



Sidelights

The Official Newsletter of the
Santa Rosa Horseless Carriage Club of America
March/April 2024



Next Meetings: May 9th and June 13th at 5:30pm

All meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at Round Table Pizza, 2065 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa Horseless Carriage Club Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024

Attendees:

John & Linda Pearson
Linda Eggleston
Vicky Porter
Bill Scales & Cinda Craven
Don and Pam Johnson
Stan Ramondo
Donna Jones



Meeting called to order at 5:45 by
President Stan Romondo.

Treasurer's Report, Linda Eggleston: Reported on unpaid members and current balance.

Sunshine Report, Linda Pearson: Nothing to report. Everyone seems to be doing okay.

Tours: John Pearson et al

The Sign-up sheet was circulated, and the following tour months were selected:

April: Craven/Scales – Geissler Packard Museum

May: Pearson – Fisherman's Festival?

June: Eggleston

July:

August: Johnson

September 13-15: Fortuna/Ferndale Overnighter

October:

November:

New Business: None



Meeting called to close at 6:37PM by President Stan Ramondo
Respectfully Submitted: Cinda Craven for Kimberley Simoni, SRHCC Secretary

Santa Rosa Horseless Carriage Club Meeting Minutes **April 11, 2024**

Attendees:

Cinda Craven & Bill Scales
Vicky Porter
Guy & Michelle Smith
Linda Eggleston
Don Johnson
Kim & Wayne Simoni

Meeting called to order at 5:45 by
Vice President Guy Smith.



Treasurer's Report, Linda Eggleston:
\$1511.52 balance in bank
Winterhalder & Flint remain unpaid for 2024

Tours:

April 20: Craven/Scales – Geissler Packard Museum
Meet at Lowe's parking lot in Cotati @ 9:45am
Tour to the Packard Museum, arriving between 10:30-11:00
Lunch at Washoe House after Museum

May 5: Fisherman's Festival ← no one from SRHCCA attending this year

June: Eggleston

June 1: Forestville Parade ← will decide at May's meeting

July:

August: Johnson

September 13-15: Fortuna/Ferndale Overnighter

October:

November:

New Business: Linda Eggleston's Chevy is back together and ready to tour with a rebuilt transmission and a newly restored trunk 😊

Next Meeting: May 9, 5:30, Round Table Pizza on Occidental Road
6:35PM Meeting closed by VP Guy Smith

Respectfully Submitted: Kimberley Simoni, SRHCC Secretary

2024 HCCA Convention and Tour – Chattanooga Tennessee – March 15-20, 2024

Kim Simoni

Trees and I had the pleasure of attending the annual HCCA Convention & Tour in Chattanooga in March. After *many* hangups getting there (air travel is not for the weak of heart!), we settled into the host hotel – The Westin – in the Riverfront area of downtown Chattanooga. Walkable, plethora of wonderful restaurants, and a beautiful area.

The annual Convention and Tour is the responsibility of the then-sitting HCCA VP, which was Russ Holden. (He is your new HCCA president now). He and his wife Chris live in NSW Australia, so he was very appreciative of the able assistance of three TN locals, Jeff & Angie Chattin and Jeff Stumb.

We enjoyed the company of 45 pre-16 cars and their owners, from all over the world. Beautiful but very cold mornings and glorious roads to tour on – much better surfaces than the best in Sonoma County!

Trees and I hitch-hiked in the backseat of Trish and Andy Wallace's 1911 Cadillac. What a solid car and great fun to get to know the Wallaces better!

Eastern Tennessee (and western Georgia) is beautiful. The trees are just starting to bud out and everything is turning green. Each day's tour was fun and included a morning coffee stop (green donuts on Sunday March 17) and some various interesting spots to visit. For instance:



- We visited the Chickamauga Battlefield. This was the second deadliest battle of the Civil War at 34,624

casualties; Gettysburg being the deadliest at 51,000 (!). Beautiful self-guided tour, lots of cannons and monuments, very sobering to experience the history

- We rode The Lookout Mountain Incline Railway, a mile long 72.7% grade funicular railway built in 1887. (funicular: a cable railroad, especially one on a mountainside, in which ascending and descending cars are counterbalanced). An extraordinary and VERY steep railroad.

- We visited the Lodge Cast Iron Foundry. Super interesting tour and lunch, with a great museum of cast iron history. They have the largest cast iron frying pan in the world on display!

- We got a behind-the-scenes tour (and a hosted dinner) at the Coker Tire plant and collection in Chattanooga. GREAT collection of cars and motorcycles, wonderful restoration facility and interesting conversations about classic, hotrod and historic tires and wheels.



- We also visited Rock City which we assumed would be a big nothing but it turned out to be too awesome to explain. Suffice to say it is a tourist attraction established in 1932, on the top of a ridge on Lookout Mountain. The gardens and rock walls, arches and bridges are spectacular.

All this with a fun group of enthusiasts, a wonderful hospitality suite each evening and a rousing final evening banquet.



Trees and I could have easily stayed another few days to explore this lovely state.



April 20 Geissler Packard Museum Tour

Cinda Craven

The first tour of the season started off at Lowe's parking lot in Cotati, which for many was a tour just to get to there! The weather was a bit cool and overcast at 9:45am when we met, but by the time we pulled out of the parking lot at about 10:15am, the sun had begun to come out and it was warming up. Joining the tour were Kim and Wayne Simoni in their 1910 Packard (fitting for a tour to a Packard museum!), John Pearson in his 1909 Buick, Don and Pam Johnson (with friend Loren) in their 1915 Model T, Linda Eggleston in her 1931 Chevrolet, Guy and Michelle Smith in their 1931 (or 30?) Model A, Bill and me in our 1914 Buick, and Vicky Porter in her modern.

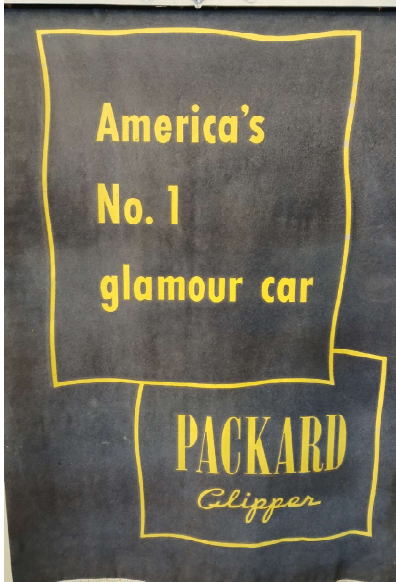


It was a very short tour over to 207 Southwest Blvd in Rohnert Park to the museum. Waiting outside for us were chief (and only) mechanic and body man Albert Mach and museum manager Brian Alves. We were given a short introduction to the museum, and then left on our own to view the approximately 17 cars from 1918-1942 on display, the 1 car being restored in the museum shop, and a Packard video. We were at the museum for not quite an hour, and upon leaving we happened to have the good fortune to meet the owner of the collection, Ralph Geissler.

At age 86, Ralph has been collecting Packard cars for years. His collecting started when his brother in England began collecting what he felt was the premier car in Britain, the Rolls Royce. Living in the United States, Ralph wanted to keep up and to collect what he felt was the premier American car, and to him that was the Packard. According to Brian, Ralph's cars have been at the Rohnert Park site since about 2012, but it has been only in the last few years that the museum has opened to the public upon request. Ralph loves sharing his collection with car enthusiasts and young people in hopes it will help keep the hobby alive. We are grateful he shared his collection with us, and we feel lucky to have such a gem of a museum in our backyard.



When our discussion with Ralph wrapped up, all of us except Vicky headed for lunch. It was a short route west thru the Cotati Plaza to Cypress Ave, W Railroad Ave, and Stony Point Rd which took us to the Washoe House. There were plenty of tables available and the food and drink came quickly, along with separate checks which is always appreciated. After lunch we were all on our own to navigate home.



HCCA NATIONAL NEWS



Re: Marian Welch Award! Art Twohy Award! 2024 HCCA Officers; Newsletter Awards; Tire News;
Issue: 2024-04-01 #04

HAPPY EASTER!

- **Marian Welch Award** – The Marian Welch Service Award is the Horseless Carriage Club's most prestigious Honor, awarded to a member whose dedication and service to the HCCA has had a huge impact on our Club and our hobby. The 2023 Marian Welch Award recipient is:

. . . . **Gil Fitzhugh, the Elder**
Congratulations to Gil!

- **Art Twohy Award** – The Art Twohy Service Award is the Horseless Carriage Club's new Regional Honor, awarded to an individual whose dedication and service to their HCCA Region has had a significant impact on our Club at the Regional level.

The HCCA was founded on November 14, 1937, in Los Angeles, at the home of Art Twohy, who served as the first HCCA President.

The HCCA Regions are the foundation of our club, and it was from that Los Angeles local founding that the Club has grown into the international club it is today.

This award is intended to recognize exceptional dedication to the Club at the vital Regional level, which keeps our club strong at it's foundation, the Regional Group.

The First Art Twohy Service Award recipient is:

. **Ken Findlay**
Congratulations to Ken!

- **2024 HCCA Club Officers** – At the HCCA Convention in Chattanooga, the following officers were installed:

- **Chairman:** Mike Reid
- **President:** Russell Holden
- **Vice President:** Doug Tomb
- **Treasurer:** Kim Simoni
- **Secretary:** Jim Skillicorn

- **2023 Newsletter Awards** – By Alex Huppe.

Highest Honors:

- Chris Gorman, *Coilbox Courier*,
Southern California Regional Group
- Candace Parry, *The Spark Plug*,
Wichita Regional Group
- Rosebud, *The Gearbox Chatter*,
West Michigan Regional Group
- Diana Squire, *The Brass Nuts*,
Northern California Regional Group
- Geoff King, *The Early Ford Registry Newsletter*,
The Early Ford Registry
- Ed Grace, *Rambler and Jeffrey Register Newsletter*,
Rambler & Jeffrey Register
- Diane MacPherson, *The Brass Facts*,
San Diego Regional Group
- Mark Cerruti, *Gaslight Gazette*,
Bay Area Regional Group
- Cinda Dorholt, *The Horseless Page*,
Twin Cities Regional Group
- Boyd T. Goddard, *Cap Sheet*,
La Jolla Regional Group
- Bruce Spainhower, *The Portland Gas Leak*,
Portland Regional Group.

- **2023 Website Awards** – By Alex Huppe.

Honors Website:

- Thomas Roush, NCRGHCCA.COM
Northern California Regional Group

Congratulations to All!

- **Tire News** – Important news from the Convention in Chattanooga. From a meeting with the representatives from Coker Tire, they are planning to make Out of Production tires again. But, their approach will be to make a run of the Out of Production tires, based on Confirmed Requests. If you need a specific tire size, let them know, so you are included on the special tire run!

Doug Tomb / Douglas.tomb@verizon.net

Board Member – HCCA NN Editor ...



7th Ferndale Concourse on Main

Sunday, September 15, 2024
7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Google Calendar · ICS

Ferndale Concourse on Main, the North Coast's most prestigious auto show, returns for its seventh year! For updates, stay tuned at ferndaleconcourse.org, and follow us at [@VisitFerndale](#) on Instagram and Facebook.

A modern day Concourse is a competition for pre-1998 cars presented in showroom condition, the same as when they left the factory. Trained judges examine the vehicles thoroughly and rate each and every component. Only those vehicles that are judged perfect (or nearly so) in every way are considered eligible for trophy class.



Until we eat again!