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July 30 6:00 PM General Membership Meeting
Bistro Orleans, 3216 West Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA

From the President's Garage

Summer is upon us, and as an older adult, it sure seems hotter than when I was a kid. Stay cool, my fellow car enthusiasts. Vacations are on the plan, and car show and club events are in full swing. Dave Johnson and I drove to Carlisle, PA last week and attended 101 years of Chrysler, celebrating the Imperial line of MOPAR.

I will not be attending our monthly meeting Thursday the 30th as Gia and I will be on vacation. Dave has promised us another slideshow featuring Rick Vega's collection. Julian and I attended his 3rd National DeSoto Convention in Louisville, KY, and it was a big hit at Churchill Downs, picking winners in 4 of the 6 races. We had to catch an early flight home to attend our 4th son's wedding, but we got to see the highlights of Louisville.



I had some help from Frenchy getting the '41 Cadillac started after it had sat for a couple of years. The carburetor was sent to North Carolina for a rebuild and hopefully back for August 1st.

Happy Motoring

Thomas Rogers

HCC Pres.

<i>Kar Kalendar</i>		
Jul 30	6:00 PM	General Membership Meeting Bistro Orleans, 3216 West Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA
Aug 27	6:00 PM	General Membership Meeting Bistro Orleans, 3216 West Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA
Sep 24	6:00 PM	General Membership Meeting Bistro Orleans, 3216 West Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA
Oct 29	6:00 PM	General Membership Meeting Bistro Orleans, 3216 West Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA
Nov 19	6:00 PM	General Membership Meeting Bistro Orleans, 3216 West Esplanade Ave., Metairie, LA
Saturday Dec TBD	6:00 PM	Christmas Party

Minutes of the Horseless Carriage Club Meeting June 25, 2026

Club Meeting Summary

Thomas remarked that we are in roughly the mid-year point for the club. The group then recited the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer from Bruce. Dave Johnson delivered a brief treasurer's report. The current balance was reported as \$4,690. There were some recent expenses: roughly \$600 for crawfish and a delayed \$250 Christmas check that was finally deposited, along with a \$27 printing expense attributed to Bruce. Tomas mentioned that the National DeSoto Club is printing its magazine every two months. Thomas then thanked members for signing a card for Judy, who has been facing significant health issues and was recently hospitalized, and asked everyone to keep her in their thoughts and prayers.

The rest of the meeting was a discussion on recent trips. Chryl and Jack talked about their Model T tour through North Carolina, West Virginia, and Virginia with long-time friends. The trip included scenic drives, wildflowers, waterfalls, and a bear sighting on a country road, but more importantly, the car ran reliably throughout the 800-mile trip.

Marty and Dale reported on a Route 66-themed trip with the Studebaker Drivers Club, starting near Springfield, Illinois, and heading towards Santa Monica. Although they traveled in a more modern vehicle, they were essentially "herding Studebakers" across the route. The group enjoyed excellent weather, no mechanical issues, and numerous historic stops and other classic roadside attractions. A highlight was discovering a "secret room" behind a bookcase at the historic El Rancho Hotel in New Mexico, accessed via a hidden mechanism involving a copy of "The Art of War." The trip also featured multiple lunches and visits on Native American lands. Marty and Dale are also looking forward to the Hershey Hangover for Brass-era cars.

Dave Johnson mentioned attending a family event in Minneapolis and visiting a car museum; he will share at a future meeting.

Tim and Janeice talked about their trip to the 40th DeSoto National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The convention activities included visits to a few whiskey distilleries and a visit to Bardstown by train. The reason it was only available by rail was to avoid federal taxes. They also spent a day at Churchill Downs, where they learned about horse betting. Finally, there were a few light-hearted contests, including ties and bow ties, and a fascinators contest, and they got to eat fried chicken in Kentucky!

The meeting then shifted to maintenance and restoration updates. Thomas and Frenchy discussed troubleshooting a 1941 Cadillac that now starts only with fuel poured into the carburetor and exhibits symptoms suggestive of timing issues. Members offered technical advice, including resetting timing on the flywheel and testing starter performance by disabling ignition. However, the Cadillac is now housed at “Saks on Fifth Avenue,” and it is starting to get a few cars stored.

Before closing, Thomas noted that Judy had submitted payment for the registration of the club’s corporation and that a reimbursement check would be arranged. Attendance was recorded at 19 people. The meeting concluded with a 50/50 raffle, with Thomas walking away with \$25 as a first-time winner!

Meeting adjournment proposed by Tim and seconded by Dale, and the meeting ended at 735 pm.

What Makes a Drive a Drive?

After listening to everyone talk about their recent tours, and as I was driving to and from Knoxville, I was curious: what makes a drive more than just getting into a car? We can break trips up into three types: the first is a functional trip, such as driving to see someone or to go to a specific event. There may be a second class of trips, which the tours and other drives mention, which are “vacation trips”. For some roadways, such as the Blue Ridge Parkway or Route 66, the drive itself is the whole point — you’re not trying to get anywhere in particular; the destination is actually the miles you are driving. And those are the drives you can build a vacation around. But there is a third category, which I will call local destination trips. For example, the Causeway is the world’s longest bridge over water. I drive that all the time, but for some people that may be a “destination drive”.

But I started to think about local trips here, such as the Creole Nature Trail, the Civil War Trails, and the Great River Road. While this may be local, they are something one can do in a few hours. For example, I have never done the **Lake Pontchartrain Loop**, a full circuit of the lake. I would argue that it could be a genuine day trip most of us have driven pieces of but never done start to finish.

So where does that leave the original question — what makes a drive a drive? Everybody’s version of that is a little different depending on what you’re driving and what you’re driving away from. So, curious, what drives remain on your list, and have you planned to take one soon?

-The Editor



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Next Meetings