

Upcoming Events

The Coastal Virginia Chapter will be participating in the following upcoming events:

- September 16 - TRAACA - Car Show**
900 City Park Dr, Chesapeake, VA 23320
9AM - 3:00PM
** this is a multi-chapter event*
- September 30 - Dinner at the Jefferson Restaurant**
1453 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
4PM
** Blue Ridge and Coastal VA chapters invited*
- October 14 - General Membership Meeting**
(Peninsula location to be announced)



801 Windom Blvd
Chesapeake, VA 23320

P₂ / Stay Alert

Gripping true story detailing a near fatal accident prevented through alertness, expert driving skills and Volvo's quality build

P₃ / Chapter Cook-out

The Chapter hosts its first annual cookout in beautiful Williamsburg.

P₅ / In the News

See the latest from Volvo headquarters.

Resda



The Official Publication of the Coastal Virginia Chapter of the VCOA

Summer 2023

Executive Board

President

Chuck Fiedler

president@coastalvavolvo.org

Vice-President

Robert Cutchins

vice-president@coastalvavolvo.org

Secretary

Cole Brundage

secretary@coastalvavolvo.org



Find us on FaceBook



Newsletter article and photo submissions may be directed to:
vice-president@coastalvavolvo.org

Chapter Celebrates First Anniversary

Rob Cutchins

With no real fanfare, the Coastal Chapter passed its first anniversary as a formal chapter of the Volvo Club of America this past February.

We've managed quite a bit in our first year. A new website offering our members a place to see upcoming events, download publications, access resource material, view "for sale" items, and more. We've mailed out 3 newsletters to our membership giving them a little something to read in order to stay up on club news, and insight to various club members and events. We've had numerous scheduled events such as our monthly "Cars & Coffee" meets, driving excursions, and membership meetings.

Not bad for the first year. I would call our efforts admirable. However, it's now time to get out of first gear and into second.

Our club, in order to be truly successful, rewarding, and enriching, must be a product of its greater membership. While our assigned membership is spread across quite a large swath of the Commonwealth, our assigned area is still manageable for the events we've planned in the past. Based on the feedback from the membership taken from last year's survey, we have made every attempt to take that feedback and model our events to match those suggestions. We will continue to do so going forward, and encourage your continued suggestions, and hope you'll start and/or increase your participation.

I hope we can count on you as we move into our second year. Whether it's participating in a "Cars & Coffee" event, submitting an article or photo for the newsletter, or offering up new ideas to the club. Jump in and participate. You'll be surprised how casual and enjoyable membership can actually be.

Stay Alert

Bob Sepe

President, Blue Ridge Chapter (VCOA)

Today, July 4, 2023 we celebrate Liberty and Life. For me it is LIFE! You see, my life almost ended tragically yesterday (July 3rd) around 1:30pm in a fiery wreck on I-77 North near the US21 approach whilst driving the trusty Volvo C70 toward Sparta, NC (Mayberry fame).

Cruise was set at 67mph in a 70mph zone as the C70 climbed a steep hill; I was soon to exit, tapping the brake pedal I disengaged the cruise control as I crested. The SUV in front of me suddenly veered to the passing lane and ducked into a space between two vehicles, the rear one braked and was on my left. Immediately ahead was a stalled brownish Toyota Tundra in the travel lane, no flashers activated.

At this moment I was 25' away traveling 60mph plus and on a fatal collision course. I knew braking would not stop the car in time to avoid a fatal collision. With the left lane blocked, I cut the steering wheel to the right hard. I cleared the Tundra's rear bumper by mere inches, but the C70's rear was on track to hit the Tundra's right rear bumper. Instinctively, I cut the wheel to the left which caused the rear end to break its' grip on the pavement throwing the car into a sideways skid spewing gravel and dust into the air. The C70 cleared the Tundra's rear bumper. Now I had to clear the lollipop reflectors marking the shoulder and was on a sideways trajectory to put one in the middle of the passenger side door. I hit the gas and cut the wheel hard right again to swing the rear end to the left, narrowly missing the lollipop. Once the C70 was parallel to the highway, I punched the gas and powered out of the dust and gravel storm and climbed back on the highway. That Tundra had gravel all over it.

No, I didn't stop as I hadn't hit anything. I should have been a holiday weekend fatality. Driver instinct is to hit the brakes which reduces the speed (ever so slightly) before a fatal impact. To survive, you must suppress this instinct, which I've trained myself to do.

Had it not been for awareness, quick reflexes and practices driving my car off-on the pavement at highway speeds to understand its handling characteristics. I would not have been able to "thread-the-needle." Had I been driving the XC90, which is not as nimble as the C70, it would have rolled, airbags would deploy and I would have walked away, but the C70 emerged unscathed.

I attribute my ability to "thread-the-needle" by running makeshift autocross events and learning how to throw a car into a skid, correct it and recover.

The Volvo is reliable and built for occupants to survive a collision; however, the best survived collision is the one avoided. Only through practice can avoidance skills be acquired.

Epilogue:

Years ago driving the XC90, I faced a wrong way driver on I-95 north of "South of the Border" one foggy morning. I was in the passing lane doing 70+ next to a semi with guard rails to the left. A fugitive driver was being pursued by police north in the southbound lane, blueberries and raspberries behind and one trooper pacing across the median in the north bound lane. The wrong way death wish driver was trading pistol shots with the troopers. Quick thinking allowed me to survive that. He was eventually forced off the road and shot to death by troopers.

Years later, near the same place, a semi traveling north towing a lowboy carrying an excavator that dropped a 10" x 3" steel pin to the pavement. The pin was spun into the air by a following truck tire. It flew toward the XC90 cart wheeling. With guard rails to the right, instinctively I turned into it and the steel cylinder (size of propane cylinder) crashed through the windscreen beneath the rearview mirror, otherwise it would have hit me in the face. I kept going. It was raining. Traffic was bumper to bumper at 65mph.

By the way, I'm 80 and if I can drive safely, you can, too. Age is not as much a factor as alertness, physical fitness, practice and memory muscle. You don't have to be a fatality unless you want to. Get driving instruction and practice recovering from adverse situations, remain alert and fit.

There is nothing more American than cruising the highways and byways on a holiday, so take your Volvo out for a spin; stop for an ice cream cone at the very least.

Be safe. Be alert. Eyes open!

Photo Challenge

If you find yourself in your Volvo, and the setting is "just right", snap a photo and send it to me. Include your name, city and a little about the photo. We'll include it in the next edition of "Resa". The more photos, the better.

Volvo "In the News"

COPENHAGEN (Reuters) -Sweden-based Volvo Cars on Wednesday reported a 33% year-on-year rise in June sales to 66,379 cars, helped by a spike for fully electric cars. The manufacturer, which is majority-owned by China's Geely, said it sold 9,535 fully electric cars in the month, up 346%. "The overall sales increase was driven by the company's fully electric cars which quadrupled compared to the same period last year," it said in a statement.

"Furthermore, figures from June 2022 were negatively affected by lower production due to last year's supply chain constraints."

Volvo Cars said its total car sales in biggest market Europe rose 70%. Total car sales in the U.S. were up 53% while in China they decreased.

Shares in the company were up 1.7% at 0737 GMT.



www.coastalvolvo.org

Coastal Virginia Chapter Gathers



First Annual Cookout

While attendance may have been smaller than expected, those who did gather enjoyed the gorgeous surroundings of Waller Mill Park in Williamsburg. Centrally located, the park provided the perfect backdrop for the group to gather, eat, and enjoy a variety of conversations.



Among those in attendance, it was a unanimous decision to make this an annual event, using the same location. The food was delicious, thanks to each member who contributed. We look forward to an even greater turnout in 2024.

Stroke of Good Fortune

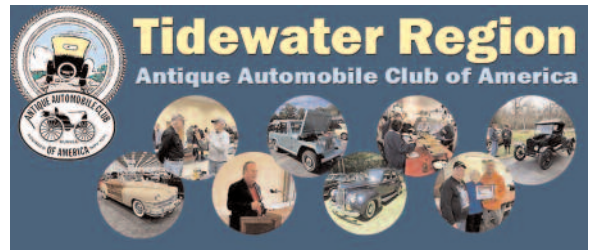
Club Secretary, Cole Brundage proudly displays his new Virginia plates. With the 1000's of cars registered in Virginia, Cole was surprisingly able to snag these very special personal plates, showing off his love of the brand.



Upcoming Chapter Event

The Tidewater Region Antique Automobile Club of America (TRAACA) has invited the Coastal Virginia and other surrounding chapters of the VCOA to attend their 49th annual meet at Chesapeake City Park on Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 9am to 3pm.

Chesapeake City Park is located at 900 City Park Dr, Chesapeake, VA 23320 and contains 75 acres of available display space. For those coming from out of town, a number of hotels are nearby.



Antique and contemporary cars are welcome to display at the meet. This is an excellent opportunity for us to show our beloved Volvos and see a variety of other makes and models.

The Coastal Chapter will have a gathering spot, with a pop-up tent for shade, flying our new banner, and our Volvo's of all eras proudly showcased. Our fellow nearby VCOA chapters are encouraged to join us.

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Volvo OV4 Factory (1927)



The Volvo ÖV 4 was the first car built by Volvo. The designation ÖV 4 stands for "Öppen Vagn 4 cylindrar" in Swedish, which means Open Carriage, 4 cylinders. The model ÖV 4 has later often been referred to as "Jakob" but that was just a name for one of the 10 pre-series ÖV 4 that was ready on 25 July 1926, Jakob's name day. All 10 prototypes were assembled in Stockholm at the company AB Galco, Hälsingegatan 41 where Gustaf Larson worked at that time. Only one of the 10 pre-series cars manufactured during 1926 was saved for posterity and is housed at the Volvo Museum in Gothenburg, Sweden.