



Exhaust Whistle



March 2025 - Official publication of the AACA Great Southern Region - Serving Central Alabama

Vol. 37 No. 3

See you for our Let's Drive Tour April 12 Meet at the Tractor Supply in Trussville at 9am



Darrin and Charlotte's 1955 Chevy Bel Air

This car has been in the family since Darrin was born. It was originally purchased by Darrin's father, Fred, for Fred's sister to drive while he repaired her car.

Fred decided to keep the car, and several years later, he painted it maroon with a cream-colored top and installed pink shag carpet in it to celebrate his 10th wedding anniversary with Camille. Fred also swapped out the motor for his race car engine. He even drove the car from South Dakota to Denver

to street race, only to be quickly escorted to the state line.

Darrin has been slowly restoring the car to its original condition. It has participated in numerous AACA Tours, and in October, it was entered in the Huntsville Fall Nationals. Shortly after the show, we were informed of a nomination for a national award. In mid-December, we received the exciting news that the car had won a National Award in the Driver Participation Class Post-War category.

A Note From The **PRESIDENT**

Here we are with another month gone by with the weather getting warmer, making for pleasurable time for enjoying your classic. That can be through our drives or attending local car shows, which there are many.

Hopefully you have been reading my latest missives regarding our upcoming plans. If you haven't, then let me inform you and encourage you to participate. If you have read about these plans, then let this be your reminder to pull out your calendar and set aside time to join us.

As you should know, Mother Nature obviously thought we didn't need to travel on March 15th. Let's hope She will have a twinkle in her eye for our makeup date of April 12th. The drive remains the same as we tour the 3 covered bridges in Blount County, visit Palisades Park, and eat at Charlie B's in Oneonta. Don't miss it! Rain date is the 19th but let's hope we don't need it.

Please join us if there is any way possible. Your participation just makes it more fun for everyone.

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 realracegirl1@gmail.com with links you would like on our page under links.



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**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.

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Editor/Webmaster: Charlotte Dahlenburg
Activities: Bill Gardner



♥ GREAT SOUTHERN REGION ♥ **LET'S DRIVE** **TOUR**

SATURDAY

APRIL 12, 2025

DESTINATION:

Blount County Covered Bridges and Palisades Park

Let's meet in the parking lot of the

Tractor Supply in Trussville

5980 N Chalkville Road near I-59 at 9 AM.

We will enjoy lunch Charlie's Restaurant in Oneonta

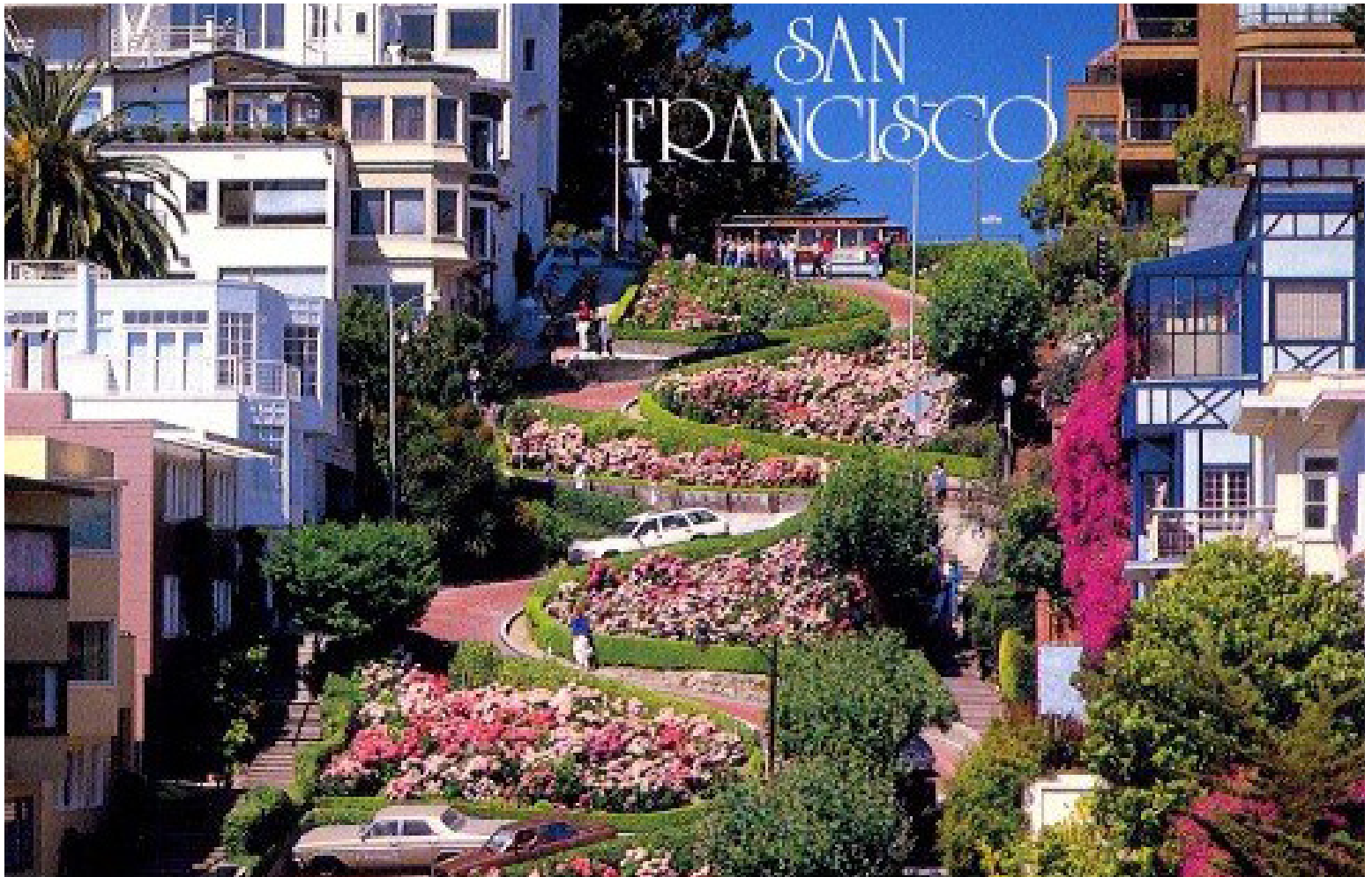
drive a classic weather permitting

(join us no matter what vehicle you choose)



email Ken at mcclekd@gmail.com if you plan to attend





A Picture collection view of Lombard Street

By Charlotte Dahlenburg

Let me take you back to a time when cars were still figuring out how to be... well, cars. It was 1922, and the streets were cobblestone, the engines were loud, and grease stains were practically a badge of honor. Back then, not everyone was convinced that these horseless carriages would amount to much. One street in San Francisco, Lombard Street, had a big problem. A steep one, to be exact. That 27-degree grade? Trying to drive up it with an old Model T was like trying to scale a cliff with your eyes closed.

Now, I'm no stranger to an engine or two—I've spent more hours than I care to admit tinkering under the hood of old classics. We car people, we understand that steep grades and vintage engines? Yeah, not a good mix. Those early engines just couldn't handle the strain. Gears would grind, engines would sputter, and people would have to slowly back down, hoping they didn't end up in someone's living room. But that's the thing about car enthusiasts—we love a challenge. And, well, folks living on that hill weren't about to let a little thing like gravity get the best of them.

Enter Carl Henry. Now, Carl wasn't your average fella

in a top hat; he was a man who knew his land. In fact, he owned most of the block. He looked at that hill and thought, "There's gotta be a better way." And, as luck



1922 Lombard Street under construction with a 1923 Oldsmobile 43A

Photo: San Francisco History Center, SF Public Library

would have it, he came up with a genius idea—a curve. A street that could wind its way up, instead of fighting the hill straight on. It was a bold idea, but you know what they say, necessity is the mother of invention.

But Carl wasn't working solo. The city called in Clyde Healy, an engineer with a sharp mind and an even sharper sense of practicality. Clyde had the daunting task of figuring out how to get those early cars to climb that beast of a hill without their engines giving out. So, what did he do? He designed a series of eight hairpin turns—sharp as a tack, but perfect for easing that hill's brutal 27% grade into something a lot more manageable.

When those first cars made their way up those sharp bends, you could almost feel the collective sigh of relief from the drivers. It was a whole new world for San Francisco's streets, and that crooked stretch of Lombard?

Well, it was just getting started.

But it wasn't just the clever design that turned heads. In the 1930s, a man by the name of Peter Bercut, who was in charge of parks and recreation, had just returned from a trip to France. He looked at Lombard Street and thought, "Why not add some greenery to all this concrete?" He planted hydrangeas along the street to help keep the soil from eroding, but also to add a splash of color to the scenery. Those hydrangeas? They didn't just help with erosion. They gave the street character, turning it into something almost artistic. It wasn't just a street—it was a canvas.

By 1939, the street had become one-way—traffic was



Lombard Street construction 1922 with the crooked street roadway completed and cars coming down.
Photo: OpenSFHistory.org



The new touristified Lombard Street, c. 1923
Photo: Private Collector



An aerial view over Lombard Street a few years after completion, c. 1930
Photo: provenance unknown



An auto flips over on Lombard Street, known as the crookedest street in the world, August 7, 1956
Photo: Gordan Peters/The Chronicle 1956

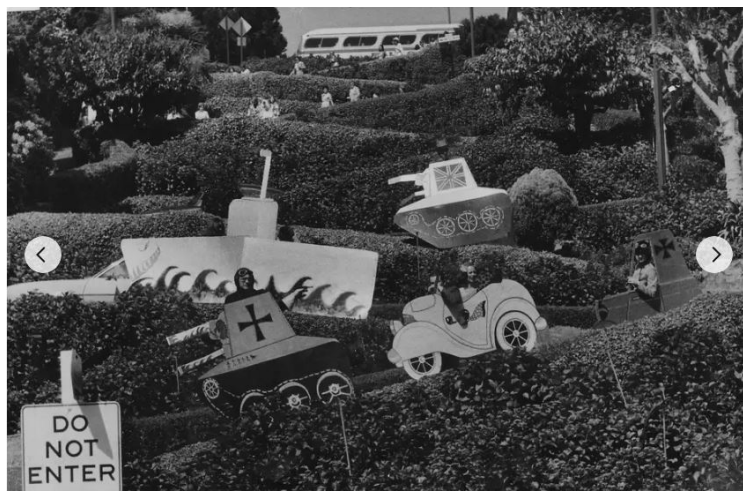
getting a little out of hand, and honestly, it was probably for the best. But Lombard wasn't the famous street we know today just yet. It wasn't until the 1960s that people started snapping postcards, and with the blooming hydrangeas, tourists began flocking in to see this serpentine wonder up close. The street slowly transformed from a local oddity to an iconic landmark.

Looking at photos of Lombard Street, I couldn't help but admire the engineering and creativity that went into it all. There's something beautiful about taking a tough

situation and turning it into something iconic. And as a girl who's spent her fair share of weekends elbow-deep in a carburetor or two, I can tell you—every time I see a car navigate those eight sharp bends, I think back to the time when history wasn't made in a straight line. It was made with a few twists and turns, a bit of ingenuity, and a whole lot of heart. And that, my friend, is the essence of what we car people love.



Ted Cooke, in town for a magicians' meeting drives his auto down Lombard Street, blindfolded, July 7, 1964
Photo: Stan Creighton/ The Chronicle 1964



Lombard Hill tank race, on one of San Francisco's "crooked-est" streets. Photo taken May 12, 1972
Photo: Stephanie Maze



It would take Jim Elrod, two hours and the help of a tow truck to get his big rig down the windy portion of Lombard Street, August 27, 1968. Elrod claimed that he was from out-of-town, and missed the "No trucks allowed" sign.
Photo: Joe Rosenthal/The Chronicle 1968



Lombard Street in 1975

A Note From The EDITOR

The Joy of Touring: Exploring National Tours and Hidden Gems.

As a woman who loves exploring both near and far, I've come to truly appreciate the thrill and joy of AACA tours. These events are perfect for families of all ages, offering something for everyone—from school-aged kids to seasoned adults. There's a special kind of excitement for children as they hop into the back seat of a classic car, anticipating the new sights and stories waiting around every corner.

But it's not just the kids who benefit. The beauty of AACA tours is the way they make history come alive. From exploring museums that capture the essence of an area to stepping onto battlegrounds where historical events once unfolded, these tours offer an immersive experience that textbooks just can't match. I've been captivated by stories about secret WWII bomb sites and the rich history behind beloved local products like Tabasco sauce—hearing about them right at the source really brings the past to life.

Through touring on the national level with AACA, I've had the pleasure of discovering new corners of our great nation in ways I never imagined. But even more surprising is how often I've uncovered hidden gems right in my own backyard. Local day tours have allowed me to connect with history, culture, and people in ways that feel both

enriching and adventurous.

If you're looking to explore, the AACA tours offer a chance to step back in time and embrace the nostalgia of classic cars, captivating stories, and historic landmarks. Here are some upcoming tours that I can't wait to experience:

June 1-7, 2025 – Vintage Tour: Vehicles must be pre-1932. Held in Southern Eastern Pennsylvania, hosted by Buzzard's Breath Touring.

August 12-15, 2025 – Eastern Divisional Tour: Held in Northern Maine. Hosted by the Maine Region.

September 7-12, 2025 – Revival AAA Glidden Tour: Vehicles must be pre-1943. Held in Owensboro, KY, hosted by VMCCA.

October 18-22, 2025 – Central Divisional Tour: From San Antonio to Gonzales, TX, hosted by the Texas DFW Region.

Each of these tours is an invitation to rediscover the beauty of America through the lens of history and classic vehicles. Whether you're a seasoned traveler or new to the AACA family, there's always something new to discover and enjoy. I hope you join me on the open road—there's a world of adventure waiting for you.

Charlotte

Meeting Notes

Minutes from 02/27/2025 and 03/20/2025

We met at the Golden Rule in Irondale for the meeting. We had 19 people present and had a lively meeting.

We discussed whether to continue Thursday as the meeting day and it was decided that the 4th Thursday seemed to be a good day to meet.

Plans were made to do a driving tour on March 15th but those were later changed due to the possibility of severe weather, so we met on March 20 at the Ranch House for a dinner meeting instead. There were 11 in attendance. There was lots of discussion about various cars that everyone had owned in the past. There were lots of discussions about various cars owned and lots of discussion about events the club had held in the past, including an Easter parade and Dogwood tour.

The driving tour will now be held on April 12th with a rain date of the 19th. This is a tour of various local covered bridges and ending at Cheaha with lunch at Charlie B's in Oneonta.

Some members mentioned an upcoming car show at The Shops of Grand River on April 26th to benefit ALS. The show is sponsored by Dixie Vintage.

Bill Gardner gave a talk at the February 27 meeting on the Birmingham Historical Auto District with pictures of

some of the buildings. Bill closed the March 20 meeting with an automobile trivia question and answer session.

Respectfully Submitted

Vicki

GSR Calendar

February 27	Dinner Meeting
March 27	Dinner Meeting
April 12	Let's Drive Tour
May 22.....	Dinner Meeting
June	Let's Drive Tour
July 24.....	Dinner Meeting
August	Let's Drive Tour
August 30 .	Labor Day Weekend Car Show at Pepper Place
September 25	Dinner Meeting
October	Let's Drive Tour
November 20.....	Dinner Meeting
December	Christmas Meeting



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 3pm** 1204 Forestdale Square, Forestdale
- Last Saturday – 5pm-?** 7900 Vaughn Rd at Taylor Rd Montgomery

AACA Calendar

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

April

- 5 Cruise in Auto Show.** 11-4pm 20105 Hwy 1, Woodstock, AL. Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, Open Track, Test and Tune, Swap Meet, Old School Reunion. Info 205-938-2123
- 5 Hanceville First Baptist Church Car-Truck-Bike Show** 10-1pm 104 Church Ave, Hanceville, AL 35077 Info 256-352-9150
- 12 Benefit Car Show** 9-1pm Fairview Baptist Church Ragland AL \$25 Entry Info 256-338-6554 Food, Prizes, Trophies
- 12 Bikes for Kids 2nd Annual Car Show** 10-3pm 3001 Pelham Pkwy, Pelham \$20 entry Trophies, 50/50, Food Trucks, Door prizes.
- 12 Hot Rod & Handlebars Car & Bike Show,** 10-2pm All vehicles welcome. Entry \$10 223 Wolf Creek Rd, Pell City
- 12 Liberty Car Show.** 8:30-11:30am Liberty Baptist church 11050 Chelsea Rd, Chelsea.
- 12 Car Show at Fayetteville School** 8-2pm \$25 Entry, Open to all cars. Info 256-217-6739
- 12 Benefit Car Show, 9-1pm.** Fairview Baptist Church, Ragland \$25 Entry. Info 256-338-6554
- 12 Fairview High School 100 Year Celebration Car, Truck, Bike & Tractor Show** 8-2pm 841 Welcome Road, Cullman. Reg \$20 Info 256-590-5680
- 19 Pell City Car Show** Gates open at 10 am. Lakeside Park 2801 Stemley Bridge Rd Pell City, AL
- 19 Magic City Mustangs National Mustang Day All Ford Show.** 8-12pm \$20 pre reg. \$25/day of show St. Clair Center 100 Arena Drive Odenville
- 19 All Southern Fair Car, Truck & Bike Show** 3-6pm 1601 N. Airport Rd, Jasper Contact 205-760-3336
- 19 3rd Annual Plantation Manor Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show.** 11-2pm 6450 Old Tuscaloosa Hwy. McCalla, AL
- 19 Advance Auto Parts Car Show** 2-5pm 2247 Pelham Parkway, Pelham. \$10 reg. Info 205-987-5186
- 19 3rd Annual Fairview Youth Car Show** 8-12pm, 5395 Fairview Rd Gadsden \$20 entry. Info 256-312-6080
- 25 Oxford Exchange Car Show.** 10-2pm. Talladega Motorsports Hall of Fame. All vehicles welcome no registration free food.
- 25 Driving through the Decades,** 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. 633 N. Donahue, Auburn, AL. Info 334-319-1886
- 26 Raven Spratlin Memorial Car Show.** 10 am Central Alabama Community College, 1675 Cherokee Rd, Alexander City. Entry \$30. Contact 256-307-5924
- 26 Drive Out ALS Car Show.** 11-2pm The Shops of Grand River. \$20 reg.
- 26 Magnolia Festival Car Show.** 9-2pm Gardendale First Baptist Church SouthCampus. gmfcarshow@gmail.com





This 1928 Rolls-Royce Phantom I Is Still Going Strong

The story of Allen Swift

<https://www.motortrend.com/features/1928-rolls-royce-phantom-first-look/>

This 1928 Rolls-Royce Phantom I Is Still Going Strong

M. Allen Swift and the longest privately owned Rolls-Royce in history

Jade Nelson Photographer Scott Evans Writer Jun 28, 2019

M. Allen Swift faced a difficult decision in 1928. Shortly before his 26th birthday, his father had made him a deal: Stay in the family's gold leaf business and watch your two younger brothers go off to college at MIT, and you can have any car you want. On the advice of a friend, Swift pointed his Marmon north and made the short drive up from West Hartford, Connecticut, to the Rolls-Royce of America plant just across the border in Springfield, Massachusetts.

"Someone had advised me to go to the Springfield plant," Swift told the Springfield Museums in a 2003 interview. "I went all through it and watched them making the parts. It reinforced my idea that it was well made. I saw all the ways they tested the cars. Every engine was tested. Then when they got the engine finished, they set it up on a

concrete block and ran it a specified number of times and a specified number of hours.

"Someone would come around periodically with a stethoscope and listen to it and so forth. Then it was completely dismantled and checked and reassembled and put back in to the chassis. Then a bench was mounted on the chassis, and a test driver drove it 200 miles before it was released."

Swift chose the all-new Rolls-Royce Phantom I painted in





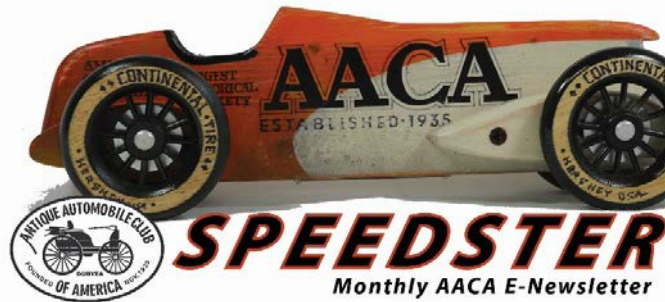
two-tone green because, he would later recall, you didn't see many green cars. The family business being gold leaf, he had gold leaf pinstripes added to separate the greens, plus a gold leaf monogram on the doors. Swift chose the Piccadilly roadster body style built by Brewster & Co. Coachworks with a convertible roof and a deployable rumble seat with a third door on the passenger's side. Swift drove the Rolls daily until 1958 and continued driving it regularly until 1991, when he was 88 years old.

By the time of that 2003 interview, Swift estimated he'd put 172,000 miles on the car and never had a breakdown (though he did rebuild the engine at one point).

In 1994, Swift entered the Rolls-Royce history books for having owned his car longer than any other in history. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars presented him a crystal statue of the Spirit of Ecstasy in recognition.

Just two months before his death in October 2005, Swift donated \$1 million to the Springfield Museums for the purchase and construction of a museum of innovation. Upon his death, the Phantom was bequeathed to the museum and is now the centerpiece of the Wood Museum of Springfield History's transportation exhibit. It sits next to a 1925 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Piccadilly Roadster owned by S. Prestley Blake, co-founder of Friendly Ice Cream.

Swift and Blake are in good company. Howard Hughes, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin, Jack Dempsey, and Woodrow Wilson all owned Springfield-built Silver Ghosts, and Fred Astaire, Joseph P. Kennedy, and Charlie Chaplin owned Springfield-built Phantoms.



Speedster articles courtesy of AACA

Order Your Official AACA Car Sign Now for the 2025 Car Show Season

This is the only official AACA recommended car show sign and is intended for use at AACA events. The AACA car sign format, styled similarly to other Concours signs, when properly weighted or staked would limit potential damage to vehicles if bumped or blown. Signs are 16.5" tall and 12" wide and are made of hard plastic to withstand the elements. These signs are only available to AACA members and are custom created to tell your vehicle's story and history.

AACA car signs cost \$45 plus shipping and handling. Add an image or images for \$5 each. PA residents also pay sales tax.

Please allow 4-5 weeks for the entire process from start to finish.



Email Jon Curtis at AACA Headquarters if you would like to have a sign made.





My First Car By Jim Elliotts, AACOA VP of National Awards

It is always interesting to ask others about their first car. My Dad's first car was a 1946 Ford that he purchased upon his return from France at the conclusion of World War II. He had hoped to purchase a Chevrolet, but the waiting list was just too long.

My Dad was frugal and often told me that if I could afford my own car, I could afford my own college tuition. Needless to say, that stymied my purchase.

However, after I finished my sophomore year, my Dad partially relented. I, would be allowed to purchase a car in May as long as I sold it in August before I returned to campus for my junior year. So the search began.

I wanted a station wagon as I mowed lawns and did odd

jobs in the summer. My Dad vetoed the first car I found. A 1959 Edsel with seats that "crunched" as the seat foam was disintegrating. The second car received a similar veto. It was a 1958 Chevrolet with rust holes and a generator light that was blinking.

The third candidate became mine. It was a 1963 Rambler 770 which I purchased for \$235.00 and drove it home. In addition to being a station wagon, it had reclining front bucket seats.

It served me well over the summer even though it got better gas mileage than oil mileage. While gas was 23 cents a gallon, I could buy "reclaimed" (used) oil for 19 cents a gallon. It changed its own oil as it used a quart every fifty miles.

As with every year, summer ended too soon. I sold the Rambler for \$250.00 and took my cash back to college, being the only car I ever sold at a profit.

Rummage Box articles courtesy of AACOA

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 AACOA - 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.

