

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Cole's Chronicles June 2023

The 69<sup>th</sup> Texas Tour in Schulenburg was well attended by our club. We were taking notes on how things were handled to replicate their successes and hopefully minimize any shortfalls. We saw some beautiful churches, a wonderful car collection, and enjoyed some of the best cruising weather possible.

One thing that was very evident was the Golden Crescent had many members participating in the planning and hosting of this Texas Tour. I was impressed by the large yellow arrows placed at turns by members; then they picked up and jockeyed them to the next turn. What a team effort and a high bar set for us as we prepare to host the 70<sup>th</sup> Texas Tour.



I appreciate Kim and Tammy Keith organizing the convoy of our members traveling to the Tour together. This event really emphasized the fun and camaraderie that can be had driving our cars with like-minded auto enthusiasts.

## REMINDER

***Spring Tour is June 3-4 and the June Meeting on June 18th***

***See more about it in this Spotlight***

## July 18th Meeting



# LET'S TACO BOUT IT

**Sunday June 18, 2023**  
**AACA Father Day Fiesta**  
**Meeting**

**Times:**                    **1 pm for the Board of Directors**  
                                 **2 pm for the General meeting**

Meeting hosted at Cole & Kathy Clayton's home located at [1840 Willis Ln, Keller, TX 76248](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1840+Willis+Ln,+Keller,+TX+76248) We will have Kathy's turquoise firebird parked out front to make us easy to find.

We will be serving beef tacos and taco salad for the entree. (Taco Bar)

**A-K attending please bring chips, dips, salsa, appetizers or sides to compliment the Taco Fiesta.**

**L-Z attending bring desserts.**

Please RSVP to [Kathy.Clayton@Verizon.net](mailto:Kathy.Clayton@Verizon.net)

If you have any questions please call Cole at 817 313 6661.

## Texas Tour & Caravanning

On a nice cool morning on Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup>, Kim and Tammy Keith lead the Texas Tour Participants on a caravan from DFW metro to Schulenburg. We started in Ferris near I-45 and quickly crossed over to Waxahachie to the Gambulos' Car Barn to meet with the rest of the crew. There were 9 cars and 17 Texas Regioners who made the trip. Kim and Tammy lead us down some good back roads to Waco where we did our first stop and had our first 'incident' – the Gambulos Caddy had a sticky starter. Fortunately, Charlie knew exactly what the problem was and after a couple of good whacks with a crowbar, we were all back on the road. We stopped in the Highway 77 Café just north of Rosebud for lunch, which had been recommended highly by Ira and Nuris Hester. Lynda Richardson had printed menus and called ahead with everyone's order, so they had both tables and food ready for us on arrival. The walls of the café are covered with photos of military and first responder's photos. From the Civil War to current. It started years ago with the owners putting up photos of their own relatives and soon regular customers asked if theirs could be added too. Now there are 613 photos on the wall and a listing available of the name, rank, service and date for all the photos. Quite the memorial to those who have served their country. The food was also quick, hot and good!



Other than the 'sticky starter' we arrived safely but tired in Schulenburg, where we were met in the lobby by our Crescent Region hosts with welcome packets and invitation to the Hospitality Room. We all dispersed into a caravan of all 80+ cars over to a nearby park for a well presented outdoor



hamburger and all the fixin's cookout. It was the first time we all got to see the cars together – and what a fine group of ancient to modern cars there were. It was a long day, so off to relax we all went.





The next morning was the traditional judging, at the host hotel, and though we didn't know it at the time, the Texas Region 'cleaned up' on awards. See Jerry's article on our results with pics of the appropriately proud winners. After judging we were off to our first tour – all 80+ cars – to visit our first Painted Church which the area is well known for. See Nuris' article about them, as they were well worth the drive to see these important memorials to Texas history. Then we caravanned again to Plum to visit a group of buildings housing a unique and private collection of vintage cars. The host building was in essence a parts store, where a Subway lunch was provided and the other buildings housed cars in various states – from roadside shell to pristine condition straight off of Mecham's auction block. It was like one of the late night commercials – you go through one building and thought you'd see it all – "But Wait! There's More!" and another building was just out the back door.



We all caravanned to Sengelmann Hall for dinner in downtown Schulenburg (at least 9 blocks away!). Built in 1894 the Hall is a lovely venue with a long history of drinking, dancing and gathering – which was the place that all approximately 150+ Texas Tour participants had dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings. It was a full hall, but with good food and quickly moving buffet we were all satisfied.





Saturday morning was off to another church and then on to Round Top. Unfortunately, Kim's Caddy decided not to start – with what was an apparent low battery. However, further Cole and Jerry investigation indicated that the alternator wasn't charging – so Kim was at risk driving anywhere. Texas Regioners are like Marines – “no man left behind”. So the Claytons, Smiths, Richardsons and Hesters all followed Kim and Tammy to the O'Reillys in Schulenburg and after much investigation and head scratching, decided that a new battery and charging



line fuse was needed with a likely alternator replacement. While waiting for an alternator to arrive we all trooped down the street to a wonderful outside venue fresh food restaurant. Turns out the alternator wasn't needed and we ended up joining the rest of the crew back at the hotel. We missed Round Top ( see Carey's article on the Festival Hall ) but we had a wonderful alternative 'tour'.



That evening we were back in Sengelmann Hall for dinner, slide show, and awards presentation. See the article on awards results.

We all had a good time, provided some positive feedback, and felt we learned a few things to do (and maybe not do) for our turn at Texas Tour 70 in 2024!!



We sent a “we missed you” email to Bev and Jeff Podmers as they had planned on joining the 69th TX tour but a fall the day before our tour had Bev under the weather and unable to drive to Schulenburg. We missed them especially as a few members from the TX Region had the joy of bonding over Kim Keith’s Cadillac breakdown in front of a beautiful Painted church in Dubina. Made for great photo: Fabulous black Cadillac against the backdrop of the White Chapel of Dubina in the middle of the countryside. While our guys

were assisting Kim in the repair, a gentleman from Schulenburg drove up and asked me about “all these beautiful old cars”. I played Sunshine Chairman for Golden Crescent and got him connected to their AACA group as he had recently purchased an old Ford and was interested in old cars and people who love them. We are always looking to expand our clubs and the love of these old automobiles. A neighbor just bought a nice Studebaker so I better pay them a visit and tell them about our club!!

Please call me, text or email me with any life events.

Thank you, AACA Sunshine , Nuris



**OOPS! Even the best maintained cars are at risk on Texas’ Country Roads....**

***I couldn’t work out how to fasten my seatbelt.***

***Then it clicked.***

**If you have a car, truck or parts to sell, put them in the Spotlight!**

**If you’re working on something and need parts, put them in the Spotlight!**

**[AACATRSpotlight@gmail.com](mailto:AACATRSpotlight@gmail.com)**



## 2023 Texas Tour Award Winners

Our club was well represented at the 2023 Texas Tour with 24 attendees who drove or trailered 9 great classics to Schulenburg, Tx. It was a wonderful time, very relaxed and nice to visit with folks enjoying our hobby from all over the state.

There was much judging of the some 85-90 vehicles that attended. In fact, there were 26 categories to be judged starting with #1 ( All steam, electric, and high wheelers) to #26 (Special interest all thru 1998).

Pictured below is Brady and Vicki Richard's 1931 Auburn 8-98 Cabriolet. It won first in class of 1925-1934 classic cars. In addition to that honor, the Auburn won the Winthrop Rockefeller award for the "Best Restored Classic".



To top off all the awards, the Auburn won the 2023 Texas Tour's "Most Popular Car"!!

Take a look at Brady and Vicki's Auburn the next time they drive it to a meeting. It's certainly worth your time to see this craftsmanship and just this beautiful old car!!



***Q:What do you call a VW bus at the top of a hill?***

***A: A miracle.***

## 2023 Texas Tour Award Winners

Kim and Tammy Keith's 1949 Cadillac Model 62, won first place in the 1949-1958 closed car class. Kim is shown with the very nice looking Caddy at right.

Below is Carey and Sue Frisby's 1988 Pontiac Firebird Formula 350. It brought home first place in the 1979-1998 closed car class.

By the way, you can see these two cars and owners this Saturday on the Spring Tour to Witchita Falls. Check the other parts of the Spotlight to get details or contact the editors at

[AACATRSPOTLIGHT@gmail.com](mailto:AACATRSPOTLIGHT@gmail.com)





## 2023 Texas Tour Award Winners

Andy and Bunny Riemitis' 1969 AMC AMX claimed 2nd place in the 1969-1978 closed car class. In addition, The AMX won the "Kristi's Choice", a rotating award. Congratulations to Andy and Bunny!!

Rounding out our club's winners, Kathy Clayton's 1969 Pontiac Firebird 400 Convertible won the 3rd place plaque for 1969-1978 open cars.

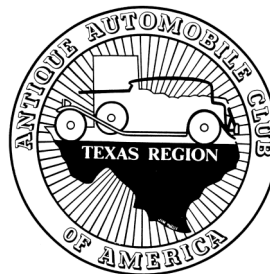
And, Ira and Nuris Hester's 1971 Mercedes 280 SL-Pagoda convertible also took home a 3rd place plaque in the 1969-1978 open class.

Congratulations all for taking home these awards!!



# 70<sup>th</sup> Texas Tour

## May 16-19 2024



<https://thetexastour.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheTexasTour>

More “Coming Soon”



That's a nice car,  
but... where did  
my Van Gogh?!



## Editor's Comments:

new email address: AACATRSPOTLIGHT@gmail.com

We are trying to improve our communication further by adding key dates and activities to the distribution email. Let us know if that's TMI "too much info". This month's Spotlight was different, as there wasn't a meeting 'per se' at the Tour, and no other monthly meeting planned. Therefore no meeting minutes or article. So we hope you enjoy the Texas Tour articles. The Editors appreciate very much the submissions from TT participants in this newsletter. June Tour is right around the corner, and the June meeting is hosted by the Claytons – so please join us there!

### SPRING TOUR—JUNE 3-4, 2023

#### Follow that car!

We will meet and start from the Cracker Barrel Restaurant located at the Northeast corner of I- 35 N and University Avenue (Hwy 380) in Denton. The restaurant is located just behind the service station (closed) on the corner. Drive up the East side service road past the station and turn right into the restaurant parking lot. We leave promptly at 9:00 AM. The Cracker Barrel is a great breakfast stop, but remember we leave on time. Let me know if you have questions.



***Bring Money! This is "pay your own way" at restaurants and cultural stops.***

Here are the members who have verified to me they are going on the tour:

**Kim & Tammy Keith**

**Mike & Terry Hrehocik**

**Jerry & Linda Smith**

**Bill Denman**

**John & Lynda Richardson**

**Ira & Nuris Hester**

**Steve & Cassie Knight**

**Jeff & Bev Podmers**

**John & Denise Velde**

**Chris & Linda Stathopulo**

**Carey & Sue Frisby**

**Kathy & Cole Clayton**

Call or text me if you have questions. ***Also, please let me know if you are not going on the tour.***  
Carey Frisby at 214-697-9666

## 55th Bug Tussle Trek

by Nichole and Charlie Gambulos

August 26-27, 2023

### Bug Tussle Trek Details:

From Farmersville to Paris. We will meet in the town square in Farmersville at 8:00 AM. Coffee and treats by the Farmersville Center and the Chamber of Commerce will be available. You will also receive your swag bag with your tshirts, tour book, and goodies at that time. There is one bag per car. *We will leave at 8:30 AM.*

Lunch- bring your own family picnic and you will still have access to the Wagon Master Drink Coolers. Dinner Saturday night is at Heritage Hall (same as past years).

PRE REGISTRATION NORMALLY CLOSES AUGUST 1, 2023 TSHIRT ORDERS AFTER AUGUST 5, 2023 ARE NOT GUARANTEED BUT YOU HAVE FIRST DIBS

Pre registered vehicles will receive their numbered placard in the mail approximately one week prior to the event. There will be a Texas Region volunteer at the entrance as well, doing a limited number of on site registrations.

Trailer parking is available one block behind the town square- if you are facing Main St. turn right and continue down Main St. past the Visitor Center on the left you will see a parking lot (by CivicCenter).

Host Hotel: Holiday Inn located @ 3025 N.E. Loop 286, Paris, Texas 75460 phone 903-785-0088

Rooms are \$97 to \$119 and there are several options available from King Size to Double Queen. Please call the front desk directly to make your reservations and use the code "Bug Tussle".

Overflow hotel: Comfort Inn @ 3035 N.E. Loop 286, Paris, Texas 75460 phone 903-785-0089

Questions? Please call or text Charles Gambulos II 214-924-3086 or Nichole 713-402-8418

Email: [TexasRegionAACAA@gmail.com](mailto:TexasRegionAACAA@gmail.com)

**REGISTER [HERE](#)**

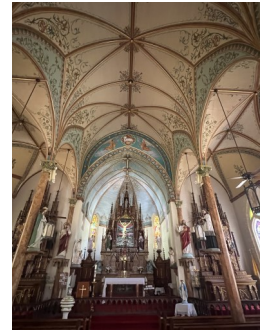


## For the love of God, Country and Art... the Painted Churches of Texas

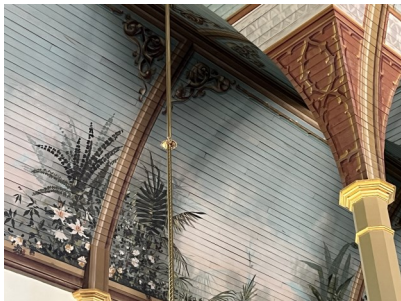
It was a total delight to view three of the four Painted Churches of Texas in the Schulenburg area. Schulenburg is officially designated "Home of the Painted Churches" so it was fitting for the Golden Crescent Region to treat us to beautiful country roads (those less travelled but loved by all AACA members). We meandered down one lane roads some that seemed to cut through homesteads and, not to be missed, all these grand old cars got to cross the famous Piano Bridge, so named because as you drive on it, it can sound like a roughly played piano. These amazing painted churches are the result of immigrants who loved God, wanted to recreate the majesty of beautiful worship centers and leave a legacy of their beloved countries and culture so a little piece of European grandeur is exhibited in each painted church.



Although the exterior of these churches may look like many other rural churches scattered about the American countryside, once you enter these painted churches, Ammannsville, Dubina, High Hill and Praha, you will come back with a sense of awe and wonder at how Czech and German communities in the late 1800s built small but very ornate and lovely churches with mostly native woods. Everything was created by hand with such detail and reverence the visitors are truly enchanted by these historic places of worship. The Golden Crescent region had asked former County Judge of Fayette County (1990-2018) Ed Janecka to make a presentation to the 69<sup>th</sup> AACA TX Tour people. Ed had a vision to restore the



Dubina church to the former glory as the original church of late 1800s was destroyed by a hurricane in 1909. A new church was rebuilt but it did not have the gorgeous paintings that gave the church its charm and elegance. Mr. Janecka spoke about the hardships of the immigrants endured and how he and his fellow Czech wanted to keep true to tradition, the beauty of loving God, Country and Art...which came together to make Dubina a beautiful painted church (see pictures). When the second



church was built, much of the splendor was not replaced until Mr. Janecka along with a few others began to research what the original frescoes and painted structures looked like. After praying, Ed said he felt guided to paint the angels that are over the pillars in the church. The ceiling of this church is now a light blue with heavenly stars (six pointed like the Star of David). Without any background in art, Mr. Janecka has left his mark on



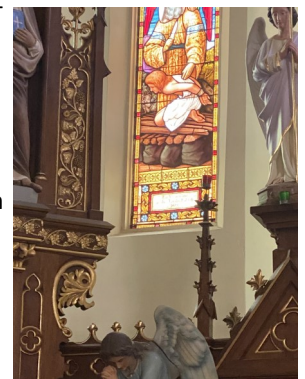
history in the angelic paintings of Dubina church. He also wrote a book you can purchase entitled: Dubina , A Place of Freedom and Hope, which has a picture of him painting one of the angels.

The largest and oldest Painted church we visited was St. Mary's Church of Assumption in Praha built in 1895. The ceiling is lovely pale green with beautiful flowers and angels. The altar has an ornate gothic look to it much of it painted white with gold edging. Once a year in August they have a huge festival and conduct mass in Czech!

A few of us decided to visit a church that was not on the 69<sup>th</sup> TX Tour agenda but which we found out was actually named the "Queen of the Painted Churches" and it is High Hill church. The settlement of High Hill was Austrian-Moravian. This church had the most impressive stained-glass windows I've seen in any Texas church. The altar was less ornate than Praha but the elevated pulpit surrounded by small wooden



icons of the four synoptic gospel writers and with Jesus in the center were gorgeous as was the baptismal font (see pictures). We sat there enjoying the magnificent stained windows, paintings and wooden pillars that looked like marble columns in the cool of the day, and were filled with gratitude for the opportunity to see some the best of Texas and enjoy the nicest group of people from around all of Texas...AACA members!



**Blessings and Happy Trails, Nuris Hester**

## **ROUND TOP FESTIVAL INSTITUTE ——"A REAL GEM"!    By Carey Frisby**

The 2023 Texas Tour had lots of interesting stops, but none more interesting to Sue and I than the Round Top Festival Institute. It was really a surprise because we were focused on visiting the beautiful churches. The institute, founded by James Dick, is a destination for musically talented youth from all over the world. The selected musicians come for the summer to practice and perform under the tutelage of many famous directors and nationally recognized musicians. The young musicians live at the institute during their stay. Old houses had been bought and brought to the campus and completely rebuilt to provide lodging.

Our first stop on the guided tours was the concert hall. It is a masterpiece of wood working. No sound amplification is used during the concerts. The hall is completely constructed of wood and the décor



and ceiling, etc. are a complexity of angles. All construction was done by the in-house carpenter staff. There was also a chapel on the campus with beautiful stained glass and interior wood. The foundation and adjacent patio were fashioned by a local who used no mortar to build the walls and the stones were enormous. Quite an engineering accomplishment.

What started out as a dream of Mr. Dick, funded entirely by donations and good will, has evolved into a world class center for the performing arts. They have well known artists giving performances from August to April each

year. During the summer months they have the student musicians give performances. It is a venue well worth a visit if you are in the area. Patrons from Houston and San Antonio flock to the performances according to our guide on the campus tour. Too bad it is not a little closer to North Texas.

**Attending a car show in your area? Let us know so that we can let the club know. Others of us may want to join you or at least be aware of it.**

**[AACATRSpotlight@gmail.com](mailto:AACATRSpotlight@gmail.com)**



## A Texas Tour Plus

Chris Stathopulo

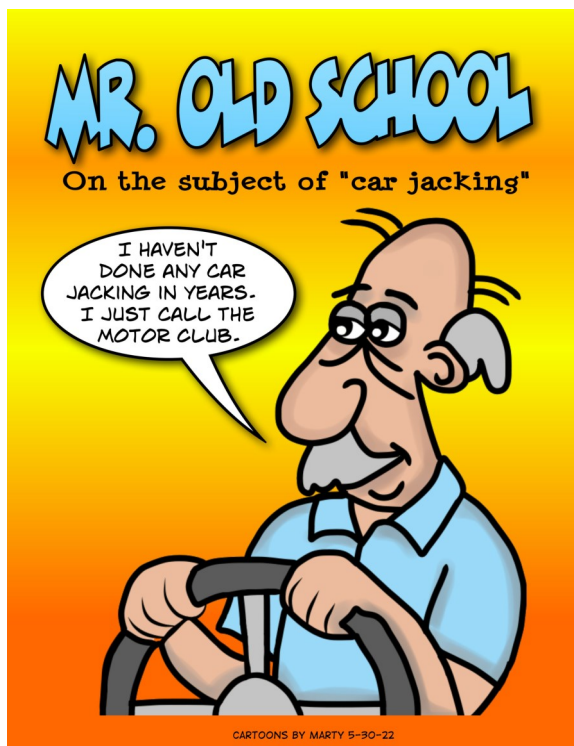
Schulenburg AACAA Meet,

During the meet on Friday, Linda and I had some free time to roam around Schulenburg in our '68 Ranchero. I had decided to go to the Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum. The museum is just south of downtown on HWY 77. Linda wanted to go to the Czech'rd Dog Antique Store but it was closed. So, being the great supporter of model aviation that she is, she decided to walk to the air conditioned Schulenburg Library that is adjacent to the museum and catch up on some reading. She supported the local economy and purchased a book from the library book sale.

I met Bob Jackson, from New Braunfels, at the AACAA Meet who was driving his '60 Oldsmobile 2-Door Hard-top. We had decided earlier in the day to visit the museum. Also at the museum was Markus Tirschler, driving his late model Mercedes.

The museum tells the life long story and business interests of Victor and Joe Stanzel and their love of airplanes. They started out making solid display model airplanes that were state of the art at that time. They later branched out making free flight airplanes and then into "mono-line" control airplanes that flew in a circle around the operator.

If you ever had an interest in flying model airplanes you would enjoy visiting the Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum. While still looking at all the interesting displays, the docent suggested we three find somewhere else to spend our time since the museum had closed 30 minutes ago. Maybe we should go earlier next time...



## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 2023

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<b>SUNSHINE</b>	Nuris Hester	817-846-8995

## 2023 CALENDAR

**3rd Sunday at 2pm Monthly**

**(usually)**

**April 15: Tune-up Tour**

**April 22: Tile Party**

**April 26-29: Pate Swap Meet**

**April 30: Tile Party and  
Monthly Meeting**

**May 18-21: Texas Tour and  
Monthly Meeting**

**Schulenburg TX**

**June 18: Meeting**

**July 16: Meeting**

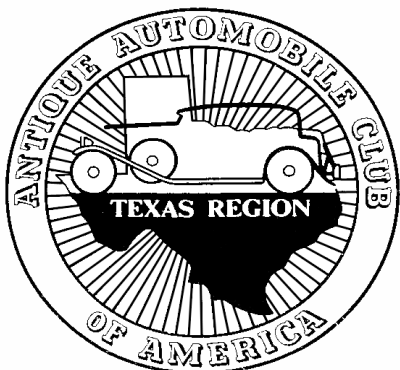
**Aug 25,26: Bug Tussle &  
Meeting**

**Sept 17: Meeting**

**Oct 15: Meeting**

**Nov 19: Meeting**

**Dec 3rd Christmas Party: ,  
Hosted by Kip and Debra  
Lankenau**



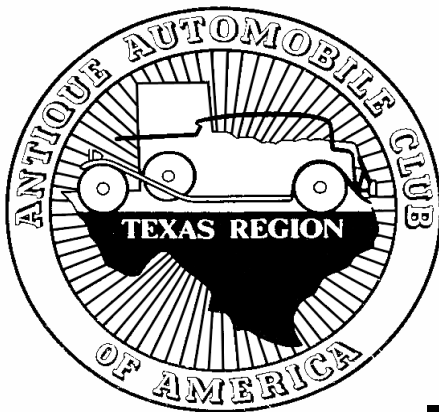


# Spotlight Classifieds

From Kim Keith:

White over blue 1955 Buick super 56r with 92,982 miles.

Contact Alex at Rick's auto service in Garland 972-276-6438



God Bless America

Random Stuff whether parts and/or information, share here.

[AACATRSpotlight@gmail.com](mailto:AACATRSpotlight@gmail.com)