



Exhaust Whistle



December 2024 - Official publication of the AACA Great Southern Region - Serving Central Alabama Vol. 36 No. 12

Happy New Year! Join us for our first meeting of the year January 23



Christmas Party at the Gardner's Home

We had a fabulous time at the Christmas party. Thanks to the Gardner's hospitality and offering to host the party at their home. The event was well attended and the food was delicious. We were able to inspect Bill's treasures before lunch which

featured many unusual items. Their home was beautifully decorated for Christmas which helped to create a festive spirit for the lunch.

Thank you, Bill and Linda, for a wonderful time!
-Vicki Bolton

Continued on page 3

A Note From The

PRESIDENT

I hope this note finds all of you well and enjoying the holiday season and ready for 2025. I am excited and encouraged by the growth in our club which just makes it more fun and interesting to all of us.

We are planning several drives/outings for this year starting with a drive to the Wellborn Musclegar Museum in Alexander City in January. I will be sending out an email next week with details and hope that it works out for many if you to attend.

Please be safe and enjoy the ride, car and life.

Let's Drive in 25

Ken McClellan



Check out our website!

This is your club!

greatsouthern.aaca.com

Show off your vehicle(s) under members vehicles

Find an event under calendar, National or local

Email realracegril1@gmail.com with links you would like on our page under links.



AACA National Headquarters
P.O. Box 417 Hershey, PA 17033
Founded 1935 717.534.1910
www.aaca.org

**Dedicated to the preservation,
restoration and maintenance of
automobiles and automotive history**

Membership in the AACA is required to be a
member of the Great Southern Region
Ownership of an antique car is optional

The Exhaust Whistle

Great Southern Region, Birmingham, AL
Email stories and photos to Charlotte at
Realracegirl1@yahoo.com

The Exhaust Whistle is a monthly publication of the AACA Great Southern Region, view expressed in the Exhaust Whistle are not necessarily those of the Region officers of AACA. Original material may be reprinted if credit is given.

2024 Officers

President: Ken McClellan
Vice President: Bill Gardner
Treasurer: Vicki Bolton
Secretary: Vicki Bolton
Editor/Webmaster: Charlotte Dahlenburg
Activities: Bill Gardner





Gathering in the kitchen or at the table is fun for all!

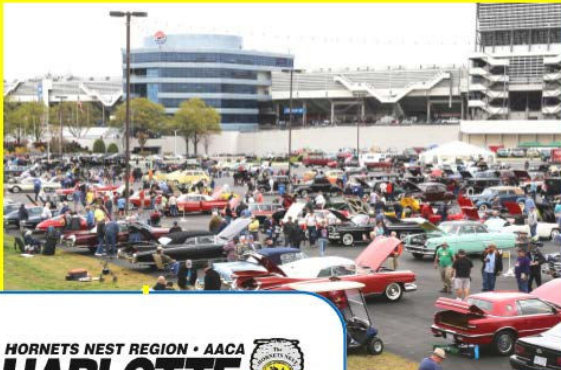


Alabaster Christmas Parade

A cherished tradition and one of Alabaster's signature holiday events, the Alabaster Christmas Parade brought together residents, local businesses, and students from various schools and organizations to march along Highway 31 South on Saturday, December 7.

James Wagon drove the Grand Marshal, Glenn McGriff, in a 1957 Cadillac Series 62 convertible. Thanks to perfect weather, James was able to lower the top for the occasion. The 2024 parade theme was "An Old-Fashioned Christmas."

**Antique Automobile Club of America
Southeastern Spring Nationals
April 5, 2025 at Charlotte AutoFair**
Hosted by Hornets Nest Region, AACA
Meet Email: hornetsnestregionaaca@windstream.net



HORNETS NEST REGION • AACA
CHARLOTTE
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CHARLOTTE MOTOR SPEEDWAY
April 3 - 5, 2025

**AACA Southeastern
Spring Nationals
Information
Region Office
704-841-1990
Mon-Thur 9-3**

Hornets Nest Region
Antique Automobile Club of America
9307-H Monroe Road
Charlotte, NC 28270

**ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB
OF AMERICA**

Vehicle Registrations Will Be Handled
With the Customary AACA Process.

November Meeting Minutes

Minutes of meeting on 12/14/2024

We met at Bill and Linda's for the Christmas Party. We had a short meeting where it was proposed that we keep the same officers for 2025. The proposal was seconded, voted on and passed by unanimous agreement.

We also discussed plans for January.

Ken will investigate going to the Wellborn Muscle Car Museum in Alexander City.

There was also discussion about finding another place to meet with a bigger room.

Although Dale's Grill has been a great place to meet, we have reached a point where we have outgrown the room. (What a wonderful problem to have!)

If anyone has any ideas about a different meeting place, please let us know.

Respectfully Submitted Vicki Bolton



Local Calendar

Cruise Ins

Cruise Ins

- 1st Tuesday - 5-8pm** Petro Bucksville 22526 Highway 216 McCalla
- Thursday Weekly - 6-9pm** VFW Post 6022, 7001 University Blvd E, Cottondale
- 1st Saturday - 8-11am** Hoovers Tactical Firearms Cruise In 1561 Montgomery Hwy. Hoover. Hosted by Dixie Vintage Antique Automobile Club
- First Saturday - 9-2pm.** Cruising on the Square. Downtown Jasper (April – Sept)
- 2nd Saturday - 5-8pm** Apr-Oct Bee Line Highway Classics & Cruisers Railroad St, Hartselle
- 2nd Saturday - 6-9pm** Apr-Oct Alabama Misfits Jack's Exit 267 off I-65 1195 Walker Chapel Rd, Flutondale
- 2nd Saturday - 8-11am** - Magic City Octane. Saks Fifth Plaza 129 Summit Blvd, Birmingham
- 3rd Saturday - 6pm** Tallahassee Shopping Center 400 Gilmer Ave
- 3rd Saturday - 2-5pm** Hooters Hwy 119 & Oak Mountain Park Road, Pelham
- 3rd Saturday - 3:30-8:30pm** Home Depot 41310 US Hwy 280 Sylacauga
- 3rd Saturday - 4:30-7:30pm** Home Depot 3784 US 431 Phoenix City
- 3rd Saturday – 6-9pm** Jack's Drive in Blountsville (May-Aug)
- 4th Saturday - 5-9pm** Pizza Bar 141 2nd St NW Carbon Hill
- 4th Saturday – 8-10:30am** 1110 Sparkman St. NW Hartselle American Legion Post 52
- Saturday Weekly 8:30-10:30** Shops of Colonnade 3418 Colonnade Pkwy, Birmingham
- 3rd Sunday - 1-5pm** Casual Pint, 5541 Grove Blvd, Hoover
- 3rd & 5th Sunday 3pm** 1204 Forestdale Square, Forestdale
- Last Saturday – 5pm-?** 7900 Vaughn Rd at Taylor Rd Montgomery

Shows

April

19 Raven Spratlin Memorial Car Show. 10am Central Alabama Community College, 1675 Cherokee Rd, Alexander City. Entry \$30. Contact Luke Kidwille 256-307-5924

GSR Calendar

January 23	Dinner Meeting
February 27	Dinner Meeting
March 27	Dinner Meeting
April 24	Dinner Meeting
May 22.....	Dinner Meeting
June 26	Dinner Meeting
July 24.....	Dinner Meeting
August 28	Dinner Meeting
September 25.....	Dinner Meeting
October 23.....	Dinner Meeting
November 20.....	Dinner Meeting
December 18.....	Dinner Meeting

AACA Calendar

February 6-8

Annual Convention

Location: Charlotte, North Carolina Sponsor: National Headquarters

April 3-5

Southeastern Spring Nationals

Location: Charlotte, North Carolina Sponsor: Hornets Nest Region

May 1-3

Western Spring Nationals/Grand Nationals

Location: Tuscon, Arizona Sponsor: Tucson Region

June 1-7

Vintage Tour (1931 and earlier)

Location: Pennsylvania Sponsor: Buzzard Breath Touring Region

June 19-21

Eastern Spring National

Sponsor: Whitewater Region AACA

July 2-5

Central Spring Nationals

Location: Auburn, Indiana Sponsor: Crossroads of America Region



KEEP CALM AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Dues are \$20.00 per family. You must be a member of AACA to be a member of the Great Southern Region. AACA Annual dues are \$45.00. All club dues will be collected at the next meeting or mail to: Vicki Bolton, Secretary/ Treasurer 2056 Shebia Dr, Hoover AL 35216. Register online with AACA.org for 2025.





The Autoped - The first electric scooters

The first electric

Reprinted with permission from riderguide.com. See full article at <https://riderguide.com/blog/the-first-electric-scooters/>

It's official; electric scooters are taking over our cities. But did you know, that the first electric scooters appeared on the streets over one century ago?

Today, electric scooters are one of the best ways for commuters to get to the office while avoiding public transport. But these environmentally friendly modes of transportation are also perfect for anyone that wants to enjoy a convenient - and more sustainable - lifestyle.

The chances are, you've seen electric scooters in your city and might even use them yourself. According to Cision, specialists estimate that the North American e-scooter market will be worth \$15.41 billion by 2029 and account for 3,182 units.

With the USA attempting to achieve a carbon-free power sector by 2035, it's clear that scooters will continue to grow in popularity, as they're sustainable and cost-effective - but where did they come from?

The First Electric Scooters

The 1800s changed how people worked and lived, becoming one of the most instrumental historical eras - the industrial revolution. Before the late 1700s, countries

survived through agriculture and manual labor. This caused issues with productivity, and small-scale farming operations often proved inefficient.

Then, in the 1700s, Thomas Newcomen changed the course of history by creating a prototype for the first ever steam engine. Newcomen initially used the machine for pumping water from mine shafts, but other engineers soon decided to experiment with the technology and



Lady Florence Norman on an Autoped

open up new avenues.

By the early to mid-1800s, steam trains were fast becoming the new means of transportation, taking over from the traditional horse and cart. But the growing wave of innovation had started to pave way for other creators, and in this era, another vehicle came about--the Velocipede.

The Velocipede was the brainchild German inventor, Baron Karl von Drais de Sauerbrun, and its unique design paved the way for bicycles, kick scooters, and the autoped - the first electric scooters.

The Autoped - The First Electric Scooters

Kick scooters provided an exciting way for people to travel around cities, but inventor Arthur Hugo Cecil Gibson wanted to push things further. He decided to follow in the footsteps of the battery-operated bicycle by creating a motorized scooter.

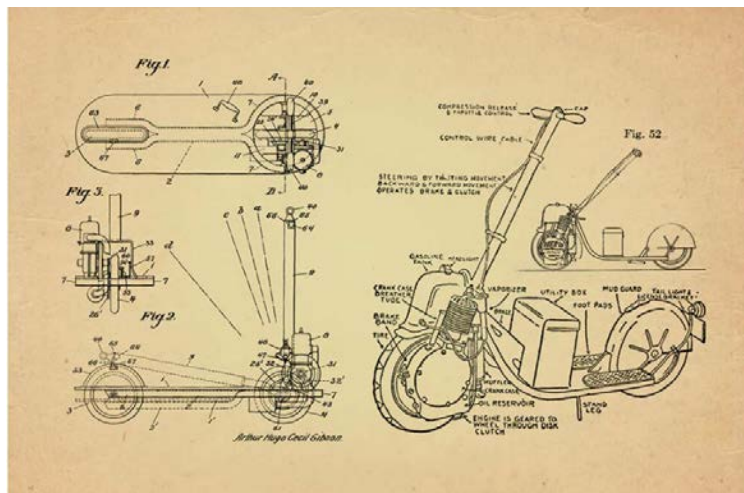
He filed for a patent in 1913, and the transport device became known as the Autoped. In many ways, it was similar to the electric scooters we know and love today, but it still had some differences. For example, these first electric scooters were far bulkier than the sleek e-scooters we have now.

Gibson's mission was to make an invention that was lighter than other transportation options and one that would allow people to get to where they needed to be conveniently.

The patent came into effect in 1916, and the inventor set up a factory in Long Island, New York, to manufacture the scooters and sell them for \$100 (what would be valued today as \$2,718).

What Made the Autoped Special?

The Autoped would play a significant role in the history



Schematics for the Autoped were patented and awarded to inventor Arthur Hugo Cecil Gibson in 1916

of electric scooters due to its originality and practicality in helping people move around.

Though the device was gas-powered, it was a giant leap from the traditional wooden kick scooter, and the company had every reason to believe that the Autoped would revolutionize short trips. Let's take a look at the specs:

- Battery from the Eveready Battery Company
- Engine mounted over the front wheel
- A four-stroke engine (Air-cooled, 155cc)
- Speeds of up to 30 miles per hour
- Portability due to a collapsible steering column
- Activated brakes

Advertisements for the Autoped claimed that the scooter was "Light, easily operated and easy to ride." The company even called it "the motor vehicle of the millions" and said it could run 125 miles on just one gallon of gasoline (Smithsonian).

While we now know the issues that gas-powered scooters can cause the environment, it's important to remember that these devices were a colossal move forward in the 1900s, as they were the first installation in the micro-mobility revolution we're continuing to refine to date.

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Questions? Contact **Jeff Stumb**
 ☎ (423) 385-4414 ✉ 2025gliddentourky@gmail.com

Distance from these cities...
 Chicago ~ 6 hours Nashville ~ 2 hours
 Atlanta ~ 6 hours Indianapolis ~ 3 hours
 St. Louis ~ 3 hours Columbus ~ 5 hours

The Touring Club
www.VMCCA.org





Pigeon Hole Parking System

by Mark Maynard - Mark Maynard has written about cars, their people, and products for 30 years. You can email him at MaynardsGarage@gmail.com or visit his website, MaynardsGarage.com.

The self-supporting Pigeon Hole Parking structures seemed like a good idea at the time. But cars did get trapped, and the format was a short-lived endeavor

A pigeon holding parking structure from 1955 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. many cars from the 1950s can be seen in the individual parking slots

The free-standing Pigeon Hole Parking structure uses an elevator to raise the car, then slide it along the row, and insert it into a space in the steel frame.

The deadly collapse of the four-story garage in Lower Manhattan Tuesday reminded me of this 1955 photo of the so-called Pigeon Hole Parking system.

I could find no reports of motorists losing lives in this once creative format to help expand parking space in metropolitan areas, but cars did get trapped, and the

The free-standing Pigeon Hole Parking structure uses an elevator to raise the car, then slide it along the row, and insert it into a space in the steel frame.

format was a short-lived endeavor.

According to a report in the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Wash., brothers Vaughn and Leo Sanders came up with the idea for a robotic parking valet. They were loggers who also ran a silver mine and a lumber mill in Northport, near the Canadian border. Leo came up with the idea of robotic parking while operating a forklift at the mill.

After serving in World War II, the brothers founded Pigeon Hole Parking in 1947, wrote Jesse Tinsley in his 2014 report for the Spokesman-Review. "They patented a machine that would lift a car, slide it down the row and poke it into a space in a steel frame. No building with an elevator is required, just the space.

Cost-Effective Parking System?

The business plan for Pigeon Hole Parking seemed cost-effective. One or two people could run the entire operation. The Sanderses claimed that spaces in a concrete structure cost \$1,200 each versus \$300 for a Pigeon Hole space.

The brothers began building units for Los Angeles, Phoenix, New York, Chicago, and other urban areas. Cities in Europe and South America, which had narrow streets, expressed interest in the concept. Eventually, Spokane, Wash., would have four Pigeon Hole machines.

There were other parking machines on the market, but few were as popular as the Spokane original.

A Pigeon Hole Parking structure could store three to five times as many cars as a surface lot. The company went public in 1951. Over the years, Vaughn and Leo Sanders fought off takeover attempts by their board and stockholders. The company also sued other companies, some run by former Pigeon Hole employees, for patent infringement, wrote Tinsley.

Sales slowed after several years, Vaughn Sanders said,

because financing new structures was difficult. A more likely reason was that the machinery often broke down, trapping cars for days while repairs were made. And the machinery couldn't handle rapid surges in traffic.

Pigeon Hole Parking went out of business around 1971.

The photo with this story shows a 1955 Pigeon Hole structure in Harrisburg, Pa. The open-air garage was connected to an office building, according to the caption information with the image.

How many cars in the pigeon holes can you ID? I like the Studebaker with white-walls. And is that a 1955 Packard Clipper?

Look closely in the background for the Pennsylvania State Capitol.



Speedster articles courtesy of AACCA

ATTENTION: Regions & Chapters **\$5,000 Grants Available to Regions Hosting National Shows & Tours** **That Have NOT Hosted for Over Ten Years**

By Wayne Tuck, AACCA VP National Activities, rwtuck@comcast.net

The AACCA National Board of Directors realizes that the financial risk involved with hosting a national show or tour has caused many regions and chapters to be hesitant to volunteer to host a national event. Some regions simply do not have the funds available to even think about hosting.

At the National Board Meeting in Hershey, PA, the board approved a \$5,000 grant for any region receiving board approval to host a national event that has not hosted one for more than ten years.

There are many opportunities to host one of these events. We have Winter Nationals available and will schedule up to three years in advance. Spring and Fall

National shows are available to schedule for Eastern, Southeastern, Central and Western Divisions, also up to 3 years in advance.

Touring events share the same opportunities. Founders Tour, Sentimental Tour, Vintage Tour, Reliability Tour, Glidden Tour and all four Divisional Tours have available openings for your region to reserve for up to three years in advance.

For more information, please contact Wayne Tuck, VP National Activities, at rwtuck@comcast.net or 609-240-1561.

Don't miss this opportunity to host a national event. Take advantage of this special grant program while the National Board has this offer available!





The Macungie Truck Show

By John McCarthy VP—
 Endowments

The town Macungie in Pennsylvania and surrounding states is synonymous with car shows.

From June to September there are several shows each month at Macungie Memorial Park--to name a few the General Motors Show, Antique Truck Show (three days in their 44th year), Das Awkscht Fescht sponsored by the Ontelaunee Region AACA (three days in their 61st year), Corvette Show, Wheels of Time (three days featuring hot rods and customs), plus many cruise nights with a large number of food truck vendors.

Then in mid-June there is the Antique Truck Show sponsored by the Antique Truck Club of America headquartered in Boyertown, PA. Not only is this a large show with close to a thousand trucks, but the trucks are

also really BIG. While there may be a couple of handfuls of F-150's, Dakota's, and Silverado's, the vast majority of the trucks are Kenworth's, Brockway's, International's, Peterbilt's, Sterling's, and of course, Mack, whose factory is a few miles away. Many of these trucks are trailered by even bigger trucks for states in the South, Mid-west and Canada. There is also a large selection of orphaned trucks going back to the early 1900's like Autocar, Diamond T, Hahn, Detroit Diesel powered Studebakers, DIVCO, Moreland, REO and even Crosley. Crosley owners should never complain about detailing their trucks--- just think about what the Peterbilt owners have to go through.

Since I don't have a truck, what is nice about this show is that I don't have anything to do other than roam around and enjoy the trucks. There is also a large selection of vendors selling truck parts and truck models and toys. To get a good feel of this show there is an excellent video on YouTube "the trucks arriving at the Macungie Truck Show in 2023".

Rummage Box articles courtesy of AACA

Do You Know About the Mileage Award Program?

Reprinted from the Speedster

If you enjoy driving your antique vehicle, start your engine and get recognized for driving your AACA - approved vehicles throughout the calendar year with the Mileage Award Program (MAP). Participation is voluntary and tracking mileage is your responsibility.

Any time a vehicle is driven - anywhere for any reason - the mileage counts towards the award level. Once you sign up, you will receive a badge and awards at 2,000 and 5,000 and each 5,000 mile increment thereafter. The cost to become a MAP member is a one-time fee of \$25.

Go to http://www.aaca.org/images/pdf/AACA_Mileage_Award_Program_Application.pdf for a Mileage Award Program application.

