

The Peregrine Press

The Newsletter of the Mason-Dixon Chapter of the
Falcon Club of America



A tip of the hat to our Aussie friends down-under for this artwork. (It's the only thing I could find with a Falcon and Christmas on the same image!)

Have you had time to check out the Mason-Dixon face book page yet? It's a work in progress with new things being added all the time. More on this in a page or two.

President's Message

Fellow Mason/Dixon Chapter Members,

2017 was a fun filled Falcon adventure. The All Ford Carlisle swap spaces were busy in June; in July 18 members of our Chapter attended the Sacramento FCA National and 5 members drove their Falcons. There were a lot of car shows that our members attended and we had a spirited meeting on Oct. 28th. On that date we also started a Facebook page "Mason Dixon Falcon Chapter FCA". Our new Co-editors Ken & Cheryl Holquist are the administrators. If you are already "on" Facebook, then you can send a friend request to Ken or Cheryl, and they will grant you access. Also on our Facebook page, you will find a link to the Mason-Dixon Membership Application. You can print it on your own printer, fill in the information, then drop it into an envelope and mail it to the address on the form. Very easy to do. If you are out talking with potential members, simply show them the Facebook page, and they can access it that same day. No waiting for something to come in the mail.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, the editors will be requesting you to send them the information of your favorite car shows you plan to attend in 2018. They would like to share this with other Falcon members. I sincerely hope you will respond to them so that they can make others in the Chapter aware of these and mark in their schedules to join and share in the fun. Also, Ken has come up with the idea of a Gallery of pictures with you and your Falcon. So please help them out and send them pictures that they can post on our Facebook page.

Diane and I would like to send you the warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Pat Varricchio
President, Mason/Dixon Chapter

Hey everyone, Ken here. Lots of things to tell you about in this edition so let's get started. I'll use bullet points so things don't get lost in the middle of a paragraph.

- Facebook page. **Mason-Dixon Chapter – FCA** That's our name, and that's how you find us. So far, we've added 18 members to the Facebook page. We're pretty sure that more of you are probably using Facebook for other things, but maybe haven't yet come looking for Mason-Dixon. A couple of you have asked – so here are the answers for all to know.
- To gain access to the Mason-Dixon page, send us a Friend Request. As administrators, we can grant you temporary access until your application is accepted, or current chapter membership is verified. Generally, we get it done the same day and send you verification via Facebook.

- The Facebook page is visible to anyone who does a search for it. However, they can only see the main page, and the schedule of coming events.
- Only chapter members can see the photos, events, schedule, and other items on the pages. (This was designed this way.) The private information is only available to chapter members.
- Chapter members can post pictures, tell about shows or events they attended, find out about upcoming events, and buy and sell parts (or cars) between themselves and other chapter members.
- Unlike a web page, you – the members control the content. Once you have access, you can post messages, explore through the tabs, and get acquainted with all that is there.

Like some of you, I was not a fan of Facebook. I am coming around to seeing it as a useful tool when used for the right purposes. But I'm still not a fan in the sense of being on it all day long. As an administrator, I receive notifications when someone sends a friend request, or posts a message – because I have to review what is posted to make sure it does not violate protocols. Our hope is that eventually, we will be able to utilize this for notifying members of changes to meetings, events, shows, or just sending out reminders for such. Not everyone has access to their e-mail once they leave home on a trip, so this allows for quick and instant messaging. We may also try using text messaging on future events for those who are willing to participate.

Once again, this is a work in progress. We may trip up and fall on our faces once in a while, but we are trying to learn this as we go. Many of the other FCA Chapters use Facebook pages as well, so we are trying to catch up with the rest of them.

Car Shows and Events -

Did you know that the Mason-Dixon Chapter of the FCA is chartered to encompass the entire area within a 100 mile radius of Elkton, Maryland?

Essentially – that spans from the Atlantic Ocean on the east, to Princeton, NJ, to Reading, PA, to Hershey, PA, Harrisburg, Carlisle, Gettysburg, Frederick, MD, to the 495 Beltway around Washington DC, to Ocean City, MD. That's a lot of area!

In talking with many of you this past year, I know that a lot of you attend car shows that are quite enjoyable for you. Because I live on the far western fringe of the member area, I know of shows in the I-81 corridor between Harrisburg and Hagerstown, MD. I have no clue what is happening where you live. Many of you attend the Ocean City weekend, some of you attend shows with the Keystone Chapter, or just do local cruise-ins near your home. What I would like from you is a heads up of shows and dates in your area that you enjoy attending. I will send out e-mail and Facebook notifications to the members so that others might come and enjoy the show as well. I will also list the upcoming events on the last page of this newsletter each month so that any who have

interest can get the dates on their calendars and plan to attend. The biggest thing is: I need to hear from you. Let me know the dates as much in advance as you can, so I can get the word out. Thanks!

Back to Facebook one more time –

We have lots of space on our pages on face book, and lots of room for photos. We were thinking it would be great if we could post photos of our members (and spouses/significant others), taken with one or more of their cars, and then have a directory of sorts in the members section. I know for me, I have met some of you once and think I might know you, but when I see you out at a different show, I totally blank out and forget your name or where I last saw you. I'll bet some of you do the same thing.

I'd like to invite all of you to find a recent photo of you and your Falcon, or get someone to take one this spring, and send it to us for the directory. Thanks so much.

New Members –

We would like to extend a warm Mason-Dixon Welcome to our newest members:

David and Phyllis Proctor and their 1962, 2 DR Sedan from Glen Burnie, MD

Dennis Mehrenberg and his 1964 Ranchero from Milford, DE

We're looking forward to meeting you in April. Hope to see you all at the picnic on April 21st.

Members on the Mend –

Please take time to send a note of encouragement to chapter members who are recuperating at home.

Phil Barber – 6567 Autumn Ridge Way, Hoschton, GA 30548

Jim Larkin – 715 Webster Drive, Monroeville, NJ 08343-9057

Carl Howard – 4867 Miller Station Road, Hampstead, MD 21074

Traveling over the Christmas Holidays –

AAA claims that more Americans will travel this holiday season than ever before. If you are among those off to see friends and loved ones, do drive carefully. We wish for all of you to have a safe and memorable Christmas and New Year.

In the Spirit of Christmas -

T'was the week before Christmas, and all through the house, all the creatures were stirring, including the mouse. (pesky critter) The 'birds' were stowed away behind the garage doors with care, with hopes of a ride on the roads – if we dare.

The salt and the pea gravel and sand everywhere, soon led us to think – not this year, I wouldn't dare. With ma in her snugglies, and I in my easy chair, we were both nodding off, without a care.

When out in the driveway there arose such a clatter, I hobbled from my chair to see what was the matter. Away to the front door I stumbled in my sleepy stupor, pulled open the door and stared out in wonder.

When what to my weary old eyes did I see but an old Falcon Ranchero and eight white tailed (bedraggled) deer, with a little old driver so old and befuddled, I knew in an instant that this could be trouble.

With huffing and puffing they dragged this car through the yard, then turned to the driver and cried – this is too hard! The old man was grungy, but had a twinkle in his eye, he then patted the roof and let out a long sigh.

He thanked all those deer for their terrific hard work, then flashed me a smile and turned with a jerk, he said "You like old Falcons, at least that's what I hear, so thought you might like this one, you have nothing to fear. I found it out yonder, in the weeds by the trees, a little love and attention is all that it needs".

I stood there speechless, with nothing to say, as my wife stood there saying, "Just make it go away!" I told the old man I really shouldn't accept it, while he just stood there grinning and said, "I just left it"!

He then turned on his heel and ambled away, muttering something about coming back another day. I said "wait, you can't leave it here like this", and he just kept walking with a swing in his hips.

So, the Ranchero is still in my yard to this day, I don't have the heart to make it "go away". My wife wants to hide it beneath some big tent, she's not very fond of this lawn ornament.

We returned to the house, to our warm easy chairs, while my mind was awash in thoughts of engine plans and body repairs. Yep, the old fella was just doing his good deeds, a little love and attention is all that it needs.

Merry Christmas Everyone !

And a Safe and Prosperous New Year !