



Exhaust Whistle



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

Vol. 37 No. 4

Let's Drive Tour May 24 Cheaha State Park and Picnic



Covered Bridges Tour

We gathered at the Tractor Supply in Trussville to begin our tour to the covered bridges of Blount County. Blount County is known as the "Covered Bridge Capital of Alabama". Although the day started out rather cool, the day turned into a beautiful day for touring and exploring. Ken did an

incredible job of mapping out the drive. Our first stop was the Swan Bridge. You no longer drive across this bridge, but you can walk across it. The river was up because of the recent rains and it provided a beautiful scene

Continued on page 3

PRESIDENT

I want to take this opportunity to let you know the plans for your club through August. I know they seem like they are constantly evolving and you're right. We are constantly trying out different things for our members to enjoy and encourage your involvement. If you like or want something different, please let us know.

First, a drive to Cheaha State Park on May 24th instead of a dinner meeting, hopefully to catch a time before the heat starts to set in. Being there are no restaurants in the area, we will be providing picnic style food and drinks for lunch. On the way back, we will stop by the McClellan residence for dessert.

Since June through August are typically hot, I am extremely excited that some of our members have stepped forward and agreed to host a perusal of their collections and have a special treat.

The first will be Garrett and Judy Jenkins, who have agreed to host on June 14th. We will not only get to enjoy seeing their cars, but they will also provide a hotdog lunch and homemade ice cream with all the fixings. Garrett plans to share GreatRace insights for those who are interested, which I know I am. This will include a chance behind the wheel of their rally car through their neighborhood on a mock rally course. Can't get much better on a summer day!

Next, Eddie and Suzanne Bibb have agreed to host for July, date TBD. We will get to see the cars they have located in Odenville, then travel to their lake house on Logan Martin in Riverside for lunch. What a treat that will be!

To finish off the summer, we have tentative plans for August and will share them as they are firmed up.

I hope you see that we have been working hard to provide you with fun and interesting events in the coming months. The only way it can get better is by joining us so we can all enjoy each other's company. I look forward to seeing each of you at these events.

Let's Drive in '25

Ken McClellan



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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

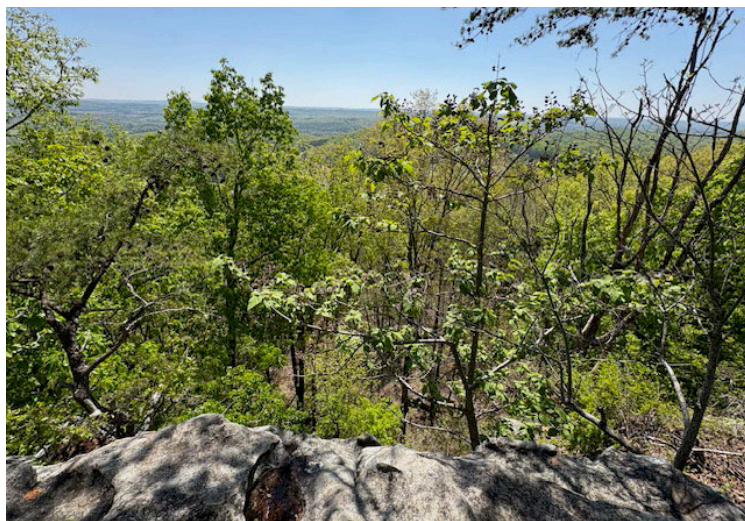
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2024 Officers

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



Next, we drove to Palisades Park in Oneonta Alabama. This was an amazing place with spectacular views.



The next bridge was the Easley Bridge which we drove across and then stopped to get out and admire the bridge and the view. We were able to walk down the hill and look at the creek below and get a different view of the bridge. The underneath side provided an interesting view of the immense beams used in the construction.





We finished up the tour at Horton Bridge. This bridge is also closed to through traffic. Another beautiful bridge, but we didn't spend too long here because the next stop for the day was Lunch!

We went to Charlie B's in Oneonta for lunch. It is a local meat and three café. They also had delicious desserts. It was delicious and allowed us plenty of time to relax and review the day. After lunch, we returned home via some beautiful back roads.

If you missed this tour, I hope that you will consider joining us for the next event. It was a great day to enjoy old cars and friends.

-Vicki Bolton



Next Let's Drive Tour
May 24
Cheaha State Park and Picnic

ALL ROADS LEAD TO



Owensboro KENTUCKY

Revival AAA GLIDDEN TOUR® 2025

Save the Date

SEPT. 7-12

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



A Note From The **EDITOR**

Y'all, It's Time to Let That Classic Stretch Its Legs

Well folks, the pollen's mostly cleared, the azaleas are showing off, and that means one thing here in the South - it's prime time for cruising. If your antique car's been napping under a tarp all winter like a bear in hibernation, consider this your official wake-up call.

Let's be honest - our classics weren't made to collect dust and mouse nests. They were born to cruise country roads, roll through small-town parades, and sit proudly under the shade of a pecan tree at a local car show. But they need you to get behind the wheel and say, "Let's go for a spin."

Now, I know what you're thinking:

"But it's not ready yet!"

"The paint's a little faded!"

"I still haven't fixed that mystery rattle!"

Guess what? Nobody cares. We're not out here judging your ride like it's the Concours d'Elegance. This is the Great Southern Region, not Pebble Beach. We love these cars for their stories, quirks, and the way they make folks smile. Trust me, someone will always be more excited to see your '47 Ford than your excuses.

Besides, if you're not careful, your car might start thinking it is retired. Next thing you know it'll want a recliner and sweet tea.

So pick an event - any event! A meet-up, a local cruise-

in, even a Sunday drive with a few fellow members. Just get it out there. You'll be surprised how good it feels to put some miles (and bugs) on that chrome.

Let's make this season one to remember. After all, these classics don't drive themselves - and we sure don't want them to forget how. See y'all out on the road.

Charlotte

GSR Calendar

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| January 23 | Dinner Meeting |
| February 27 | Dinner Meeting |
| March 27 | Dinner Meeting |
| April 12 | Let's Drive Tour |
| May 24 | Let's Drive Tour |
| June 14 | Jenkins Place |
| July | Bibb's Place |
| 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 |



How can you support AACA?

**Send a gift to the
AACA Building Maintenance Fund**

**For information on how to donate,
just call AACA National HQ at 717-534-1910.**





The car and telephone, two pioneering inventions separated by only a decade (1885 and 1875, respectively), have transitioned from being merely technological curiosities to becoming indispensable elements of contemporary life.

On the Line: Exploring the Fascinating History of Car Phones Through Vintage Photos, 1940s-1980s

Reprinted with permission from <https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/car-phones-old-photos/>

One would think that combining these two revolutionary innovations would be a natural step, but the truth is far more intriguing than that.

Similar to many first-generation technologies, the first “car phone” was both bulky and cumbersome, hardly practical for everyday use.

The history of car phones dates back to the early 1940s when Bell Labs developed the first mobile

telephone service. This service originated was first used in St. Louis, Missouri, United States on June 17, 1946.

The original equipment weighed 80 pounds (36 kg), and there were initially only 3 channels for all the users in the metropolitan area.

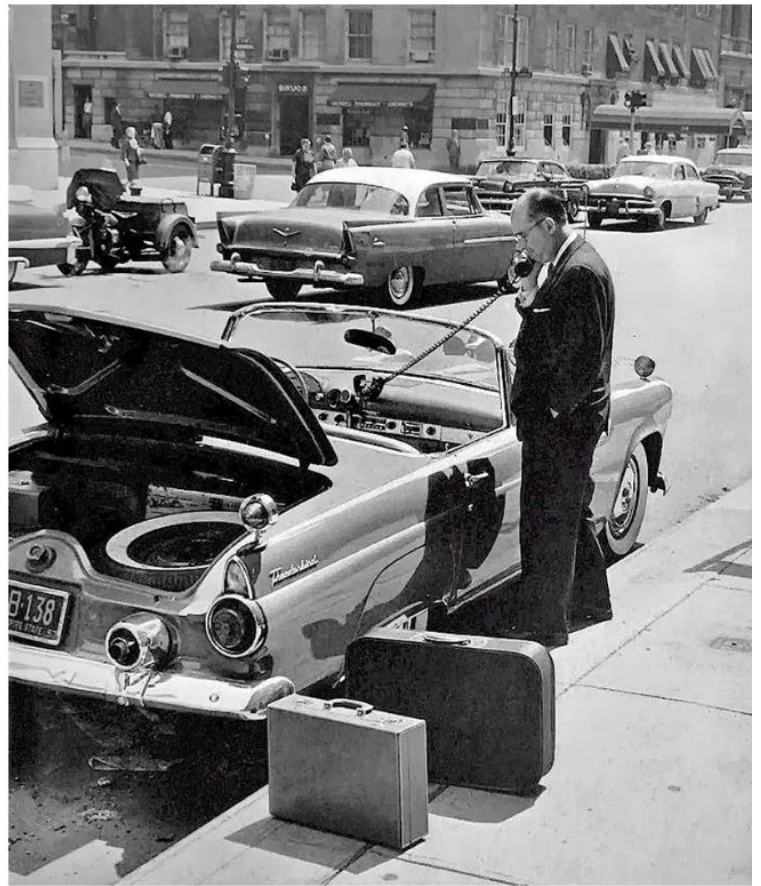
Later, more licenses were added, bringing the total to 32 channels across 3 bands. This service was used at least into the 1980s in large portions of North America.



The earliest version of a mobile phone was first created in 1946, it was called a "mobile radiophone service."

On October 2, 1946, Motorola communications equipment carried the first calls on Illinois Bell Telephone Company's new car radiotelephone service in Chicago. Due to the small number of radio frequencies available, the service quickly reached capacity.

In West Germany, the car phone service was first released in 1958 as the A-Netz service. In 1971, it reached its capacity limit of almost 11,000 subscribers



During the in 1980s, the car phone was more popular than the mobile phone. However, as mobile phones became lighter and more affordable during the mobile phone boom in the 1990s, car phones became less common.

and was succeeded by B-Netz in 1972, which featured direct dialling, not requiring a human operator to connect calls.

However, in order to reach a subscriber, one would still need to know their location since the handset would assume the local area code of the base station serving it. It was succeeded in 1985 by the C-Netz 1G system.

The original car phones were bulky and expensive, often costing more than the car itself. They were also limited to a few hours of talk time, and the signal quality was poor, with frequent dropped calls.

In the early 1980s, car phones were mostly used by business executives, politicians, and wealthy individuals who needed to stay connected while on the move.

By the 2000s, car phones had become uncommon due to the convenience of mobile phones along with in-car mobile phone integrative technologies such as Bluetooth.



There were still some car phones available as recently as 2008, including the Nokia 810 and the Motorola VC6096 for use with GSM networks and a car phone made by NAL Research for the Iridium satellite network.

Motorola provided US customers with the m800 and m900 car phones, for use with CDMA and GSM networks respectively.

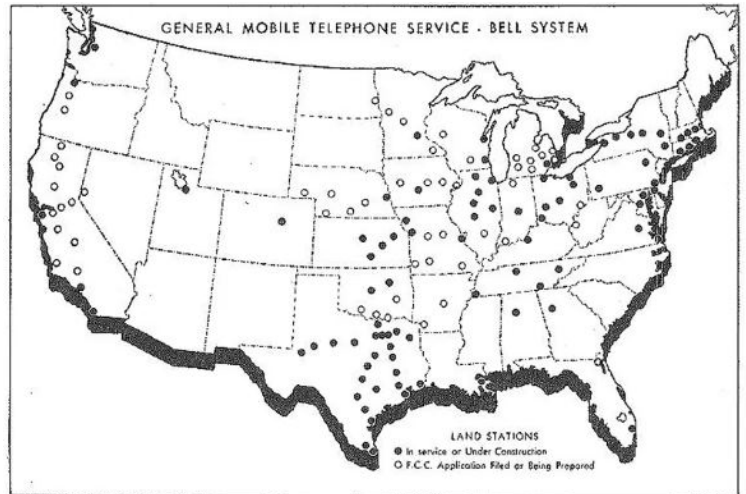
Some car phones had color screens and supported high-speed data connections as well as the ability to access SIM cards stored in other phones via Bluetooth.

Since 2008, many automobiles have featured integrated, "hands-free" systems to utilize a consumer's cellular phone, via a Bluetooth wireless link or use an integrated transceiver.



**Man getting home—
at 186,000 miles per second**

Mobilet Automatic brings the convenience of the dial directly into the driver's seat. It's another contribution to modern communications by Automatic Electric, the originator of the dial telephone.



Spotted on this map are the locations where facilities for mobile radio telephone service are being established



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

May 1-3

Western Spring Nationals/Grand Nationals

Location: Tucson, 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

August 12-15

Eastern Divisional Tour

Location: Northern Maine Sponsor: Maine Region

Shows

May

- 2 Corner High School Hotrod and Jazz Festival.** 5-8pm. 4301 Warrior Jasper Rd., Dora, AL.
- 3 Riverview Baptist 3rd Annual Car Show.** 9am. 4995 Hay 77 South, AL. Youth Camp Fundraiser
- 3 Re-Vamped Cruise and Eat.** 3-7pm. Meet at Piggly Wiggly 1070 1st. St. NW Childersburg, AL. All vehicles welcome.
- 3 One Hope Church Car Show.** 9am. 1501 McFarland Blvd. N, Tuscaloosa
- 4 Smoke & Chrome Car, Motorcycle and ATV Show.** 12-4pm. 2161 Co. Rd., 37 Billingsley, AL. Music, Food, More
- 4 Agape Worship Ministries Community Day Car Show.** 12 pm. 328 Robinson Dr., Birmingham www.agapewm.org
- 10 3rd Annual Irondale Auto Classic.** 11-3pm. Classic Car Motoring 3900 Grants Mill Rd., Irondale. \$20 reg.
- 10 Triple C Automotive 2nd Annual Automotive Show.** 10-2pm. 97 Coosa County Rd. 75 35136. Reg \$20. triplecauto@coosaschools.org
- 10 22nd Annual Kiwanis Club of Oxford Car Show.** 8-1pm. Oxford Lake Park - I-20 at Exit 185. Pre reg. \$15 DoS \$20
- 17 9th Annual Cruising the Creek Bank Festival Car Show.** 10am-4pm. 1159 Montevallo Rd., Leads Memorial Park. Free event and Free parking. Info: CreekBankFestival.com
- 17 52 Arley Day Festival Parade & Car Show.** 7:30-2pm. Hamner Park, Arley. Info at ArleyWomensClub.org
- 17 Kingsville Corvette Club Car Show.** 9-2pm. 1584 Holly Hills Rd., Lincoln, AL. No entry fee, open car show
- 17 Rock Mills Methodist Church Car/Truck/Motorcycle Show.** 9-2pm. 66059 Hwy. 22, Roanoke, AL. \$20 Entry.
- 17 Tuscaloosa Christian School Hot Wheels & Hotcakes.** 8:30-1pm. Reg \$25. 1601 Prude Mill Rd, Cottondale, AL, alan.montgomery@tcswarriors.org
- 24 38th All Pontiac Car Show.** 9-1:30pm. Mugshots Grill & Bar 3339 Lowery Pkwy., Fultondale. Entry \$20
- 29-31 Battle In Bama.** 10th year Talladega Superspeedway Registration opens Jan 1, 2025 ww.battleinBama.net
- 31 Vette Spectacular.** 9-2pm. 225 Coenterview Dr., Birmingham. Pre reg. \$30, \$35 DoS. Info 205.790.0335
- 31 Cullman County Relay for Life Benefit Car Show.** 5-10pm. Depot Park
- 31 Life on Wheels Car Show.** 8-12pm. Deerfoot Church of Christ 5450 Mt. Olive Church Rd., Trussville. www.lifeonwheelsalabam.com
- June**
- 7 Train Shed Car Show.** 10-2pm. 300 Water Street at the Union Station Train Shed. Info: Bill 334-300-1333
- 13-14 Etowah County Swap Meet & Car Show.** 8-4pm. 201 Griffin Street Attalla, AL Info 256-490-5432



♥ GREAT SOUTHERN REGION AACA ♥
LET'S DRIVE
TOUR

SATURDAY

MAY 24, 2025

DESTINATION:

Cheaha State Park Tour and Picnic

Let's meet

at Buc-ess

6900 Buc-ee's Blvd, Leeds, AL 35094 at 9 AM.

We will enjoy a picnic lunch

drive a classic (weather permitting)

(join us no matter what vehicle you choose)



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





The Chevrolet Bel Air Sport Coupe was new for 1950. (Chevrolet)

1950 Chevrolet Styleline Bel Air Sport Coupe

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.

Chevrolet's exterior styling of the 1950 Bel Air Sport Coupe was revolutionary and set a pattern for decades. According to ClassicCars.Fandom.com, "The Bel Air Hardtop (on the DeLuxe line) was styled as a convertible with a non-detachable solid roof."

The redesign followed the 1942-1945 shutdown of vehicle production during World War II. And even as production restarted, the "new" 1946-1948 models were mildly updated carryover models from years earlier.

New for 1950

According to Hagerty.com, Chevrolet overhauled its entire lineup in 1949 and moved from prewar designs to new cars. The modern styling emphasized full-width bodies and pontoon fenders.

The exterior two-door hardtop styling might have been new, but visual changes were minimal from 1949.

Special and Deluxe models were offered in Fleetline and Styleline series. According to Hagerty's "History of the 1949-1952 Styleline," a bare-bones business coupe cost as little as \$1,300. Pricing rose to \$2,200 for an eight-

passenger station wagon.

The only powertrain available was a 216-cubic-inch six-cylinder engine. It was mated to a three-speed manual transmission. However, cars with the automatic received the 235-cubic-inch truck engine.

Bel Air Sport Coupe

The model is named for the city of Bel Air on the west side of Los Angeles.

According to Wikipedia, the Bel Air Sport Coupe name was used only from 1950 to 1952 for the two-door hardtops. The first-year production reached only 76,662.





Monthly AACAA E-Newsletter

Speedster articles courtesy of AACAA



Meet Your New 2025 AACAA National Board of Directors

Your new 2025 AACAA National Board of Directors was inducted during the Annual Convention in February. If you click the link above, it will take you to the page on the AACAA website where the Board is listed. Each listing includes a Board member's name, position, address and photo. If you click on their name, you can email them directly. These Board members are here to serve you and this organization, so please do not hesitate to contact them at any time.

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 AACAA - 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/AACAA_Mileage_Award_Program_Application.pdf for a Mileage Award Program application.





Thoughts on Becoming Executive Vice President...

Vicki Bolton
**2025 Executive Vice
President / 2024 VP
Judging Administration**

It is my honor to serve this year as the Executive Vice President. Oh my goodness, how did this happen? I have been an active member for over 40 years. I love the cars, the people, and the travel to new and old places. In the beginning I would just go to the shows with my husband, Arthur. And that was ok because I loved traveling and I loved seeing the cars. But I wanted to participate more than just go to the shows. I started Judging on the field, but back then I wasn't too comfortable in judging the

cars, so I looked for something else to do. I found Judging Administration which I liked because paperwork and numbers are kind of my thing, since I am an accountant. Then somebody asked me to help with judging records. I did that for about 5 years. Then I started helping Dollie Flechler as a Team Captain for Judging Administration. Now I am VP of Judging Administration.

During these years, we have also shown cars and scooters at various shows. We have also done many of the tours. AACA has so many things to offer someone interested in the car hobby. AACA is a volunteer organization, and it thrives on new volunteers, new people looking to do just a little bit more, and of course anyone that loves the car hobby. Could you be one of those people? If you are, then I hope you will consider helping at a show, showing a car, or going to a new place. You could be the next trophy winner, the next Director, the next Chairman, or the next Executive VP that AACA needs.

Rummage Box articles courtesy of AACA

50-year AACA Membership Pin



As a thank you for longtime passion and dedication for the automotive hobby, AACA awards members who have been in the club for 50 years or more with a beautiful 50-year pin.

This stunning award can be bestowed upon a longtime member at an AACA Nationals or a region event, or simply receiving it in the mail.. To obtain this pin, you must be a member for at least 50 years, which do not have to be consecutive. You (or your region/ chapter) must then contact national headquarters. We will research our archives to confirm 50 years of membership.

If you believe you have been a member for 50 years or more, contact AACA headquarters at 717-534-1910 (or email Hon Curtis at jcurtis@aacaa.org). AACA is proud of the many members who have already received this pin and who wear it equally as proudly.