

February 2025 - Official publication of the AACA Great Southern Region - Serving Central Alabama Vol. 37 No. 2

## See you at our meeting February 27 at The Original Golden Rule in Irondale



### 2025 AACA Annual Convention

Wednesday, February 5 Most people dread a dentist visit, but not when yours is a car guy. I actually look forward to my appointments just to hear about his latest project and to share mine. It's like having a conversation about engines and horsepower while getting your teeth cleaned! That's one visit I don't mind.

After the dentist, we packed the car to the brim, getting ready to hit the road. We were ready for an adventure, so as soon as we left the house, we were set to head out of town. Our first stop was the Optimist Club meeting, where the speaker shared fascinating details about Russian submarines in the Gulf during World War II. Concord, NC—the home of NASCAR and the iconic Charlotte Motor Speedway. The buzz of race cars and the spirit of speed filled the air as we made our way. By the time we reached Atlanta around 6 pm, we were ready to relax. We found our hotel, settled in, and had planned to stretch our legs with a walk, but with the game on, we decided to stay put. The excitement of the road had led to a quieter evening, but sometimes that's the best kind of rest.

Thursday, February 6 We hit the road early, determined to get to Charlotte with plenty of time to spare. Since check-in wasn't until 4 pm, we

After the meeting, we drove north toward

# A Note From The **PRESIDENT**

As you may have recently heard or read, there have been multiple discussions about changing the location of our Great Southern Region meetings. Not only that, I have been proposing changing the format to formal dinner meetings every two months and a drive the other months. We started out the year with what appears to have been an enjoyable drive in January.

We are following up with a dinner meeting that is scheduled for February 27th that will be held at The Original Golden Rule in Irondale and will be at our normal time of 6 PM. A few locations have been suggested and it is my intention to have it at various recommended restaurants to not only try out different venues but to also "spread the love around" to various parts of town. If and when the majority prefers we stay at limited locations, we will continue this practice. Remember, it's your club so we certainly welcome your suggestions.

March will then be a drive to the covered bridges and Palisades Park in Blount County. Firm day and time will be determined on the 27th.

Please allow us to enjoy your company at this next meeting and beyond.

Let's Drive in 25

Ken McClellan



Schools are in session so please be careful on the roads, those children are our kids and grandkids.



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







Touring the Hendrick's private collection



Board of Directors meet and greet



Paper Memorabilia by Terry Bond

made a trip to Dairy Queen for lunch with Vicki and Art. It was a nice, low-key way to fuel up before the next adventure.

Our afternoon was all about cars. We toured the Hendrick Heritage Center, which houses Rick Hendrick's private collection, along with the public collection at the Hendrick complex. Rick's collection is absolutely breathtaking—a staggering 220 highperformance, rare, and classic cars, each one a testament to automotive history. The 58,000-sf museum felt like stepping into a time capsule of car culture, with replica venues capturing key moments from his life.

This year's trade show had a fun twist—prizes for visiting every booth and collecting stamps. It turned the event into a bit of a scavenger hunt, making it more engaging and exciting. But beyond the thrill of the stamps, it gave us the chance to connect with the people manning each booth. Conversations flowed naturally as we stopped by, learning more about what they were offering while exchanging a few stories and insights along the way. It was a perfect balance



Road Map to Your Next National Event seminar

of exploring, networking, and having a little fun in the process.

As the day wound down, we attended the evening program, starting with the Directors' Welcome Reception at the hotel. The menu was a carb lover's dream—a pasta bar with all the fixings and a tempting array of desserts. But this wasn't just about food. It was a moment for local Regions and Chapters to come together and make their annual donations to



Trade Show was always packed







The Wonderful World of Woodies



Women in Automotive History Presentation

either the AACA or the AACA Library. A great way to wrap up a day filled with passion for cars and community.

Friday, February 7 The 2025 AACA Convention was officially underway, and the day kicked off with a series of seminars that kept us on our toes. I dove in with Terry Bond's "Paper Automobilia," followed by Dave Robertson's "Road to Your First Nationals," and wrapped it up before lunch with Walt Kostrzewa's "The Wonderful World of Woodies." Each session was packed with fascinating details, feeding my passion for cars and history.

After lunch, we headed into Charlotte to visit the NASCAR Hall of Fame Museum. We had a mission: find Curt's brick and explore the city a bit. But to our surprise, our encounter with Jewell, the ticket taker, turned into something unexpected. After chatting with her for a bit, she handed us tickets and simulator passes for the day—an unplanned bonus! We had a blast on the simulator the first time around, though the second time, it felt like a demolition derby with all the other drivers crashing into us.

The evening continued with the Regions and



NASCAR Hall of Fame



Vicki presenting a check at the Regions and Chapters dinner



Regions and Chapters dinner



Casino Night







Master Judging School



Awards Banquet

Chapters Dinner, a chance to relax and enjoy great company. But the fun didn't stop there. After the dinner, we stepped into the hallway and were transported to the Roaring '20s Speakeasy Casino Night. The atmosphere was electric—cards flying, people laughing, and the excitement palpable. After two hours of playing, I was still holding onto \$10,000 to trade for raffle tickets. It was a night full of surprises, laughter, and a little bit of luck!

Saturday, February 8 It was a day packed with learning and honoring tradition. I spent most of the morning attending three back-to-back judging schools: the National Senior Masters Judges School, the Chief Judge School, and after a quick lunch, the Team Captain CJE. My mind was buzzing with all the new knowledge, but there was a brief escape during lunch when I stepped outside to check out the local car club member display. About 20 cars, all from the year 2000 and older, were on display—each one a snapshot of automotive history.

After the seminars, we had a short break before heading into the General Membership Meeting. It was a memorable moment when Vicki Bolton was



Car display at the hotel



Getting ready for the award presentation



2025 President, Dave Anspach and Executive Vice President, Vicki Bolton

installed as the Executive VP of AACA, with plans to take on the role of President in 2026. Her journey is an inspiring one, and we were lucky to witness it firsthand.

That evening, we attended the National Awards Banquet—a grand affair where at least 500 people gathered to receive their hard-earned awards. It was humbling to be in such company, and I was proud to be part of the evening. I had the honor of receiving









the Master Editor Award for our monthly newsletter, The Exhaust Whistle, for the Great Southern Region in Birmingham, Alabama. But the night didn't stop there—Darrin's 1955 Chevy Bel Air two-door wagon were nominated and selected for a National Award and Vicki Bolton nominated and selected for a Natioal Minicycle Award Winicycle Award Wield Awar

Award for her 1958 Cushman Eagle as well! Walking across the stage to receive that recognition was such a special moment, knowing how much passion and effort had gone into it. It was a celebration of hard work, camaraderie, and the love we all share for cars. Mark your calendars for an unforgettable experience at the 2026 National Convention and Awarda Parquet

at the 2026 National Convention and Awards Banquet in the vibrant town of Chantilly, Virginia, February 5-7! This incredible event is designed for every member, offering a wealth of exciting opportunities to connect, learn, and be inspired. From breathtaking sights to invaluable experiences, there's something for everyone. Whether you're looking to network, explore, or simply enjoy the festivities, you won't want to miss out on this amazing event! Come join us for a memorable time and celebrate in style. See you there!

Charlotte



The Military Sponsorship Program is available to all of the Military Veterans that have proudly served to protect our homeland and freedoms.

With this program, AACA is extending a limited number of complimentary 2023 memberships for firsttime AACA applicants. More information on this program and an application can be found on the AACA website under member information and drop down to Military. These complimentary 2023 memberships are for firsttime AACA applicants and are limited by the funds available for this program. These complimentary applications for membership are intended for individuals who have a genuine interest in the antique car hobby.





## What Have Non Been Np 70?

## World of Wheels 2025

Arthur and I went to the World of Wheels for the first time in several years. It was a lot bigger than I remembered. There were cars and trucks of every size shape and description including restored antiques, custom cars, and various vendors. Several car clubs and restoration shops had exhibits.

It was an enjoyable day and took several hours to see everything.

- Vicki Bolton



Custom Car at World of Wheels



Some very nice cars at World of Wheels



Jeff Loebler's car at the World of Wheels



Cool display at World of Wheels



Most unusual car of World of Wheels





## Jake's Antique Show Dothan Alabama

Arthur and I drove to Dothan to assist as judges in a car show.

The event was held at the Dothan National Peanut Festival Grounds. There was an antique show indoors, a decent sized swap meet outside and the car show. There were about 100 cars in the show



Cars at the show



Cars at the show



Most unique car at the show

and there were rat rods, original cars, completely restored cars and custom street rods. It was a huge success and was billed as the "1st Annual." The New South Cruisers car club helped coordinate the car show. They had a great selection of food trucks which were all very busy. The weather turned out to be beautiful and warmed up nicely. If you think you might be interested in going next year, the web site is jakesantiqueshow.com

- Vicki Bolton



Custom car at the show





February 2025

## A Note From The EDITOR

The car show season is here, revving up with endless opportunities to cruise, explore, and connect. Whether it's a local show, a lively cruise-in, or a tour for a great cause, there's something for every enthusiast. Personally, I'm drawn to the smaller, community-driven events, especially those raising funds for meaningful causes. It's incredible to think that our shared love for cars can make a difference while we hang out with friends.

As you roll into these shows, remember—you've got a fresh audience in front of you. Ken and Bill are tirelessly working behind the scenes to curate events people want to attend, and they need your help to get the word out. Don't miss the chance to introduce someone new to our world. When you meet someone, grab their email and send them our newsletter. It's an awesome way to invite others into our community, and



it's packed with info that can spark interest.

And here's a little tip: keep a few past issues of the Antique Automobile magazine in your car. Not only does it make a great conversation starter, but you'll be helping the environment and showcasing the amazing benefits of being part of AACA. The magazine highlights everything from National Shows to exciting Tours and more, giving others a taste of what's in store.

Let's not forget, AACA also offers a free first-year membership—perfect for newcomers and veterans alike. These simple tools are all you need to help spread the word and grow our club.

So, what are you waiting for? Grab your keys, hit the shows, and let's make this season one to remember!

Charlotte





## 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. 6200 Grand River Blvd E, Leeds, AL
- 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 3pm1204 Forestdale Square, Forestdale
Last Saturday – 5pm-? 7900 Vaugh Rd at Taylor Rd Montgomery

## AtteCA Calendan

#### 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 July 24-26

Grand Nationals/Zenith Location: Dayton, Ohio Sponsor: National Headquarters

#### Shows March

- 1 12th Annual Comer Museum Car & Bike Show 9-2pm. 711 N. Broadway Sylacauga, AL. Reg \$25. 50/50. Door Prizes, Food, Entertainment
- 1 5th Annual Anna Jent Memorial Scholarship Fund Car Show. 9-1pm On Main Street in Sumtion, AL. Entry \$20. Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles and Model and Diecast Cars! Info 205-317-6298
- 8 Benefit for the Alabama Swat Association Car Show. 9am-12pm 5500 Stadium Trace Pkwy, Hoover. \$20 entry. Info www.mobincbhm.com
- 8 Trussville Car Show. 10-2pm 1st Methodist Church of Trussville. Open to all Cars & Trucks, Music, Food Truck, Trophies. Info www.trussville.org
- **9 Mustang Sally Car Show** 1-4pm Spillway Park Prattville, Food trucks, DJ, Door prizes.
- **14-15 1st Annual Car Show Swap Meet** start at 9 am, 8332 AL 191, Maplesville Info 205-644-3315
- **15 Inaugural Show Your Ride Show.** 8am-2pm 200 Parker Dr, Pelham, AL. Cars, trucks, Jeeps, & motorcycles. Food trucks, live DJ, scholarship auction, and random drawing.
- **15 Calera Main Street Car Show.** 11-3pm Calera Courtyard. Reg\$10, Games, Contest, Music, Food, Trophies. Info caleracarshow.com
- **15 The Worx Auto Expo 10-4pm.** 3113 Park Court, Millbrook AL Trophies, Food Trucks, Giveaways
- **22 Eulaton Church Car Show. 3-7pm.** 1835 Gate 8 Road, Anniston AL. Car, Bike, or Truck. Info and registration at eulatonfirstbaptist.com
- **30 6th Annual Cruise In** 3-7pm First Baptist Church 128 North Chalkville Rd., TrussvilleFood Trucks Trophies, Free Vehicle Registration, Door prizes

## 95R Calendar

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
August 30 . Labor Day Weekend Car Show at Pepper Place	
September 25	Dinner Meeting
October 23	Dinner Meeting
November 20	Dinner Meeting
December 18	Dinner Meeting





## **Marvelous Motorama Exhibit of GM Dream Cars**



The 1953 GM Motorama display in the Waldorf Astoria New York. (Petersen Museum/GM)

#### A special display of six GM Motorama concept cars will be on view through March 2026 in the Petersen Automotive Museum, Los Angeles

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 Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles will celebrate "Dream Cars" from the 1950s with its newest exhibit, "GM's Marvelous Motorama: Dream Cars From the Joe Bortz Collection." The unique display will open on March 16 and run through March 2026. The exhibit will feature six concept cars, displayed initially at GM Motorama shows in 1953, 1954, and 1955.

Staged in the Audrey and Martin Gruss Foundation Gallery, the exhibit will explore the history of General Motors' traveling Motorama shows. Legendary GM stylist Harley Earl used the shows to present experimental nonproduction cars that featured design and technological concepts. Some of his creations were put into production, including the 1953 Corvette.







In the mid-1980s, collector Joe Bortz purchased the four cars from the Warhoops scrapyard in Sterling Heights, Mich. Here, he rescues the 1955 Chevy Biscayne. (Photo courtesy of Joe Bortz)

"These cars are the Picassos and Rembrandts of this automotive generation. To see six of them together, all from the '50s, and all the real deal is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." — Joe Bortz, collection owner

The Marvelous Motorama exhibit will feature six cars, including three rescued from near destruction at Warhoops Auto and Truck Parts in Sterling Heights, Mich. After their time in the spotlight, most "Dream Cars" were sent to scrap yards to be cut apart and crushed. Four cars were saved by Warhoops employees and squirreled away among junked car bodies. After hearing rumors about the saved "Dream Cars" in the mid-1980s, collector Joe Bortz purchased the four cars from the scrapyard.



The 1955 LaSalle II Roadster concept. (Petersen Automotive Museum/GM)

#### 6 Motorama Cars On View

Museum visitors to the Marvelous Motorama display will see the 1955 LaSalle II Roadster and 1955 Chevrolet Biscayne, which Bortz painstakingly restored after both were cut in half in preparation for the crusher, as well as a 1955 LaSalle Sedan in its "junkyard fresh" condition. Additional cars featured in the exhibit are the 1953 Pontiac Parisienne, 1953 Buick Wildcat, and a wholly original and unrestored 1954 Pontiac Bonneville Special.

"These cars are the Picassos and Rembrandts of this automotive generation," said Bortz. "To see six of them together, all from the '50s, and all the real deal is a oncein-a-lifetime opportunity."



An artist's rendering of the 1954 Bonneville Special bubble top. (Petersen Automotive Museum/GM)

"Joe Bortz has an incredibly unique collection of historic cars, the likes of which have never been displayed at the museum," said Petersen Automotive Museum Executive Director Terry L. Karges. "The Motoramas were an important part of automotive history, and we are excited to share these 'Dream Cars' with enthusiasts from around the world."

"GM's Marvelous Motorama: Dream Cars From the Joe Bortz Collection" will run through March 2026. To purchase tickets or for more information about the Petersen Automotive Museum, please visit Petersen.org/ exhibits.









The 1955 GM Motorama display in the Waldorf Astoria shows La Salle II concept cars. (Petersen Museum/GM)

#### About the Petersen

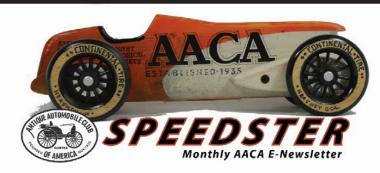
The Petersen Automotive Museum Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity. The museum is at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. (at Fairfax) in Los Angeles, 90036.

Admission prices: \$21 for general admission adults, \$19 for 62+, \$13 for youth (12-17), and \$13 for children ages 4 to 11. Active military with ID, personal care attendants, and children under age 4 are admitted free.

Museum hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

General information: (323) 930-CARS or visit Petersen.org.





Speedster articles courtesy of AACA

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

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

The AACA 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!









#### WANTED: A Few Good Men and Women! By Jack Harris, AACA 2024 National President

Being a Chapter and Region officer has been a very rewarding experience for me. I was first nominated as Chapter President 17 years ago. The

friendships and relationships I have made over these past years have been incredible. I would have never met so many great people across the country if I had not agreed to take a leadership role in AACA.

Once elected as Chapter President, I became more involved in the NC Region. This opened up a whole new group of new friends and colleagues, as we worked together for the hobby. As past NC Region President, I have served the past 6 years on the Region's Nominating Committee. In this capacity, I have called many people and asked them to serve as a Director or Officer. Unfortunately several times I was met with resistance or just a plain No I can't do it! You may only be one person, but you are one person who can offer something to the AACA, whether it is locally or in a broader capacity.

Everyone is busy and has a lot going on, but this hobby deserves all of our best efforts to make it grow and prosper. Your leadership can and will make a difference. We can't and should not count on the same people who always step up to help they also need the rest of us to pitch in. New blood helps form better ideas and will keep the club moving into the future. Everybody has a talent and can offer something to bring to this table. You never know what you can do until you give it a good try. If you can write, you can be the Chapter secretary. If you have some skill with your phone camera, you can be the photographer of your chapter newsletter and assist the editor. If your writing skills are better than mine, you can be the Chapter reporter or editor. If you have good computer skills, you can be the webmaster for your Region. And the list goes on.

Step up and help your Chapter or your Region today! Get involved. Agree to be on a committee. Take on an officer or director position!

Most people are intimidated at first of agreeing to a leadership role. Starting up as an assistant or teaming up with another person might make both of you confident that you can be a leader in your Chapter or Region. Just remember, you will never be alone in participation or in leadership there are many resources available to you from the National headquarters. There are people to answer all your questions and people who are willing to come to your area and offer assistance. Being an active member in AACA in a leadership role is hugely rewarding at every level. All it takes is to say YES one time and you never know where it might take you.

Everybody is capable of doing something big or small. We are in this together!

Rummage Box articles courtesy of AACA

## Mileage Award Program

so for those who enjoy driving their vintage vehicle, the AACA Mileage Award Program (MAP) has been set up. So, as the old saying goes, "Ladies and Gentlemen, start your engines" and prepare to enjoy AACA touring.

Anytime a vehicle is driven anywhere for any reason - the mileage counts towards the award level.

The vehicle owner must register

Touring is not a spectator sport, the vehicle in the MAP. Registration included completing the MAP form and returning it with \$25 to AACA Headquarters.

> When the vehicle is driven 2,000 miles it is eligible for the MAP award. The badge has places for each award: 1st Award - 2,000 mile; 2nd Award -5,000 mile; Subsequent Award(s) at each 5,000 mile increment.

Mail your copy 2 at each increment or 717-534-1910.



for National Headquarters to approve and you award will be mailed to you. Direct questions to general@aaca.org



