

# Classy Chassis

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Westerly-Pawcatuck Region AACA

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## Webpage Updates

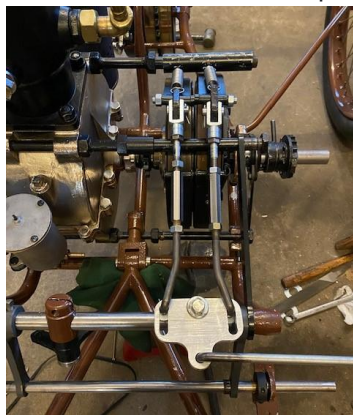
There have been a few updates to our club [webpage](#). First off the refreshment assignment list is updated. If you forget your date you can check online. We also updated all of the major AACA events for the year.

You may notice that the photo banner at the top of the page is scrolling again. Weebly, the site our webpage is on, took away this feature a while ago. Recently it came back. I guess someone complained.

Our calendar, which appears in several places, is updated with known events of interest for 2022. The right column of the page where we list club-specific events is also updated. Also, if you go to the area just above the large calendar you will see on the left column in red a link to the latest meeting minutes. In the column on the right are instructions that might help if you are having difficulty reading our page with a mobile device such as a cell phone. Constructive comments appreciated.

## Orient Update by George King III

We have continued working on the transmission for the Orient. As you look at this photo you will be able to see that the plate that holds the two links from the transmission drum bands has changed in shape. It was originally shaped like a "T" but now it is bigger. The T had two 3/8" holes in it for the band links but the new piece has slots for them.



We have changed the design to this because we can only pull the band forward and not push it back. The slots allow us to pull one side forward to apply low speed or reverse and the other side link just pushing up in the slot to have no effect on the transmission.

The rod that you see toward the right side of the photo is the piece that is attached to the reverse lever on the steering column.



The next thing that we began work on is the clutch. This photo shows the clutch which is located on the inside of the nearest transmission drum. As you try to figure this part out, realize that the function of the clutch is very different on this car as compared to modern ones. In a modern car, you select the gear you want by holding the clutch in and then let the clutch up to engage the engine to the transmission. On the 1901 Orient, the only engagement of the clutch is for high speed.

The bronze piece shown in the upper photo is what controls the motion of the clutch. It is called the strap. When it pushes into the drum it engages the clutch to the inside of the drum and the car moves forward in high gear. When the strap is pulled out of the drum, the transmission disengages and is in neutral.

The clutch is controlled by a pedal on the floor which also applies the brake if pushed down all the way.



The pedal is attached to a black "L" shaped piece which is mounted to a pivot point on the cross chassis rod. A rod connects the "L" to the pedal and another rod connects it to the clutch control rod.

The brown rod which is mounted to the strap is the clutch control rod. This rod is not yet attached to the engine. The function of the control rod is to move the strap in and out of the drum. If it



is pushed into the drum the car is in high gear and if it is pulled out, the car is in neutral. The best achievement in the month was finalizing the drive chain. This was a major restoration. The chain itself was located in a box of goodies that was stored under the car in Long Island. We found the links to be of the proper length and width and there was enough chain to do the job. The problem was that the rollers were 5/8" but 9/16" was the proper size. So here is what we did. We bought some chrome-moly steel tubing. It had the proper OD and ID but it was three feet long. Frank cut the lengths into 160 of the proper length. Charlie and I worked on the ID's I had them heat treated for the necessary hardness as recommended by Leon. Charlie finished the rollers, greased them, and mounted them on the pins which are on the links. I made some leather hole plugs to fill the open parts of the link plates. Charlie, Mark and I put the plugs in.



In addition to the chain, we needed to do some work on the sprockets to make the chain straight when it is in the car. Charlie did this by facing the sprocket and the packing nut that is on the crank case. We then mounted it all and I think it looks excellent.

When we ran the engine the last time, we lost oil from the crank case and around the transmission shaft. This occurred because the crank case became pressurized due to compression. It turns out that this engine has no ventilator. So this is something we had to invent in order to keep the oil in the engine. We used a motor cycle breather cap and some brass 3/8"



pipe. This should do the job.

This month we will continue with the clutch system. We will then run the engine again and test the transmission. If it all works well we will mount the engine onto the chassis and start on the cooling system. I have also been working on the



steering wheel for the Metz. I like to use seven coats of Epifanes marine varnish for natural wood. I have also restored the steering steel spokes and

Painted them gloss black. I am planning to finish the Orient by summer. I have committed to showing it in Connecticut in August, Massachusetts in September and Pennsylvania in October.

## Upcoming Spring Dust Off

Are you ready for our annual Spring Dust Off? Now is the time to get your car in shape for a short ride to Southern Massachusetts. We plan to visit the town of Uxbridge, MA. It

is just over the RI border. The plan is to meet at the McDonald's in Wyoming and leave from there. The trip is about 1.5 hour of mostly country roads. Our first destination is [Bernat Antiques](#). The place is a large 3-floor mill that is full of all sorts of antiques. One of my favorite stalls specializes in signs (see left) and displays that are related to cars and beer, two of my favorite diversions. We may also visit

one or two other antique shops in the area ([Stanley Mill Antiques](#) and [Joyful Things Vintage](#)) if there is time. Our final destination will be a late lunch at Quaker Tavern, a place that sounds like it will be just right for us. Please attend the March meeting (March 29) to help decide on which late April date is most convenient for us.



## Other Events on the Horizon

We are considering a few other events for our 2022 season. These include:

-[New England Wireless & Steam Museum](#) teams up with **Cruisin' Bruce Palmer** on Saturday, **June 11**. This will likely be well attended. Turn out for lots of fun and help this worthy local museum.

-[Cruisin' on the Mountaintop](#), Tannersville, NY. Sunday, June 19, 2022, 10am-4pm. Watch for more information.

-**2nd Annual Larry Gait Memorial Car Show** September 18, 2022(Sunday), [Westerly Yacht Club](#), 1 Watch Hill Road, Westerly, R.I.

- [New England Wireless & Steam Museum](#) Fall Steam-Up. Oct. 1, 2022.

-[Hershey Eastern Fall Meet](#), Oct. 4-7. Members likely leaving on Mon., Oct. 3. Return Oct. 7 or 8.

Bring your favorite event listing to the next meeting and share with club members. Let's do some planning together!

## What Does Your Garage Look Like?

This is a solicitation for photos of your classic car garage. The inside, the outside, whatever you think we would like to



see. Send the photos to your newsletter editor and the good ones will be published as time allows. I will start off by posting here a few shots of my garage walls.

Nothing special but it keeps me in a good frame of mind whenever I enter the garage. Decorating is fun and mostly inexpensive.



The license plates here averaged about \$3 EA. The porcelains were around \$25 (long ago). The stop sign and the Exide sign were also very inexpensive. Another neat item you can put up is banners. I have one for Honda and one for VW; my car and my wife's car. Now it is your turn to show us all how you dress up that special space, the garage (or barn?).



## Club Officers

**President:** Merrill Moone  
**Vice President:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Ken Carr  
**Treasurer:** Dave Calabrese

## Volunteers

**Newsletter:** Ken Carr & Gerry Lynn  
**Sunshine:** Camille Carr  
**Trip Coordinator:** Don Oster  
**Webmaster:** Ken Carr

## **Meetings:**

**Executive Meeting, Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 PM, Westerly Burger King on Franklin St.**

**Club Meeting, Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 PM, Westerly Senior Center.**

**Refreshments by Georgia Roessler, Dennis DeGrade, Norm Lagerstrom**



Do you recognize this place?