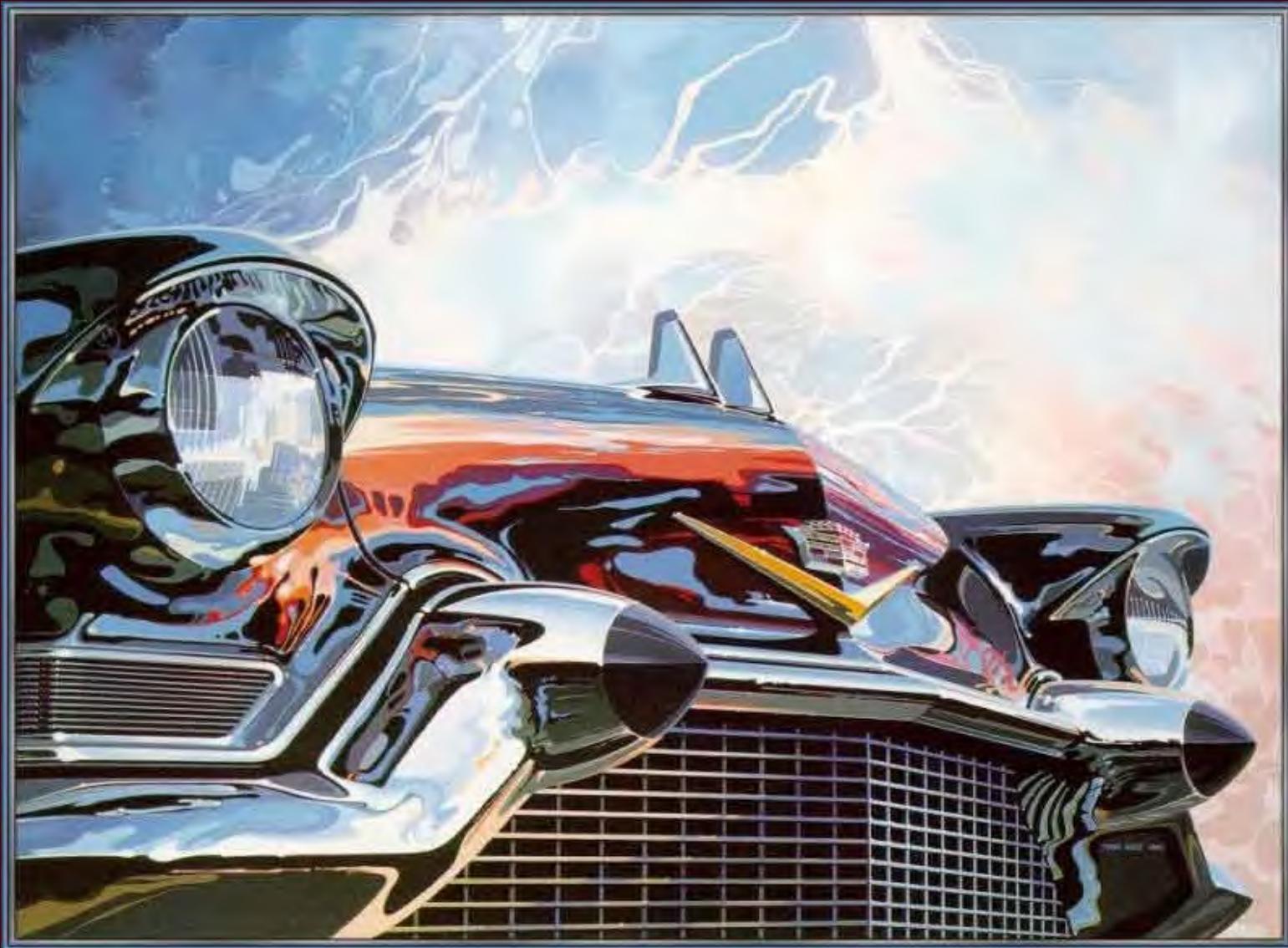


# KOTR PINS

The Newsletter for the King Of The Road Antique Car Club

Volume 9, Issue 1  
February, 2024





## KING OF THE ROAD ANTIQUE CAR CLUB

Staff and Management

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Visit our website; [KOTRACC.org](http://KOTRACC.org) to see more of what we are all about

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# *...Off On Our Own*

Here we go again, off on a new adventure as an independent car club. What will the difference be? You most likely will not see much of a difference, the biggest being the absence of AACA promotions and event coverage.

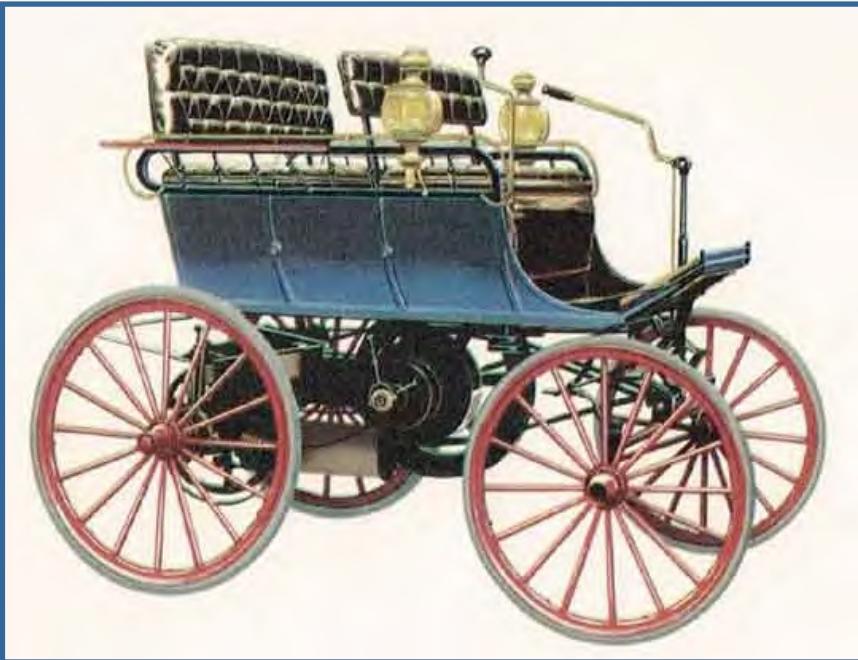
Look forward in our newsletter for different aspects of the old car hobby being introduced that were not in the past. Starting with this issue we will introduce you to various automotive artists around the world. Our cover this month features the work of Tom Hale, one of the founders of AFAS, the Automotive Fine Arts Society.

Another addition to KOTR PINS is a new section called "Got Aways." We would like to hear from you, the members about a car that you once had and had to let it go for one reason or another and wished that you could

have it back again! We've all had that in our time with these cars. Whether it was your first car or one that you had on a first date. Maybe one that your Dad or Grandfather or Grandmother gave to you for some special occasion. That will begin with this issue.

Let us know what you would like to see or do for an activity. The more input that you provide the better we will be as a club enjoying each other's interests.

One last item from our AACA past, KOTR PINS was once again awarded Master Editor status. It is my intention to keep this newsletter vital to our membership as it has been in the past. This makes us unique in all the area car clubs. As other clubs go by the wayside we will continue our search for excellence with your help.

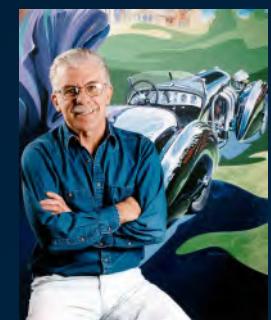


# Bye AACA Hello ACC

Resigning from AACA was a tough decision but, to our members, the process seemed fairly simple. We just didn't renew our chapter membership in the national organization. What went on behind the scenes however, was a different story. During the month of December, our webmaster, Rich Courmettes, had to go through every page of our website and remove all traces of AACA, the words and the logos. Even our old URL (KOTRAACA.ORG) needed to be updated and re-registered. It's now KOTRACC.ORG. Looks similar but that AACA sequence is gone. Photos of our "Past Events" are always on our website. So is "Our Calendar" of coming events. Do you like those short AI videos he does for us? You can find them all on our "Our Magazine" page on the website. Plus while doing the AACA cleanup, he spent many hours and produced a new homepage movie too. It's always been a tribute to a fallen automobile brand (like Hudson, Packard and Studebaker), this new one is too. So you just might want to visit our website again and see the new movie. Turn up your speakers, set your browser window at full screen, click on the link below, fasten your seat belt, then click the screen to kick-start the movie on our homepage. See if you can guess the brand while the model names are added on the screen. The video is 8 minutes long with an appropriate song being played with various renditions and artists. Sound familiar? Perhaps you once owned, or STILL OWN, one of these great American cars. Enjoy!

[LINK](#)

# FEATURE ARTIST Tom Hale



Tom Hale began his career as an artist at the age of seven when he set his drawing board upon an empty orange crate and began drawing futuristic automobiles. His passion for creating art and drawing cars continued through high school, where he steadily refined his skills. Upon graduating from high school in 1958, Tom joined the U.S. Navy and lived aboard a destroyer for two years. When his tour of duty ended in 1963, Tom enrolled at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. Soon after, Tom married his loving wife Micki. Tom's enthusiasm for art and automobiles carried him through college. In 1966, he graduated with honors from the prestigious Art Center College of Design with a degree in transportation design.

In 1966, Tom joined General Motors as a styling designer (his dream come true). After two years at General Motors, Tom spent one year at Chrysler, before moving on to his longtime position of seventeen years at the American Motors Corporation. In 1985, Tom came to the realization that his talent was underutilized and made the decision to leave the auto styling profession to pursue his fine art career on a full-time basis.

Tom's career as an artist has brought him much reward. He has sold more than 3,000 original paintings to clients in the United States and twelve other countries. His work has been commissioned for a total of 65 event posters. Some of Tom's original paintings have been reproduced in limited-edition print. His numerous awards (totaling 362) are punctuated by the Gold Medal of Honor which he received from the American Watercolor Society.

Tom considers every day an opportunity to create his art. His original paintings are shown around the country and at popular automotive events such as Pebble Beach, St. John's, Amelia Island, Auburn and the CCCA. Tom resides in Farmington Hills, Michigan with his wife Fran, where he spends each day painting the fine art of the automobile.

To learn more about Tom Hale, click on any of the pictures to the right.



# Brownwood KOTR CLUB SHOW February, 9th



KOTR kicked off it's show season with a "One Club" show in Brownwood Paddock Square with a respectable 23 cars participating. Top left the gang gathers in the parking lot south of town center to make ready for the show entry at 4:15. We managed to fill two sides around the square with one "overflow" to the third side. Alan Lokensgard was that lone display with his 1951 Kaiser to the left. Initially he felt all alone there but reported that the crowd more than appreciated his car and kept him busy all evening. We also had some guests join us, the fabulous 1958 Rolls Royce belongs to Randy Bang. A KOTR "wannabe." Our feathered friend was named Harley.





WOWEE! Check out the schedule for the KOTR club in the next two months. That's five activities, something for everyone to enjoy! NO other club does that much for their members!



# Riccardo's

## For our Valentine



Top left- Nancy Buehrig, Donna and Larry Jacobsen,

Below left - Richard and Nancy Buehrig

Center- Florence and Steve Rode

Top right - Barb Platt and sister-in-law Bobbi Brown

Each February, KOTR hosts a Valentine party for its membership. This past February 12th, we traveled north to Bellevue to dine at Riccardo's Italian restaurant. Twenty three members and friends made the short trip to this fine eatery with a convivial atmosphere. Plenty of time for gathering and story telling once again. The food was excellent as were the friendships renewed on this celebration for lovers. To make the evening even sweeter, KOTR picked up the tab for dessert for everyone who so opted for one.

Thanks go to Rich Courmettes and Ellen Harcourt for this choice of restaurants. One of their favorites and I can see why.



**FREE**



# ANNUAL CAR SHOW

DOOR PRIZES   SPLIT THE POT



**SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 9TH**  
**10:00 - 2:00**

**FUN TIME**  
**CLOSE BY**





# KOTR GO BRACH

## Annual Saint Patty's Celebration

Thursday, March 14th 5:00

Reservations are a must for this event  
[jcrentz@reagan.com](mailto:jcrentz@reagan.com)

O'KEEFE'S

Irish Pub & Restaurant

115 S. Rockingham Ave. Tavares, FL

4:00 Caravan from Rohan Recreation Center





*Remember Granny Smith?*

*It Is Time Once Again For*

# **PIES IN THE PARK**

*Lake Miona Park, Rainey Trail  
Sunday, March 24th 2p.m.*

*This was such a big hit last spring, everyone wanted to do it again. So get your “baker’s hat” on and bake up you favorite pie to share. Not a baker? That’s OK too, bring one from your favorite bakery. Home made pies will vie for best pie. Let us know that you’ll be there. It’s a heck-of-lot-o-fun, you’ll see!*

*jcrentz@reagan.com*



# **SAINt PAUL'S, BELLEVIEw FRIDAY FISH FRY**

**FEATURING:**

**FRIED FISH**

**\$15 PP**

**FRIED SHRIMP**

**FRIED CHICKEN TENDERS**

**4:30 PM KOTR**  
**DRIVE N DINE**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 19 TH**

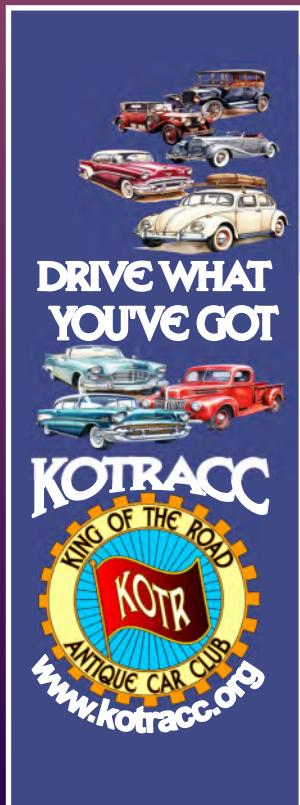
**WE HAVE TABLES RESERVED FOR KOTR SO  
RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST. ALLOW 45  
MINUTES TRAVEL TIME FROM NORTH  
VILLAGES. DINNER WILL BE AT 5:00 PM**



# Brownwood Showcase Car Show

Once again, KOTR has been selected to participate in The Villages Entertainment Department's Showcase Car Show on April 27th. We have 24 spaces allotted for our use. Let's use this opportunity to show the area residents just how unique we are. A club that actually gets out on the road. We have done very well in past shows in Brownwood over the years. Old car buffs seem to like our friendliness and want to be a part of our action.

Below is our new club banner that will be on display at our activities to let people see who we are and what we like to do. We are a "boutique" car club now where people can "drive what they got." We are open to cars of special interest, mostly antiques but will consider others for inclusion.



**April 27th**  
**Keep the date open**  
**Make a reservation**  
**NOW!**



**Regrets- Wishing that one had made a different decision in the past.**

# **GOT AWAYS!**

In the collector car hobby we've all had at least one that GOT AWAY. One, that at this time we wish could get back again. Maybe we sold it to make way for our next "Dream Car."

Now, in our more senior years we look back to those cars and wonder if we could still enjoy them. In my senior year in high school, I was able to purchase my uncle's 1958 Jaguar MKI, a diminutive saloon, as they were called in those days. I was the cock-of-the-walk with that car, parked on a side street in front of the school. I had my first date in that car, the girl next door. We went to see the Smothers Brothers at Westminster College and to Wonderboy Drive-in restaurant for a Coke and some fries.

Now as I look around to maybe replace that memory I find that my memory is not as fond as I thought when I see what it would cost. Was it really that good? When you are seventeen years of age driving a "cool car"

you can put up with a lot of things that go with being cool. Now, years later, reflecting back on those days and knowing just what Jaguar means, "a lump in the garage that has displaced that lump in your wallet." I am content to let that dream pass bye.

As time passes I tend to look fondly at some of the bigger cars that I've had, more suited to an aging and achy old body.

One such car was a 1935 Packard 12, dual cowl phaeton, black with red leather. Wow! Got rid of that to buy a house here in The Villages, a better investment I dare say.

Then there was the 1953 Rolls Royce, Silver Wraith I inherited along with my brother and sister. Partnerships like this seldom work very well when two of the partners could care less. "Show me the money."

Now it comes down to the car with the least problems, no time for repairs anymore.

# SOME OF MY GOT AWAYS

Jim Rentz

Do you have some gottaways in your past that you would like to share with all of us.

Send along some pics and a little story too. We'll feature them here!



1953 Rolls Royce, LWB, LHD, Silver Wraith  
the family "wedding car"



1935 Packard 12 Dual Cowl phaeton - gone

1947 Wife - still here



1931 Ford roadster pickup truck as it was in 1961, for \$400, late model with wide body bed.



Same car in 2003 with right hand spare added during 1980s restoration, seldom used after restoration.



1953 Jaguar XK120 coupe, looked way better than it fit. Not for guys with big feet and shoulders. But it sure did look good.