

The Beginning Story of Regional Group #24

By: Wayne Deitrich

On November 30, 2014, Regional Group #24 will celebrate its 45th Anniversary. How many of us know any of the details of how RG #24 was formed?

In mid-1969, S.R. Jones placed an ad in the Atlanta paper inviting interested parties to meet at a local parking lot for the purpose of forming a club dedicated to the goal of enjoying flathead V-8 Fords. Several old Ford enthusiasts showed up at the appointed time to learn what might be possible. Eventually, on October 5, 1969, S.R. wrote to the national organization in San Leandro, CA stating that 20 members of a local Atlanta group wished to obtain a charter from the national club to form a Georgia chapter of the Early Ford V-8 Club of America (EFV8CA). S.R. stated that the local club met every month on the first Sunday.

After sending a check for \$7.00 on October 17 to join the national club as a member, S.R. sent a second letter on November 4, petitioning for a Regional Charter and announcing that the new group would be called "The Georgia Regional Group". The petition was signed by seven members of the local club: S.R. Jones, acting Secretary & Treasurer; R.T. McDaniel; Elmer Turvey; Braton Davis; Ralph Burtz; Mike Elias and Gene Terrell.

Three days later a Steering Committee was formed consisting of Jones, Davis, Burtz, Elias and John Draper.

During the EFV8CA Board Meeting on November 30, 1969, the Directors voted to grant two Regional Group Charter Certificates to Georgia Regional Group #24, with eleven founding members, and Wichita Regional Group #25, with six founding members.

After receiving its charter, RG #24 elected as its officers for 1970 - S.R. Jones, President; Mike Elias, Vice President and Braton Davis, Secretary. By July 1970, RG #24 had grown to 35 active members!

The original eleven founding members are believed to include: S.R. Jones*, R.T. McDaniel*, Braton Davis*, Ralph Burtz*, Mike Elias, Gene Terrell, John Draper*, and Larry Bailey. It is possible, but not confirmed, that the following three men also could have been founding members: Fred Sheram*, J.C. Hortman* and J.C. Appling*.

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* Deceased