the lawn of St. Joseph's Villa in Richmond, VA. This event is presented by the Richmond Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America in conjunction with the Richmond Antique Automobile Charitable Action Foundation. In addition to hundreds of antique, sports, and custom cars & trucks, we are excited to host an amazing display of historic competition vehicles, depicting "Racing Through Time!"

CLASSES AND JUDGING

Classes for virtually every make and model of car, truck, and motorcycle will be available with judging performed by experienced teams. Please Note: Only pre-registered show cars will be eligible for judging and awards.

CRUISE-IN

As an alternative to having your car in the judged portion of the show, you are invited to participate in the 2026 St. Joseph's Cruise-In! This non-judged area of the front lawn will be reserved for you to arrive in style, with the freedom to depart whenever you wish.

AUTOMOTIVE SWAP MEET

The show also attracts one of the largest automotive Swap Meets (Flea Markets) in Virginia, where you can find that elusive part or that special vintage license plate to make your restoration complete.

10:00 AM OPENING CEREMONIES

Opening Ceremonies and the singing of our National Anthem begin at 10:00am! Vintage car rides will be available for you and your family to experience starting at 10:30am. Food and beverages will be available throughout the day.

FEATURED DISPLAY

An amazing group of historic race vehicles will bring our special feature of "Racing Through Time" to life. The most recent entry is a genuine

Richmond Collector Car Show and Swap Meet
St. Joseph's Villa - Richmond, VA
Saturday, June 13, 2026
8:00am - 3:00pm



#43 Superbird, raced by Richard Petty in 1970! MG, Triumph, Maserati, Mazda, Porsche, and other significant race cars will also be making an appearance in our St. Joseph's Villa Paddock. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see so many historic warriors in one show!

RACING THROUGH TIME

At 1:00pm, gather around the main tent for an unforgettable presentation. As this year's show focuses on historic race cars, we will bring the stories of select race vehicles to light through the tales of car owners, drivers, and crew.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Awards Presentation will begin at 2:00pm. First place cars in each class will be driven up to receive their award, culminating in a presentation of the coveted Best in Show trophies!

PROUDLY SUPPORTING T. JOSEPH'S VILLA

100% of the proceeds raised from the General Admissions gate will be donated to St. Joseph's Villa.

REGISTER NOW

Click on the appropriate link below to be part of the 57th annual Show or visit www.RichmondCarShow.com for more information. The show has been a sell-out for two years running.

Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

March 6, 7 and 8, 2026

By Rick Seaman

At Hershey last year, I was invited to enter my 1964 Barracuda in the Pony Car class at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. I was extremely happy to get the invite and could not believe it.

After taking apart most of the accessories on my engine over the winter, and repainting the engine and detailing everything, we were ready.

A friend of mine from the Chesapeake Region AACA, Tom Rosso from Maryland, went with me. We had a great time at this first-class event. All kinds of celebrities were there including Chip Foose. Just about every well-known car show person you could imagine had something there.



At Amelia Island they talk about “driving on the cart path” to get to your area, and that is actually true. I was driving on a golf cart path until I got to our Pony Car area.

The event was great! There were prewar cars, steam cars, and many Ferraris and Duesenbergs. One of my favorite parts was the Carroll Shelby exhibit with many of his iconic Mustangs and Cobras on display.

If you ever get the chance to go to Amelia Island I highly recommend it. It is a great experience and we had a great time.





A bus trip to downtown Cartersville enabled us to experience the laid-back, old-fashioned Southern atmosphere. There were interesting shops, cafes, an old-fashioned soda fountain



and the world's oldest Coca-Cola sign brightly painted on the side of an ice-cream parlor.



Train tracks divide the town.

Our chance to visit the Savoy was later on Friday where we were treated to special exhibits of Corvettes and Ferraris. A welcome and information session in the museum's theater included a talk with questions and answers. The guest of honor was Corky Coker from nearby Chattanooga TN. It was an entertaining afternoon followed by a special treat – a look inside their massive storage building.



The Savoy is a great place to visit, although it does not contain many early brass-age vehicles and not a lot of "memorabilia". The ever-changing displays make it interesting. The facility itself is absolutely first-class.



Friday evening social in the student center



1911 Olds Limited.



Model A taxi. Photo by Annie Goldman

The Saturday AACA show was held on the beautiful campus of Georgia Highlands College, where the cars were creatively arranged on grassy areas. The Student Center cafeteria was open all day for food and drinks. The evening Awards Banquet was also held on campus. Jim Elliott and Donna, along with Susan and I represented HVPR and TRAACA. Jim and Donna drove their 1990 GMG Suburban to the event and captured a Repeat Senior Original award.



Jim and Donna Elliott's Suburban



MGA



1956 T-bird F Series. Photo by Annie Goldman.



Merced.



1926 Humber.



1968 Pannonia T5 with Duna Sidecar.

For us, the trip continued on to Gadsden, Alabama for a visit with Susan's aunt, cousins and nephew there, before heading back to Virginia.

ROUTE 66 – Why it seems so special to us



We've learned of the history of "the Mother Road" but, in reality, it's always been just a couple of black-top strips going West (or back home again from there). Why then has it become such an iconic piece of America? Certainly its popularity has something to do with movies and television where it served as the main stage setting.

"The Grapes of Wrath"

The earliest movie about Route 66 was done in the 1950's as a movie adaptation of John Steinbeck's novel. It tells the story of the Joad family as they leave Oklahoma during the Great Depression. They travel West along Route 66 heading towards California and the promise of new opportunities for a better life. The movie is considered a masterpiece and was first to depict Route 66 as the great escape route from the dust bowl to prosperity.

"Route 66" was the name of a television series that premiered on CBS on October 7, 1960, and ran until March 20, 1964. There were 116 episodes and many of us car-crazy kids growing up in that era saw every one of them. It was my favorite TV show during those years.

During the show's run, stars Tod Stiles (Martin Milner) and Buz Murdoc (George Maharis) travel Route 66 in a Corvette in search of adventure. Along the way they work odd jobs as they meet interesting characters and get involved in difficult situations. They help solve crimes, find romance, and experience all the adventure you can handle.

The Chevrolet Corvette seen in the first episode is a 1960. A 1961 car was used the rest of that

season. Chevrolet provided vehicles throughout the show's run, upgrading to new models with each season. If you can remember black and white TV shows, the entire series was filmed without color. Cars of various color were used in filming while some publicity photos show black or red cars. A new Stingray was used to finish out the series,

Who can ever forget the catchy theme song that helped glue those adventures into our memory – “Get Your Kicks on Route 66.”

There were other Route 66 adventures that could be experienced from your recliner at home or in a comfortable theater seat.

“Easy Rider” was released in 1969. It was a film directed by Dennis Hopper that featured Route 66 as a symbol of freedom.

“Two-Lane Blacktop” was a 1971 cult film classic following the adventures of a group of street racers in the Southwest.

“Rain Man” was released in 1988, long after Route 66 itself had begun to start its vanishing act, being by-passed by newer improved highways. In that film, two brothers traveled from Cincinnati to Los Angeles to claim an inheritance. Along the way they visit many of Route 66’s famous landmarks that we’ll visit briefly in the next article about America’s greatest highway.

STILL COLLECTING

Wooden cars

By Terry Bond

No, not woodies – much smaller model-sized versions that fit easily into display cases.

You can find them in toy stores, souvenir shops, and by the hundreds on the internet. They are produced by sometimes quite talented woodworkers. Often however the result is rather amateurish. Here is an example of a nicely crafted Model A roadster advertised for sale currently.



But, that’s not what I’m talking about.

Wood cars have been around since the car was in its infancy. And, they were not always made as toys either. Many of them had other purposes and were carefully crafted works of art designed for use on the desk-top or on the table at a fancy banquet. These early wood cars are what flicks my switch as the treasure hunt for

great early automobilia winds its way through antiques shops, auctions and flea markets throughout the country. Of course the journey is made even easier these days, thanks to the many on-line auction platforms available.

I’ve found several examples that serve as what’s known as a “Smoker’s Companion.” These desk-top items generally have hinged seats that reveal a storage compartment beneath for cigars or cigarettes. Lifting the hood reveals a compartment for matches. There is usually a place with a rough surface to strike matches on. Fancy versions have built in ash-trays and sometimes even cigar cutters.



This is the only one I’ve seen with a glass windshield.



Scroll-cut Smokers Companion with brass lamps, rubber tires and opening doors. A hinged panel in the top provides access to the cigars in the back seat.



If I had to guess, it seems they could have been made by the same company (or individual). They most likely would have been sold in high-end tobacco shops in the time period from about 1905-1910. I've seen a few other examples in major auctions described as European. I have never been able to find any advertising for them that might give a clue as to exact year or origin though. They are quite large-the wheels are 3 to 4 inches in diameter.

Other examples of wooden cars from my collection include these beautifully done and extremely delicate fretwork examples. The workmanship is amazing. The handwork is exquisite in the cut scroll-work on these. Some were cigar containers, and others held liquor decanters and shot-glasses. There is more definitive reference material available on these as they have been described as being produced in Germany in the 1905-09 time frame. Some examples include intricately made brass lamps and even rubber tires.



A similar example, likely produced by the same maker.



Another great Smokers Companion in the form of a circa 1905 Gordon Bennett race car with antique celluloid driver. This car has working steering.

Perhaps the “ultimate” examples were these combination wood and metal examples produced by well-known German toy manufacturer Ernst Plank. Starting in 1866, the company was best known for building toy steam engines, and later magic-lanterns. In association with noted toy manufacturer Bing, these wonderfully detailed automobiles were not toys but were cigarette and match holders that would be found of the desk-top of well-to-do early motoring enthusiasts. They featured silver plated trim and jeweled headlamps. Various examples were produced from 1903-1905, I’m fortunate to have several different examples in my collection.

One of my favorites is this early 1900s writing set containing an inkwell under the seat, a compartment for postage stamps under the hood, and a small drawer for pen nibs and a sharpening knife. The steering wheel is actually a pencil holder.



Ernst Plank Smokers Companion. Cigarettes are under the hinged seat section, while matches are under the lift-up front hood. Note the jeweled headlamps.

Still, there are other types of early wooden cars. Some are as simple as this small, probably hand-made trinket box from the early 1900s.



When in an antique shop I’m often asked what I’m looking for. Obviously the answer can be rather complicated and extends well beyond just “automobile stuff.”

Happy collecting always,

Terry



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