

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Frank,

I hope you will reconsider doing the newsletter. You have done an outstanding job on it and you worked hard to get the award. You deserved it. I am proud of you and the newsletter Frank. I make copies of it and give it to people who are interested in joining the club. I would not give it out if I were not proud of it. Many people have asked who puts the newsletter together and I show them your name. They all have very positive comments on it.

Please do not let a few peoples whining make the club lose the best newsletter editor we have ever had. Those people whine about my website and they whine about the Rally and parades and holidays etc etc. You should feel good that they take the time to acknowledge we even have a newsletter!!!!

Anyway Frank. You have made the newsletter the best one since the club started. Don't let it go back to the way it used to be.

Roger

TO FRANK BALTRA Editor
P.O. Box 10601
2EPHYR Hills, FL 33539-1051

FROM
BAMA ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION CO.
MIAMI SHORES ELECTRIC, INC.
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SUBJECT Editor of Southern Out Post. Date 05/20/2010

MESSAGE DEAR FRANK BALTRA: I AM VERY SORRY TO READ OF YOUR LEAVING AS EDITOR
YOUR JOURNAL IS SUPERB AND OF THE MANY ORGANIZATION I BELONG, ATTEND, YOUR
JOURNAL IS SUPERB AND ABOVE AVERAGE. MAY BE THE ORGANIZATION MAY CONSIDER
PAYING YOU SO AS TO TRY TO GET YOU TO STAY. REGARDING THE EDITORIAL WAS NOT
SURPRISED AS TO ANS. GIVEN BY RESPONDENTS LOC'D WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO AMERICA?
PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION TO QUIT!

Sincerely
 Signed Eddie Bama Date / /

MRM-859-3
 PRINTED IN U.S.A. SEND PARTS 1 AND 3 WITH CARBON INTACT-PART 3 WILL BE RETURNED WITH REPLY

Editors Note: Mr. Bama, I am sorry to say that I had to edit your letter. I have a policy with the newsletter that I will not use anything of a political nature, I hope you understand. I appreciate your support for the newsletter

Response to the Editorial in the March / April Southern Outpost journal

Frank, your first paragraph about the chapter falling apart might be true and no doubt, without people like you and a few others, this chapter would be very hard to manage. Please try and remember that the FFC is a social group and not a professional group. I, like many, attempt to attend as many outings as possible but have no desire to attend meetings. I have enough 'fish to fry' without getting involved with an officer position within the FFC. Most all social clubs have the same problem. There are the worker bees and the dues payers. Nothing new here.

On to your rant below your astute observation of the clubs health.

Frank, you leave me sitting here, shaking my head, wondering what you were thinking when you wrote this rant. I wonder if you asked any of our troops that are defending this nation your little "impromptu survey" or just the regular person on the street. I would not be surprised if many of our troops cannot answer the questions to your satisfaction. In fact, I don't think when I raised my right hand many years ago that the USAF even cared if I knew who Betsy Ross was much less where she sewed the flag while sitting in her rocking chair. It seems to me that it is easy to defend the USA not knowing the questions you ask.

I guess we are a nation of "phonies" and do not meet your requirements of being Americans. Now Frank, let me be frank about an observation made by myself and probably most of the literate members of our social group. While you were awake in the eighth grade history class, you were obviously asleep in the English class. I'm not sure if you understand how you use an apostrophe. I would also like to know how you take a country for *granite*? Last time I checked granite is stone, rock, things you make buildings out of or throw at people. I also wonder if you really know why we celebrate Christmas.

You see Frank, if you want to impress people with your opinions it would be wise to be able to use the English language properly. I am sure that I have made some mistakes in my response to your rant but the mistakes I made are not glaring abortions of this nations adopted language. It makes you sound like an idiot and I know you aren't an idiot.

Do us all a favor and remain in the position of the editor. I think you are doing a great job until you get off on one of your crazy illiterate rants. Try a little tact and understanding that everyone in this great nation doesn't think the same way as you. Arrogance is not a good trait.

By the way, I could answer all the questions except where the stars and stripes was made. I guess I'm a "phony" and undeserving of being a proud American.

Kind Regards,

Emmett Thompson

FFC member

***Editors Note:* Emmett, you took this to personal. "If you don't know where we have been, you will not know where we are going" . Also, I do know the true meaning of Christmas and it's not the Wall Street version. That go's for Memorial Day , the key word is Memorial not the Wall Street version of celebrate, it's a day of mourning not celebrating.**

Letter to the Editor- from Carol Scoglio 5/29/10

“For the good of the club” - It’s a phrase we hear repeated often at the club’s meetings. If we take that phrase at it’s meaning- then items that are “good for the club” have a level of importance.

My husband Joe & I have been FFC MVPA members since 1999. We attend a lot of events, and I think one would reasonably describe us as “active” participating members. When we joined this club, back in 1999, I had been the president of a local antique car club- the Kingdom of the Sun Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) for 7 years. Jim Baker- then president of the FFC MVPA, talked us into joining. Since we already had several other antique vehicles, we thought it would be a lot of fun to add an antique military vehicle to our “fleet”. And we were right- in the past 11 years, we have acquired 2 military vehicles, and made several lifelong friends. We drive our vehicles to events, no matter the distance, and even do “overnighters” or out of state events. We enjoy our display/ vehicles, and try to recruit new members often.

Which brings me to the reason for my letter. I read with interest the editorial in the last newsletter. In the Editor’s viewpoint- this club is going down, (or words to that effect). I also am reminded of a brief sentence printed a few months back by one of the Officers of the club- that this club has a “new” duty & responsibility to honor the soldier and military.

I want to remind everyone that the FFC MVPA & the national MVPA are “car” clubs. Our mission statement, philosophy & bylaws are all centered on that premise. So- I have to ask- when was the last time this club did a “car show” or other “car” related activity or event? When was the last time this club got together- just to get together and talk “cars” or to socialize in an atmosphere of “cars”? Can anyone even remember a “trail ride”? When did the mission of this club- “to preserve and honor the military vehicle”, become an instrument of “patriotic duty & honor” in this politically charged decade/ environment? I don’t recall voting to change the bylaws or mission statement. While I consider myself to be more patriotic than most people- “preserving” a military vehicle and “honoring” the soldier are not mutually exclusive of each other, but they aren’t “attached at the hip” either.

One’s patriotism (strong or weak) isn’t the root of what this club stands for. I don’t think it’s appropriate for anyone- officer, editor or member- to “call out” the membership for lack of perceived “support” for the ever-constant requests to display and honor the military soldiers & veterans. I realize that every organization “under the sun” calls our regional coordinators with requests for static displays. We seem to have become the answer to “who ya’ gonna call?” when “military representation & honor” are needed. And there are some who attend event after event. There are other club members that we never, ever see. In the Central Region, our wonderful group, we have a lot of wives that are very active. And we have a great time, no matter the event.

I think the regional coordinators are overwhelmed by the numerous requests for “patriotic honor” displays. The recent suggestion that the regions be “re-aligned” perhaps by “county lines” is going to the extreme. Do we really want 67 regions of the FFC MVPA in Florida? - 67 counties would make 67 regions. I think each regional coordinator knows their region best. They should be able to know “when to say no” to a request. There also should be no reason for the coordinator to bear the burden of notifying everyone all by themselves. You know-1 person calls 5 people who each call 5 people, etc. If we set up the “trees” in advance, to eliminate duplicate calling, wouldn’t that relieve some pressure off the regional head?

Another point I want to make- having been a club president for 7 years- as a member- you should only expect from a club what you are willing to put in to that club. In other words- if you expect a newsletter, then contribute to that newsletter. Why are most of the article submissions by the same people- what about the rest of you? When was the last time you sent in a suggestion for something to be included in the calendar of events? When was the last time you suggested and/ or helped to co-ordinate a get together? I think you get the idea-

Our newsletter Editor has done a fine job- with 200% effort. And he should be applauded and thanked for taking on a thankless job. But- 200% effort doesn't always mean a perfect outcome of results. When someone points out spelling, grammar or layout issues, that should be an opportunity to improve and learn from easy mistakes, not a reason to quit in frustration. Technology can be our friend, and suggestions for improvements should be welcomed, not blasted.

In closing- for the "good of the club" we should get back to our roots- we are a car club- have fun with your vehicle- isn't that why you own it? Isn't that why this club exists?

Editors note: Carol, I agree with what you say, but you misunderstood the realignment of the regions. What was meant by that was, (let me see if I can explain it to you) For example the central region, it will not be broken up by county, but the outer boundary's of the county's involved will be the new boundary of that region, like a cluster of county's. Also Charlie Hildabrant and I just did a car show for the East Lake Weir High School JROTC, that was organized by the seventeen year old Cadet Captain and he did it on his own. The turn out was dismal by the antique car owners. They had about over 50 space's for them and only 10 showed up. We told the kid, if he wanted to do it again to call me or Charlie and we will organize and promote it for him. Plus the Southeast region go's to one of the biggest car shows in the state every Friday night, not just once a month, that's every Friday night. It's known as the Tower Shop's Car Show. I have found in the past, that a few car shows are put on by Car Dealers to promote their Dealerships, if they are going to do this, that's fine, but do not charge the car owner a registration fee. I believe it has been the policy of the club not to charge anyone for a event, and we do not expect to be charged for doing one. (with the exception of the Rally, which is promoting the club)



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