

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

# **Jenkens Place June 14** See Presidents Letter for More Information!



# Let's Drive Cheaha

On Saturday, May 24, Bo Bogaty, Bill Corn, Eddie Bibb and I met at Buc-ees to begin our drive. The weather was threatening north of us, but we were left with very comfortable temps and off/on sunshine for the entire drive.

Our drive began by passing through downtown Leeds and traveling Old Hwy 78 to Pell City. Next we headed on a pleasant two lane across Lake Logan Martin on our way to the north side of Talladega. Finally we picked up a very winding and beautiful drive through the Talladega Forest and up the mountain to the state park.

Our first stop was at the trail that headed out to Bald Rock Overlook. If you have never been there, it provides you with a beautiful view over the valley to the north. Next, we made our way to Bunker Tower, which is situated on the highest point in the state. Phyllis had packed for us a tasty picnic lunch of sandwiches, chicken salad, various chips, tea, and homemade brownies. Altogether a wonderful meal at a picnic table under the trees.

# A Note From The **PRESIDENT**

The summer is just starting to roll and we have plans that, hopefully, everyone will enjoy participating in. We just finished a nice drive to Mt. Cheaha that is detailed in this newsletter.

Next, we are following up with the first of three visits to various member's homes to view their collections and have some fun. The first will be Garrett and Judy Jenkins, who have agreed to host June 14th. Plan to arrive anytime after 11 AM with lunch being served at Noon. Their address is:

12375 Wagon Wheel Trace

McCalla, AL 35111

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!

Please join us for this event. We certainly look forward to seeing everyone there.

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 <u>www.aaca.org</u>

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







Lunch was followed by a visit with the park historian at the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) building at the base of the tower for some history of the park. We also climbed the tower for a 360° view from the mountain top.

The return trip was also very pleasant, winding on country backroads through Talladega County, crossing the Logan Martin Dam, and on through Shelby County back to Leeds.

Our final stop was at the McClellan residence for some excellent desserts of homemade pecan pie and almond cherry dumpcake.

Hopefully, more can join in the fun for the next drive.

- Ken McClellan



What Have Non Been Np 70?



# Dual Meet in Tucson, AZ

Since there were no good airline connections from Birmingham to Tucson, we decided to drive the motor home to Tucson. And since we were going to drive, we decided to take a car to the Grand Nationals and Western Spring Nationals. The trip out was uneventful, and we took 2 and half days to drive out there. But one night after we stopped a storm came through and really rocked the coach. Other than not getting much sleep it was fine. The next day, as we continued westward, we encountered a small dust storm. It was small but powerful enough to almost blow us off the road. Fortunately, we did not encounter any more of





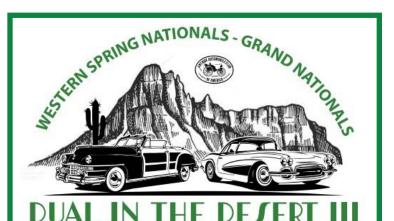




These two photos are from the inside of the casino. The ceiling is domed and painted so that when you first walk into the room you would swear you were outside.

those dust storms. We were able to stay at a very nice RV park right next to the hotel casino complex. Thursday night we went to the Rolling Through Time Auto Museum. What an amazing collection! On Friday, it was time for the Grand Nationals. The Crosley was being very temperamental and did not want to start. Finally, with some help, it cranked and we put it on the field. The little car won its first Grand Nationals so it will now go on to Dayton to try for a Senior. The day finished with a BBQ by the pool. The Nationals on Saturday brought out a few more cars so there was more to look at and enjoy. The day finished with a banquet inside the hotel. The hotel and casino was a beautiful venue and the cars were spectacular. We left very early Sunday morning to head home and be back Monday night. After two very long days and one fight with a construction barrel that we lost, we made it home. Thankfully, the barrel only took out one headlight. Now to get the car ready for Dayton!







This is one of the many eating areas in the complex.

TUCSON AZ - MAY 1-3, 2025 Hosted by the Tucson Region - Antique Automobile Club of Am

Editors Note: AACA Western Spring Nationals and Grand Nationals Tuscon, AZ hosted by the Tucson Region AACA May 1-3, 2025. The event included a Night at the Rolling Through Time Auto Museum. Nationals include events like Membership Roundtable and Judging School.

This event was unique with two Nationals back to back. Friday the Grand Nationals was held during the day and the awards presentation in the evening.

Saturday the Western Spring Nationals was held with and awards banquet in the evening. Double the fun Double the vehicles!







One of Vicki's favorite cars in the museum.



A store display in the museum



A display to illustrate the Ford production line



The fire truck display



The fire truck display



The Crosley





## Cars at the Grand Nationals







Cars at the Nationals















Ken was spotted at the Drive Out ALS Car Show at the Outlets Shops at Grand River in Leads on April 26. The event was hosted by the Dixie Vintage Automobile Club. The event raises money benefiting the ALS Association and is organized by 2025 Miss Hoover Emma Terry, whose grandfather was an antique car enthusiast who battled ALS.

# **ALL** ROADS Jwensport KENTUCKY **Revival** AAA C antes Questions? Contact Jeff Stumb 🤇 (423) 385-4414 🛛 🖂 2025gliddentourky@gmail.com Distance from these cities Nashville ~ 2 hours Indianapolis ~ 3 hours Columbus ~ 5 hours cago ~ 6 hours anta ~ 6 hours St. Louis ~ 3 hours www.VMCCA.org

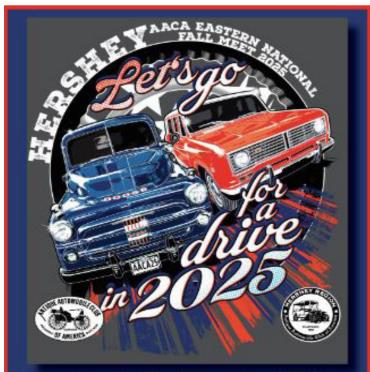


The AACA returns to DeKalb County in 2025 with the Central Spring Nationals, July 2-5. Held in the "Classic Car Capital of the World," Auburn, Indiana, it's a perfect location to showcase your collector car, connect with fellow enthusiasts, and celebrate the rich heritage of classic cars. Go for your senior award to qualify for Grand Nationals!

# **REGISTER NOW!**

**Beth Flesher** 229-834-0179 | 25CAR.AACA@gmail.com Registration deadline is June 9, 2025 or until maximum spots of 225 cars are filled. All pre-registered trailer parking will be on-site





## October 7-10 • Tuesday-Friday

Registration information can be obtained by submitting the activity request card that came with this magazine to AACA Headquarters.









It's that wonderful time of year again when the calendar is full and the toughest decision is choosing what to do next! The old car hobby is in full swing, with an abundance of events happening almost daily. Whether it's car shows, fundraisers, tours, or cruise-ins, there's something for everyone and every one of them is a great chance to share our enthusiasm for classic cars and promote the many benefits belonging to AACA and The Great Southern Region.

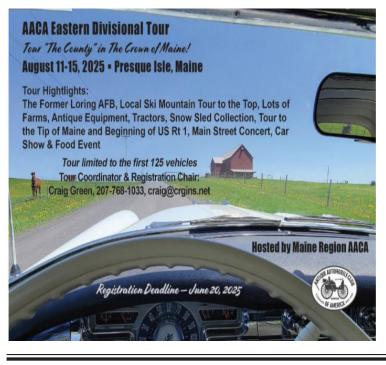
Our own club keeps the momentum going with at least one event every month. From "Let's Drive" tours to our monthly dinner meetings, there's no shortage of opportunities to connect, share stories, and enjoy the ride. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated officers, we're in for some exciting events including some member car showcases.

We're proud of how far we've come in recent years. Our club has grown more active at both the local and national levels. Last fall, many of our members participated in the Nationals in Huntsville, a true highlight! And the "Let's Drive" tours continue to be a fantastic way to explore, engage, and enjoy our shared passion.

Have an idea for a new tour? Know a great dinner spot? Want to host an event at your own collection? We'd love to hear from you!Just reach out to Ken McClellan or Bill Gardner.

Here's to another season of great roads, great cars, and even better company!





# 95R Calendan

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	
October	Let's Drive Tour
November 20	Dinner Meeting
December	Christmas Meeting



Registration Deadline: June 30, 2025

Welcome Reception at America's Packard Museum Membership Roundtable = Judging School Zenith Display & Award Ceremony at Packard Museum Hawaiian Luau & Live Band = Judges' Breakfast Grand Nationals Car Show & Awards Dinner at the National Museum of the US Air Force

Multiple hotels and lodging information can be found in the brochure on the AACA website.

Chairman: Steve Moskowitz 717-534-1910 office 717-350-5484 cell aaca1@aaca.org

Registration Chair: Pat Buckley 717-534-1910 office 717-329-4658 cell pbuckley@aaca.org





# 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 J**ack'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

# Att CAt Calendar

#### 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 September 7-12

Revival AAA Glidden Tour<sup>®</sup> (Pre-1943)

## Shows

- June
- 7 Train Shed Car Show. 10-2pm. 300 Water Street at the Union Station Train Shed. Info: Bill 334-300-13337
- 7 Walmart 5th Annual Car Show. 8-11am Walmart 626 Olive St SW, Cullman. For Children's Miracle Network
- 7 26th Annual Pell City Hometown Block Party. 3-9pm. 1815 Gogswell Ave, Pell City.
- 7 Alabaster CityFest Cruise-In Car Show 9am 1921 Warrior Pkwy, Alabaster. Vendors, Food Trucks, and more! Music in the afternoon https://www. alabastercityfest.com/
- **13-14 Etopwah County Swap Meet & Car Show.** 8-4pm. 201 Griffin St. Attalla, Info Randal 256-490-5432
- 14 Cruisin for a Cause. 9-2pm. Crowells Auto Detailing 35 AL-5 Jasper. AL.\$15 Entry
- 14 5th Annual Bike/Car Show. 9-2pm 181 Reid Rd, Cullman. Reg \$20 Open show, Info Ruth 256-620-1334
- **14 Flag Day Car Show** 7-3pm 8 South Hmmetr Ave. Sylacauga, AL
- 14 Mopars by the Lake 8-3pm. 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW, Culman. Early Reg \$25 \$30 Day of show Info 256-734-1064
- 14 5th Annual Bike/Car Show. 181 Reid Road Culman. American Legion Post 4. Reg. \$20. All makes and models are welcome. Info 256-620-1334
- 21 3rd Annual Irondale Auto Classic. 11-3pm. 3900 Grants Mill Road, Irondale, AL. \$20 reg., Food Trucks, Vendors, Music, Trophies

## July

- 5 Bear Creek Friendship Festival Car and Motorcycle Show. 8-2pm. Reg \$20. Info: 205-269-3663
- **12 American Legion Post 101 Car & Bike Show.** 8-1pm. 370 SW 3rd Street, Carbon Hill \$20 entry. Info 205-269-9300

## August

16 Samantha Showcase Vendor Fair and Classic Car Show. 10-2pm. Northside Lions Club 13166 NorthsideRd, Berry, AL Ifo 205-765-7320

**30 Labor Day Weekend Car Show** at Pepper Place **September** 

27 12th Annual Cruising for Christ Car & Motorcycle Show. 8-12pm. 2024 Redemption Way Odenville. Info 205-962-5584

## October

## 25-26 6th Annual Wyatt Spann Memorial Car Show.

Friday 5-10 Saturday 9-2pm. 3928 Byler Rd., Eldridge Exit 39 of I-22 Info 205-412-5877





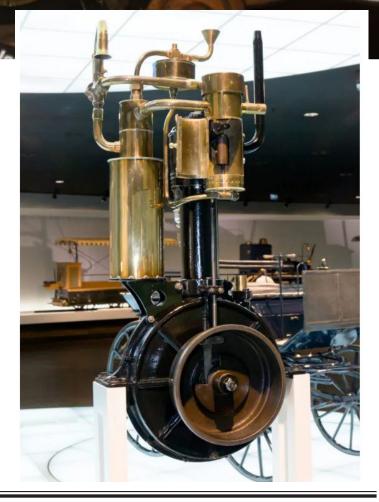


# April 3, 1885 – The internal combustion engine is patented

By Brian Corey Reprinted with permission from Brian Corey

In the early 1880s, Gottlieb Daimler and Wilhelm Maybach started developing what would become known as the Grandfather clock engine, which Daimler received a patented for on this day in 1885. Their workshop? A garden shed behind Daimler's home in Cannstatt, Germany. What they came up with was an upright 0.5 hp engine, which featured

> Right The 1885 Grandfather clock engine. Photo by Morio – Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0





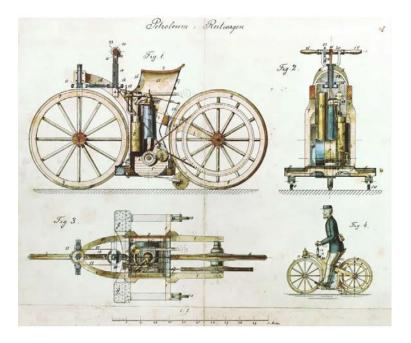


a single horizontal cylinder, air cooling, hot tube ignition and cam operated exhaust valves. It weighed in at approximately 50 kg (110 lb) and had a height of 76 cm (30 in). This was the first practical internal combustion engine.

They fit the engine to the pair's Reitwagen (translation: riding car) in November 1885, thus becoming the first full size vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine. Some also claim this as the first modern motorcycle, although it had stabilizers similar to a child's bike with training wheels. Gottlieb's son Paul, just 17 at the time, was the first to ride the contraption. He proved the viability of the motor with a test run of three kilometers (two miles) alongside the river Neckar, from Cannstatt to Untertürkheim, hitting a top speed of 12 kilometers per hour (7 mph). He did suffer a slight setback, after the seat caught fire due to the placement of the hot tube ignition.



Montrice Pia on the child's tricycle. Photo by Daniel Strohl, Hemmings.



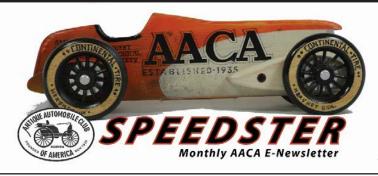
## Early motorcycles

Other motorcycles came before, but all utilized steam power. This included the Perreaux and Roper, dating as early as 1867, and the 1884 Copeland. Additionally, Enrico Bernardi's 1882 one-cylinder petrol engine, which was fitted in 1884 to a children's tricycle. The Motrice Pia, as the vehicle was known, is often given credit for being the first internal combustion powered vehicle. However, the engine, which originally powered a sewing machine, wasn't fit to a full size vehicle until 1893.









Speedster articles courtesy of AACA

# Car Show Season is Right Around the Corner. Is YOUR **Region/Chapter Prepared?**

When your region or chapter holds a local car show, that is your best opportunity to recruit new members. The people attending your show are there because they already have an interest in antique cars. If your event is open to non-members, those who have registered and are showing their cars are already willing to participate. These are the folks you should be engaging about how much you enjoy being an AACA member and that they should think about joining.

Now, don't be caught empty-handed at this point! Make sure your region/chapter has something to hand out to potential new members. When you are planning your event, be sure to reach out to National Headquarters to get a supply of materials to help you.

All of these items are available to you at no charge:

- -- AACA National Membership Brochure
- -- AACA National Membership Application
- -- Mustang Car Cutouts
- -- AACA National Military Membership Application

To request a supply of these items, please email Karen (kwhite@aaca.org) and include your region, address where you would like the items mailed to and the date of your event.

## Now, go out there and get those new members!



# Come for the Cars, Stay for the People.

- Celebrating vehicles 25 years and older
- AACA is one of the largest and most inclusive car clubs in the world with more than 40,000 members
- Ownership of an antique vehicle is not required for membership







# Cruising the Big Muddy in a \$15 Chevy

How three Minnesotans turned a tired 1939 Chevy into a river-powered raft and made history on the Mississippi

## By Charlotte Dahlenburg

Source: Model Cars Magazine Forum; SASS Wire Forum; Hitoric Images Archive; Facebook Groups and Posts.

On June 21, 1955, three adventurous Minnesotans— Sam Gray, David Rutford, and Fred Hallberg—launched an unforgettable journey from the banks of Saint Paul, Minnesota. But this wasn't a typical road trip—it was a homemade raft cruise down the Mississippi River, powered by a beat-up 1939 Chevrolet they'd picked up for just \$15.

That old Chevy had seen better days. With 172,000 miles already under its belt, it had one more story to tell. The trio mounted the car to a raft constructed from

barrels and wooden planks. The rear wheels spun against a second set of wheels, which turned a propeller shaft. Ingeniously, they even linked the steering wheel to a rudder, making the raft steerable from the driver's seat.

## "Fill it with oil—and check the gas!"

Their journey wasn't without its share of grease-stained drama. In St. Louis, Missouri, the engine's valves had to be ground. Outside Memphis, Tennessee, a propeller bearing burned out, but the crew managed to borrow tools from a friendly barge and fix it themselves—true backyard mechanics at work, even on the water.

As they drifted south, they ran into new trouble: a rat





stowaway that was quietly devouring their food. Despite their best efforts, they never caught a single fish, leaving them hungry and annoyed. Add in swarms of mosquitoes, river debris, and the pounding wakes of passing barges, and it's a wonder they didn't turn back.

But these were men raised on hard work, ingenuity, and a bit of stubborn grit. On July 25, 1955, more than a month after casting off, the crew finally arrived in New Orleans, hungry and weathered—but triumphant.

#### And then they did the unthinkable.

They decided to drive the same Chevy back to Minnesota.

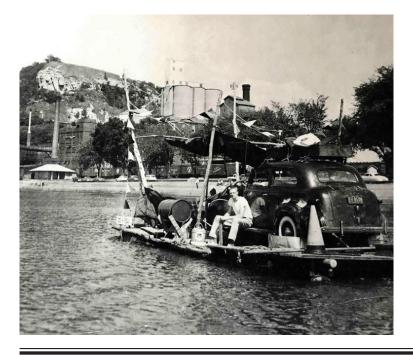
Against all odds, the car made the trip. In just 49 hours, they rolled back into Saint Paul. The car consumed five gallons of oil on the journey north—hence the now-famous line delivered at a gas station:

"Fill it up with oil—and check the gas!"

#### Legacy of a River Roadster

Fred Hallberg, a devoted fan of Mark Twain, saw the trip as a personal tribute to American river life. Back in Minnesota, he and David Rutford had spent their youth restoring motorcycles in Fred's basement—repairs that later helped pay for college. David, a meticulous engineer, would go on to build water wells in remote villages across Africa and South America, always with a knack for solving real-world problems.

Fred chronicled their adventure in a series of travelogues for the University of Minnesota's Electricians' magazine. David gave presentations to Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, inspiring others with their tale of resourcefulness.





"In our family," said a relative, "you kept records—even if no one believed the story."

This wasn't just a river trip. It was a brilliant display of mechanical creativity, problem-solving, and the kind of determined optimism that defines the classic American car hobbyist. The Chevy might have been bought for \$15—but what it powered was a lifetime of stories.









## YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!! By Dave Anspach, 2025 AACA President

First of all, I want to say that it is an honor to serve as the 2025 President of our Club. It is an honor, however, that bears a great responsibility.

A responsibility that I take extremely seriously and I, in turn, am asking every one of you to share. To paraphrase John F Kennedy from his 1961 inaugural address "ask not what your club can do for you. Ask what you can do for your club". Now many of you will ask "what can I do". Lets talk about that.

Since we have been talking about membership for the past few years, lets deal with that first. Getting a new member is absolutely the easiest thing we all can do. We all have friends, neighbors, relatives and so on that are not presently members. With all the reduced rate and free memberships we offer, it really is as simple as ASKING someone to join. Who can say no to a gift?? With a smile and a little conversation on the fun you have, you will soon be signing up a new member.

You can't have fun if you don't participate, so get involved! If you aren't part of a region, join one!! If there isn't one close by.....start one. Regional meetings and activities with local friends are among the finest social events around. Some Regions do as many as 7 tours and a show locally every year. These busy folks are having a lot of fun.

Don't want to join a region...participate in National activities. What better way to get to visit areas all over the country and participate in a car activity than to do a National show or tour. From Maine to Florida, Carolina to California, and don't forget Puerto Rico, AACA events traverse the continent and more. No event near you?? Look for a few like minded people and set one up yourself!! Between Hershey headquarters and your directors and committees, there is plenty of help to get you going on

a successful event. And don't forget judging. Our judging program ofers you the opportunity to get up close and personal to every kind of vehicle you can imagine from Abarth to Zagato. It is fun and easy to learn and packed full of opportunities to travel.

There are literally hundreds of opportunities to get involved on various committees and groups throughout your club. All you have to do is stand up and say "I can help". There is something for everyone, just let us know you are available, we'll find a place for you!!

So the bottom line is we have a fantastic club. What is missing is U!! Get new members, participate, have fun!!! I guarantee that you will peg the fun meter and have a great time!!

Rummage Box articles courtesy of AACA

