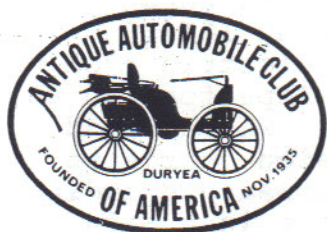


The Scored Journal



ALOHA REGION

Issue 168

June-July-August

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FEATURE STORY: 1929 PACKARD TOURING

Undergoing a full and detailed restoration this 1929 Packard touring car belongs to Aloha Region member Jim Wayman who now resides in Evergreen Colorado.

Jim is doing the restoration himself. It is his retirement project. Prior to his ownership the Packard was owned by Aloha Region member Harley Neff. For a number of years the Packard was Harley's daily driver. Over the Pali it went twice a day. The engine is a typical straight eight Packard design with a flat head. These engines were known for their smoothness and reliability.

Prior to Harley owning the car, it was owned by Aloha Region member Dr. Robert Kemble. The project is coming along with such fine workmanship that it is a good prospect to be an AACA national winner at judging time. As restoration continues there will be future updates in this newsletter.

FUTURE MEETS

Saturday, May 21, 2011 Fred Weisberger's Garage: Meet 10:00AM, 90 Aikahi Street, Kailua, HI 96734. Fred will serve a picnic lunch. Arrangements will be made for a short tour of antique cars to the nearby Poho-Nani retirement community where antique cars will be parked in the private tree lined shady drive way for the residents to view and reminisce. Passenger seats will be available in antique cars for people who do not arrive in an antique car. Wives, girlfriends and club prospects are welcome.

Saturday, June 18, 2011 Podium Raceway: Meet at 10:00AM, Barbers Point Naval Air Station, 91-1085 Lexington Street, Building 1844. This is an indoor raceway with a serpentine course with electric race cars which are a little larger than go carts. Fourteen laps for \$20.00, instruction and safety helmets furnished. Spectators are welcome and there is a large viewing area for spectators. No admission charge to watch. This is a new venture which occupies the old commissary building, about the size of a large bowling alley. Lexington Street is a main road on the map and easy to find. The lounge faces the indoor track for a good view of the fast action. There is a huge free parking lot outside. NOTE: For safety, shoes are required to drive the race cars.

Outside food is permitted; there is a Cheeseburger lunch wagon on the parking lot on Saturday, and to the rear of the building is a Subway restaurant. There is a soda vending machine in the lounge. If you prefer, bring your bag lunch. The lounge area has new comfortable over-stuffed sofas. Everything is new and looks great.

Just a few blocks away is the Naval Air Museum which the club visited a couple years ago. Donations accepted at the museum. Planes are all outside on the runway apron. This area is hot, so bring a hat for the sun if you want to check out the air museum too. This museum is not to be confused with the larger and better known air museum on Ford Island. This museum has on display the carrier fighter jet that was assigned to President Bush when he was a Navy pilot.

Saturday, July 16, 2011, Bob Debone's new Kailua garage:

Bob DeBone is moving his 1932 Peerless to his new rented garage in Kailua, at 418 Kuulei Rd. The site is the former lawn mower repair shop. The garage is between the Shell gas station and the Hungry Ear Record shop. It is set back off the main street. Meet 10:00AM

Saturday, August 20, 2011 J.D. Adam's garage in Kailua:

Located 1007 Maunawili Rd, Kailua. J.D. will have on display his recently acquired running model T Ford depot hack. J.D. will host a picnic lunch.



808 682-RACE

91-1085 Lexington St. - Bldg. 1844, Kapolei, HI 96707
Mail to: PO Box 75267, Kapolei, HI 96707

PodiumRaceway.com

ALOHA REGION NEWS

First Hawaiian Auto Show **(March 18-20, 2011)**

The Aloha Region had a wonderfully successful display of antique cars at the *First Hawaiian Auto Show*. Although this is a new car show, the organizers like having our antique cars at the event.

We had planned on having twelve cars, but one, a beautiful 1930 Ford Model A truck, had mechanical maladies and failed to make it to the show. Nonetheless, we had a great display of antique cars, covering six decades of automobile history.

The oldest car was the club's 1907 Ford Model N. Also displaying cars were:

Howard Andrus	1910 Ford
Bob Bosley	1926 Chevrolet
Fred Weisberger	1928 Austin
J.D. Adams	1929 Hudson
Bob Bosley	1931 Packard
George Shishido	1932 Ford
Andy Hutchinson ..	1942 Plymouth
Richard Lloyd ...	1949 Studebaker
Bob Grantham ...	1950 Studebaker
Stan Harlan	1955 T-Bird

The club's display was exceptionally popular with the audience. There were countless photographs taken by the curious crowds, and many lasting memories were made for both the audience and club members alike.

Without a doubt, no other event in Hawaii promotes antique cars as much as this event. Thanks to everyone who participated. After the mainland organizers, *Motor Trend Auto Shows*, saw some pictures of our display, we were tentatively invited back for 2012.

MEMBERS FEATURED IN *HONOLULU* MAGAZINE

The April issue of *Honolulu* magazine included an article on local car personalities. Aloha Region members, Don Johnston, Victor Weisberger, and Fred Weisberger were featured. The article began with a large action photo of Victor driving his 1914 Ford Model T and concluded with a fetching photo of Don with some of his Mustang memorabilia. And all three members were quoted in the article. It was great exposure for the club.

CAR TRAILER AVAILABLE

We have all experienced the need for a car hauling trailer at one time or another, but are dissuaded by the cost and where to store it. Member Fred Weisberger has recently given in to this need and has purchased a used custom racecar trailer; with a 3,500lbs load capacity. It was put to good use hauling three cars to and from the *First Hawaiian Auto Show*. The 1907 Ford Model N, 1910 Ford Model T, and the 1928 Austin Seven traveled quickly and safely. Fred has volunteered his hauling services free to members of lighter and smaller cars—as his work schedule permits.

TREASURES FOR SALE

Former member, "Big Boy" Sanders is selling his lifelong collection of automotive treasures and collectables. He can be reached by phone at 737-9331 or 737-3189. These sale items are located at his home: 2461 Pakui St., Honolulu—in Palolo Valley.

FIRST HAWAIIAN AUTO SHOW (March 18-20, 2011)



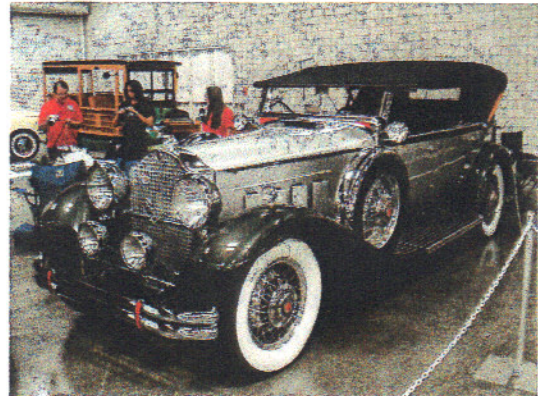
1910 Ford Model T (Howard Andrus)



1932 Ford Model B (George Shishido)



1929 Hudson (J.D. Adam's)



1931 Packard (Bob Bosley)



1928 Austin Seven (Fred Weisberger)



1955 Ford T-bird (Stan Harlan)

The Aloha Region was invited back to the first Hawaiian Auto Show for the third year. Members displayed eleven antique cars at the show and the public clearly enjoyed our display. ☺

2011 FIRST HAWAIIAN AUTO SHOW



Club's 1907 Ford Model N



Bob Grantham's 1950 Studebaker

AN AC ADVENTURE

by
Fred Weisberger



It all began two years ago with a small photograph of an abandoned car in the *Lost & Found* section of the British car magazine, *Classic & Sports Car*. What caught my eye was the brief caption which stated that the car was discovered in Hawaii. Upon closer inspection, I realized that the car was likely a former *Aloha Region* member's 1937 AC—a very rare car with less than a hundred ACs of all types made that year. I had not seen the car for over twenty years, but the caption had an email address, so I sent a brief email sharing what I knew about the car. I heard nothing back, but we did include the picture and a brief note in the club's newsletter.

A year and a half later I came home one day and there was a long and frantic phone message from a Rinsey Mills, from England. He said that he would call back that night. A few hours later I was on the phone with Rinsey. He said that he was not a “nut” but a frustrated buyer of the AC and the car had disappeared! Rinsey had the email that I had sent to the *Lost & Found* address (forwarded by the seller), so he had desperately called me looking for help. Rinsey told me the story about how he was contacted by a Mr. Robert

Mitchell about a weathered 1937 AC for sale in Hawaii. And after months of communications, negotiations, logistics, and wired money, Mitchell and the car had disappeared.

It turns out that Rinsey Mills is a “legitimate” car-nut and an automobile author. He has written several books, including: *The Original Austin Seven*, *AC in Detail: Six-Cylinder Sports Cars*, and he is the “official biographer” for Carol Shelby's upcoming book. Mitchell had approached Rinsey about the 1937 AC because Rinsey had literally written the book on them.

Rinsey has a real soft spot for AC cars (he owns three of them!), so he ended up buying the car for the bargain price of \$2,000—knowing that getting it to England would cost many times the original investment.

I agreed to help Rinsey find his car, so I had Rinsey send me everything he had from Robert Mitchell. With some thirty pages of emails, and other documents, I began an Internet search.

Quickly I discovered that “Robert Mitchell” in Hawaii had a small Internet presence. He had no current phone number or work address. I did learn that a person of the same name was divorced and was convicted of a sex crime—although he later won an appeal. During the past few years a Robert Mitchell was selling cars and parts online—apparently the same person. But I was unable to get anything recent on Mitchell, so I started looking up every name on the documents. One person had a business located on Sand Island—and since a close examination of the recent photographs of the 1937 AC appeared to be located somewhere in that area—I chose to look there first.

After work the next day I drove to the address on Sand Island and there

in the front lot of a small junkyard, was the 1937 AC! It looked deplorable, but it was (nearly) all there. Someone had written "KAPU" in the dust on the windshield—and it had apparently protected the car from the homeless living in the area. I talked to the business owner, who said that Robert Mitchell was selling abandoned cars from his lot and had recently disappeared. I showed the owner the paperwork I had and he said that I could take the car. The owner also told me that he had lost his lease for the land and was taking all of the cars to the scrap yard in the next two weeks. So I needed to hurry!



That night I emailed Rinsey, who was predictably thrilled to read that his car was found—and hopefully soon safely at my house.

I talked to Aloha Region member, J.D. Adams, who has a large truck and access to trailers, and he agreed to go rescue the car the next day after work.

When we arrived at the lot the 1937 AC was blocked in by an old Mustang fastback, also "sold" by Mitchell. The AC's tires were flat and the car was partly covered by other car's wheels and parts. The lot owner was gone, but there was a large, shirtless (and mostly toothless), local man who was able to use a forklift to remove the car from the lot and to place it on J.D.'s

trailer. Without him, the AC was going nowhere!

J.D. took the AC and trailer to my house, so I could begin to prep the car for shipping. I took numerous pictures of the car and emailed them to Rinsey.

The car was in much worse condition than it first appeared. The wonderfully efficient Hawaiian termites had eaten nearly all of the wood from the aluminum-over-wood body. The left door was missing—having fallen off and discarded at some point. The right side door could be lifted right off of the body. The body's frame had collapsed and the body was simply sitting on the rear wheels. There was absolutely no wood in the trunk lid—which was shoved into the trunk area. The front half of the car was in much better condition, being made of steel and having no wood forward of the cowl.

I sent Rinsey my pictures and described in detail what I observed. Rinsey carefully studied the pictures of the AC and concluded that, although the body is rare and attractive, it was not practical to restore it, so he wanted me to remove it prior to shipping.



Also England is fanatical about exotic termites entering the country. He told me about a large house in his area, which the government ordered burned to the ground, when it was discovered that termites from Asian furniture had

infested the house. Rinsey concluded the AC would certainly be stopped by English customs when they saw the massive termite damage. SO the body was to be discarded. (The current plan is to make a new body, in a more desirable style, for the car.)

With the order to remove the body at my house, I spent a morning literally pulling the car apart with my bare hands. It was amazing how it simply fell apart. I removed hinges and other hardware to be saved and the rest went to the dump—a sad end to a coach-built body, but the English craftsmen will build a new body in the old style.



During the next few weeks I freed up the motor, installed a temporary floor, and boxed up all of the usable parts. Eventually the car was as clean as I could make it and thus was ready to be shipped to England. I informed Rinsey that the car was ready for shipping, but week-after-week it kept sitting in my driveway. Apparently Rinsey failed to promptly arrange for the shipping.

I let him know that he needed to get it out of here. He finally arranged the shipping but I needed to get the car into a shipping container. In the end we figured out that the best way was to have a Matson container dropped off in my father's front yard, and with a flat bed tow truck, the car could be raised into the container and secured.

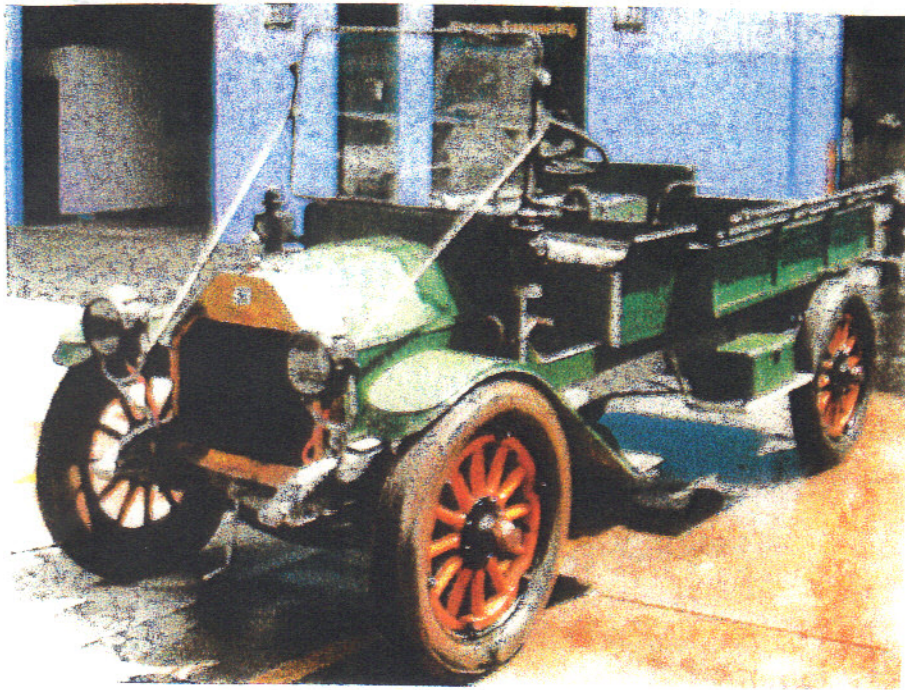
It was a happy day when the container with the AC finally left Kailua. Rinsey and I had a bet about when the car would arrive in England. Rinsey said the last week of March. I said late April or later. I won!

The 1937 AC arrived in Los Angles in February, but it was held up by American customs, which would not accept Rinsey's English title—he needed an American title. (The car was never licensed in Hawaii, so Rinsey was able to get an English title in his name, sight unseen—he knows “important people” in the British government!!!) Now Rinsey has been charged an additional \$450 for an “American title” for his car. Crazy! As I write this, in late March, the car still has not arrived in England.

All in all, it was quite a learning experience. I had never before responded to a magazine article, and, since I did not hear back, I assumed that it was nothing. And then, over a year later, the AC Adventure began... In hindsight, after all of the work and stress, it was worth it. I was able to save a rare old car. And it is heading home for a complete restoration, including a new body. I feel good, but I do not think that I will be responding to any magazine articles anytime soon.



Aloha AC.



1914 Buick Farm Truck

This 1914 Buick Farm truck has resurfaced after an absence of more than 30 years. The Buick formerly belonged to a fella whose last name was Carmen. The car was in a cover photo on the newsletter way back in June 1980. The car was modified into a farm truck from a Buick touring car and was used on a farm in Washington state until purchased and brought to Hawaii. The vehicle has acetylene gas head lamps, and kerosene side lamps. The vehicle was started by hand cranking and ran well at the meet at Mason Seibel's home in Hawaii Kai.

The vehicle resurfaced recently in a warehouse in Waipahu. Carmen moved to the mainland 30 years ago, sold the Buick to a person not in the car club. That owner passed away in recent times and reportedly his widow wants to sell. It is reported she wants \$12,000. for the vehicle. After several phone calls your Editor has been unable to develop her name, phone number, and address of the warehouse where stored. If anyone is interested in seeing the vehicle for consideration of buying contact your Editor Victor Weisberger, and further effort will be made to develop more information.

The vehicle appears to be in exactly the same condition as it was over thirty years ago.

LOCATIONS FOR CLUB CAR MEETS: A variety of locations are desired for future meets of our car club. If your home or garage could serve as a meet site contact your Editor who does the scheduling.

MISSED MEETS:

Members continue to tell your Editor how they regret missing meets. The solution is write on calendar the dates and locations of car meets as soon as you receive the newsletter.

The Scored Journal

Aloha Region
Antique Automobile Club of America

162 Kaha Street
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

HONOLULU HI 968

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