



# FOSSILS SOUTH JERSEY

www.Fossilscarclub.com

## FOSSIL TRUSTEES

Simon Huizer : Secretary  
Joan Wheeler: Web Designer  
Dan Smith : Treasurer  
Stan Taylor : Trustee- At- Large  
Brenda Huizer : Car Show Coordinator  
Dee Heath : Co-Chair of Cruise Nights  
Bonnie VanDusen : Trustee-At-Large

Fossils Newsletter  
Month: January 2018  
By Rich & Denise Dalfonzo

## A Happy and Healthy New Year to all our Fossil Family

### “Hood Ornaments, NOT CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS”

Early day radiator caps served as an indicator of the temperature of the engine. This exposed cap became the focal point for automobile manufacturers to personalize the cap/ornament. These ornaments were very popular from the 20's right thru the 60's. The ornaments, such as the Mack Bulldog, actually became mascots for some companies. Today, these beautiful ornaments are highly collectable and are costly. These emblems are not only representative of the companies, they reflect historical focus. The early 20's and 30's frequently used female figures as the styling influence. In the late 30's, the locomotive importance spread into the ornamental design. As flight became a major element of travel, the airplane found its craft in hood ornaments. The late 40's and 50's reflected “gunsights” and the late 50's used concepts of “jet fighters” in auto design, as was also the use of fins on rear fenders. Oldsmobile was a big user of the “jet era” in its design as well as its production line of “rocket” engines.

This artistic design was not an American exclusive, but could be found in England, Germany, France and just about every country that idolized cars and considered them as pieces of art. Today, hood ornaments are found mostly on high end vehicles such as the Rolls Royce, which has an interesting history. The “Spirit of Ecstasy” is a bonnet ornament in the form of a woman leaning forward with her arms outstretched behind her. The figure's model was Eleanor Thornton, the mistress of an early British auto enthusiast. “This sexy figure has remained the RR mascot in one form or another since the roaring 20's. There is a great deal more about Eleanor Thornton's influence, but I will let your creative mind fill in the pieces.

Today, some companies continue to foster the mascot nature of hood ornaments. Dodge Ram trucks are perfect examples of this.

Ironically, safety issues have changed the size, design and nature of hood ornaments. Today anything that is affixed to the hood of a vehicle must be on a flexible pivot. I guess people were

getting seriously injured if they were hit by the ornament. How would you like to land on Packard's, "Goddess of Speed", "Flying Swan" or "Airplane"?

As we view vehicles at our shows and cruises, take the time and do some homework on these beautifully designed and historically important ornaments. They may offer you another collectable area. However, they are expensive: some bringing many thousands of dollars. The most expensive estimated at \$200,000 dollars and, of course, it was created by Rolls Royce. There are many things that attract us to automobiles and I hope that you will now look a little closer into the artistic brilliance of HOOD ORNAMENTS.

## **"Back to the Future"**

As our club continues to grow, it occurred to me that several of our female Fossils have their own cars. While that may not seem like a big deal, it also occurred to me that as I grew up in the 1950's, most women didn't even drive. Having many aunts, and living in an Italian neighborhood filled with the smells of cooking, I examine the fact that very few women ever got behind the wheel. A car was a man's possession and the kitchen, a woman's. Wow, have things changed!

As the years roll by, we have seen the liberation of women reflected in the auto industry. Some cars are even labeled as, "chick cars". For example, the VW Beetle with its flower holder on the dash board, designed for ladies. Even the colors of some vehicles reflect the feminine touch, and don't think that women had no say in the creature features that make a vehicle more enjoyable and easier to drive. The liberation of women, also liberated men. I remember my father, prior to my mother driving, having to secure groceries for the family because the store was too far to walk to.

It is interesting to watch Christmas shoppers filling their carts with toys: a doll for Emilia, a truck for Brady. The stigma or roll playing is still there, but it is rapidly changing as women move ahead. I wonder how a man feels when a female mechanic works on his car? I don't care who it is, a man or a woman, as long as it is done correctly.

I like taking my grand children places to broaden their experiences. When I suggested Wall Stadium my oldest granddaughter, Casey, was not enthusiastic. However, when she realized the hot pink car was driven by a woman, she became very vocal in wanting her to win. When Danica Patrick first got into racing, many men felt that sacred ground had been violated. Shouts of, "This is a Man's World" were echoed from Talladega to Pocono Speedway. However, those shouts have quelled and now thousands of women enjoy a NASCAR racing. Plus, I am content with the growing fact that my grand daughters can do what they want in life and my Christmas presents for them can be an erector set, a drone or a RC car.

Statistically, women now equal men in holding a driver's license. If you start looking at the number of women who pilot their own cars to our cruises and shows, you get an understanding of how women have liberated the auto industry. I, for one, would love to see my grandkids, male or female, design vehicles that will be collected by future generations.

p.s. men do need to follow directions.

## **"NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK"**

Welcome aboard to our newest FOSSIL members, Jim and Yvette Mitchell. Jim, AKA SANTA, from our November cruise at THE OUTLETS, is a lifetime resident of Jackson and Yvette has lived in Jackson since early childhood. Jim is in competition with several Fossil members for having the greatest number of vehicles (primarily model A's and T's). His dedication to automobiles is accentuated with his Presidency of the Central New Jersey, "Model T Cranks". Yvette enjoys baking as a hobby, and perhaps we will eventually partake of her sweet creations (think Italian cookies). Although Jim's feet are primarily grounded in auto collecting, he also has loftier interests: flying radio-controlled airplanes. And even though we like all four wheels on the ground, Jim enjoys his Harleys, as many club members do.

So, Fossils, extend a hand in welcoming Yvette and Jim Mitchell.

### **Trustee Meeting Update:**

Awards Luncheon will be at "Our House" restaurant on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

Next year has us returning to the "Outlets" on the last Friday of the month. The club will not be returning to the ShopRite location in 2018.

The tentative date for the Annual Car Show will be on May 20, 2018, with a rain date of May 27<sup>th</sup>. The location will be Jackson Memorial High School. (awaiting approval)

Our November car cruise netted a packed SUV of toys for the ROTC's "Toys for Tots"

## **Annual Car Show Updates**

May 20, 2018

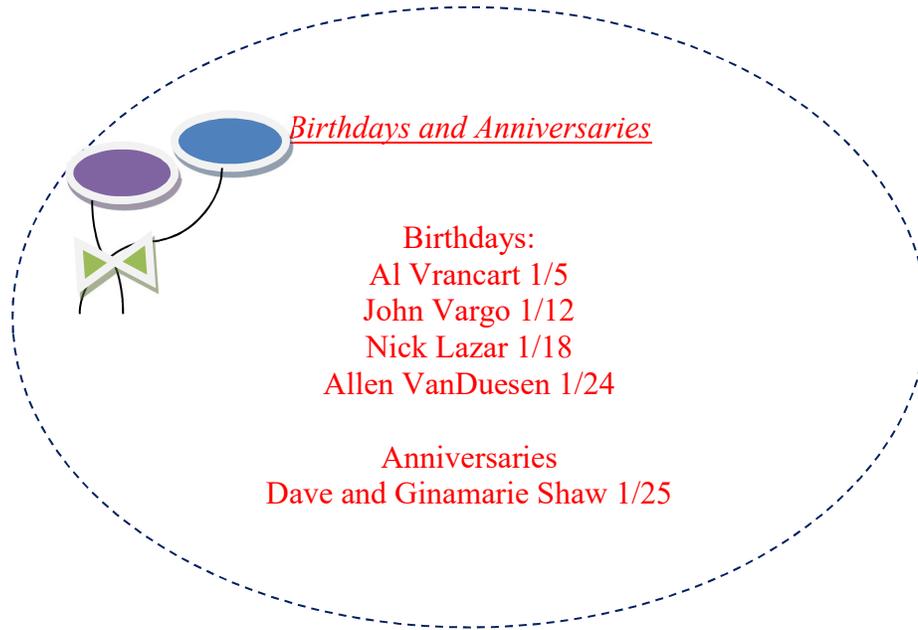
Next Trustee/Car show committee Meeting: January 12, 2018, at 7 p.m. at the Wheelers'

According to "Car and Driver" magazine: The largest populations of collector car owners are in the following states: California, Michigan, New York, Florida and Texas. (that order)

The 10 most common collector models: 1. Corvette, 2. Mustang, 3. Camaro, 4. Chevy Belair, 5. Model A Ford, 6. Thunderbird, 7. VW Beetle, 8. Chevrolet C10 pickup, 9. Impala and 10. Chevy Chevelle.

Member's Cars/Parts for Sale:

For Sale: 2 healthy Goodyear Assurance tires 235x60R 18" \$30.00 call Rich Dalfonzo



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:  
Al Vrancart 1/5  
John Vargo 1/12  
Nick Lazar 1/18  
Allen VanDuesen 1/24

Anniversaries  
Dave and Ginamarie Shaw 1/25

## Social Committee

Sunshine Committee: Please send out "GET WELL" shouts to Bill Wheeler, Dave Shaw, Ginamarie Shaw and any other Fossil members who are under the weather. Prayers help!!!!!!!!!!!!!!