



Exhaust Whistle



Great Southern Region AACA

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

Vol. 37 No. 7

Great Southern Region Car Show August 30 at Pepper Place



Pontiacs, Plymouths, and Lakefront Hospitality: A Saturday to Remember

For those in our club who missed the opportunity to join us on our visit with Eddie and Suzanne Bibb and their cars on Saturday, the 12th of July, you missed a good one. Just saying.

We began the day by meeting at the Buc-ees in Leeds. Eddie Bibb joined us there with his 1986 El Camino and led us to our first stop, which was the Bibb's storage facility in Odenville. Three others were also able to drive their classics, including Ken and Phyllis McClellan with their 1959 Triumph TR3A, Bill Corn with his 1989 Cadillac Fleetwood

Coupe, and George Miljus, a friend of Eddie's that drove a 1988 Pontiac Fiero. As you can see from the pictures, there was quite an array of very nice cars (and trucks) that ranged in years from a 1941 Cadillac Fleetwood to a 1996 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham. Most of the vehicles in this facility were GM branded, except for a large 1976 Ford Thunderbird and a Rolls Royce. My personal favorite was a red 1966 Pontiac 2+2 (I never heard of one).

Continued on page 3

A Note From The **PRESIDENT**

I hope everyone is having a great summer and having a chance to get your classics out for a spin.

As you can read in the article on the visit with Eddie and Suzanne Bibb, we had a wonderful time. Wish more could have joined us.

For August, we have a car show in conjunction with the Farmer's Market at Pepper Place in Birmingham's southside on the 30th. Like last year, it will only be from 8 AM to Noon. However, last year it was on November 9th, as the Farmer's Market is winding down. This year, at this earlier time, there will be many more attendees present to peruse our cars and hopefully develop more interest, not only in the antique car hobby but also for potential members. Please, write this on your calendar and take a half day to join us for a fun time. I know football season is just kicking off but with the morning time frame, we shouldn't interfere with any other activities.

Lastly, in September, we will revert back to a dinner meeting on the 25th. Location to be determined.

See you on the road!

Let's Drive in '25

Ken McClellan



Great Southern Region AACA

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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
Realracegril1@gmail.com

www.greatsouthern.aaca.com

facebook: gsraaca

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



After we finished perusing these great cars, we followed Eddie through some nice backroads to the Bibb lake house on Logan Martin for more cars and a great lunch. As one might expect, the whole basement was filled with 7 more classics. Once again, all were GM branded except a beautiful gold Plymouth Duster. The lunch they provided was fabulous and I believe everyone had a wonderful time of good food and great conversation.

I hope to see more of you down the road as we plan more events.

- Ken

See GreatSouthern.aaca.com under 2025 Events for more photos



The group looking at the large collection



Fantastic cars



Bibbs garage overview



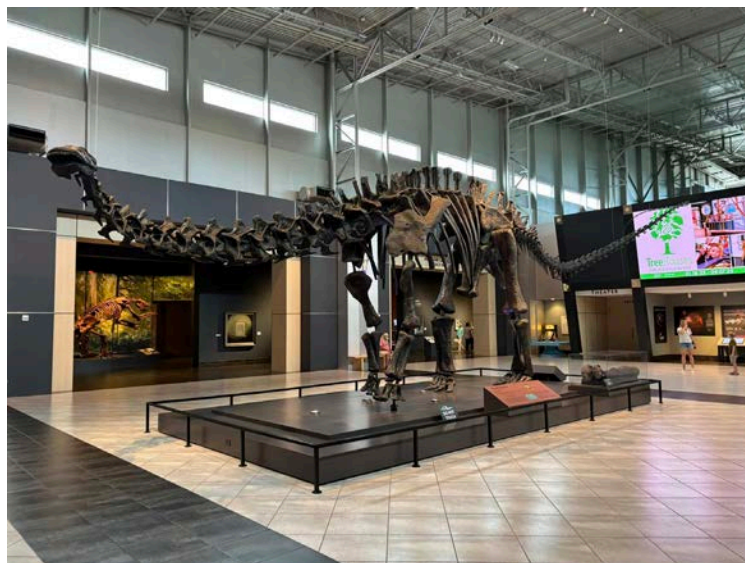
Beautiful cars



While viewing cars it is fun to take time to tell stories



Savoy Auto Museum



Tellus NW GA Science Museum

Alabama Packards Tour

On Saturday, July 20, James Meridith joined fellow members of the Alabama Packards for a memorable road trip to Cartersville, Georgia. The group toured the impressive Savoy Automobile Museum, where classic cars and

automotive history came to life. Afterward, they explored the Tellus Northwest Georgia Science Museum, filled with fascinating exhibits from fossils to space exploration. It was a day of discovery, camaraderie, and appreciation for both the past and the power of the open road.

Great Southern Region Car Show

August 30, 2025 8-12pm

Martin Biscuit-Jeni's parking lot
2930 3rd Ave S, Birmingham



Free • Open Car Show • All Makes All Models

2025 Greatrace

The 2025 Hemmings Great Race presented by Coker Tire began in St. Paul, Minnesota, and concluded in Irmo, South Carolina, covering approximately 2,300 miles over nine days. The race took place from June 21 to June 29, 2025. Car #103, piloted by Craig Floyd with navigator Sam Barnett, successfully completed the full 2,300 mile 2025 Hemmings Great Race, finishing "with Aces". Notably running a flawless rally across the entire route. That's a strong performance! Congrats to the team!



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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

HERSHEY AACA EASTERN NATIONAL FALL MEET 2025

Let's go for a drive in 2025

October 7-10 ■ Tuesday-Friday

Largest Antique Car Show & Flea Market in the World

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



A Note From The EDITOR

There's something special about old cars. It's not just the chrome or the curves, or even the sound of an engine that doesn't quite purr the way new ones do, it's what they represent. These machines carry more than just people, they carry memories. Some are deeply personal, the first time behind the wheel, a long summer road trip, cruising to your favorite diner with the windows down and music up. Others reflect the broader journey we've taken as a society, the innovations that pushed the industry forward, the missteps that taught us hard lessons, and the trends that defined entire generations.

In every restored panel and every original detail, there's a story waiting to be told. Some of those stories are well-known: iconic models, historic races, design breakthroughs. But just as important are the stories that live quietly in the hearts of everyday enthusiasts.

Stories of: rebuilding a car with your grandfather; of breaking down on the side of the road and finding help from a stranger; or of finally tracking down the vehicle you always dreamed of owning.

That's the real heart of this club. Yes, we love the cars. But more than that, we love what they mean. We're memory keepers, in a way. We help ensure that the past doesn't disappear beneath the dust and rust.

We can't remember everything. But together, we can preserve the memories that matter most, the

ones that connect us, inspire us, and remind us why we do what we do.

So here's my ask to you: send in your stories. Tell us about the car that got away or the one you finally found. Share a road trip memory, a restoration saga, or even a photo with a few lines about what it means to you. Big or small, every story adds to the rich tapestry we're building and once it's shared, it lives forever.

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 30Car Show at Pepper Place

September 25	Dinner Meeting
October	Let's Drive Tour
November 20.....	Dinner Meeting
December	Christmas Meeting

Do You Know About the Mileage Award Program?

Reprinted from the Speedster

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

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

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



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

August 12-15

Eastern Divisional Tour

Location: Northern Maine Sponsor: Maine Region

September 7-12

Revival AAA Glidden Tour® (Pre-1943)

Location: Owensboro, KY Sponsor: VMCCA

October 7-10

Eastern Fall Nationals

Location: Hershey, PA Sponsor: Hershey Region

October 18-22

Central Divisional Tour

Location: San Antonio To Gonzales, TX Sponsor: Texas DFW Region

October 22-25

Central Fall Nationals

Location: Galveston, Texas Sponsor: Gulf Coast Region

Shows

August

- 16 Samantha Showcase Vendor Fair and Classic Car Show.** 10-2pm. Northside Lions Club 13166 Northside Rd, Berry, AL Info 205-765-7320
- 23 Vincent Middle School Softball Car Show** 9-1pm 42505 AL-25, Vincent, AL \$25 entry
- 23 Cars for a Cause Car Show** 4-8pm 2408 Pelham Pkwy, Pelham, AL \$30 Reg. Info 205-664-9313
- 23 Cars on the Coosa** 4 pm 2350 Coosa River Parkway, Wetumpka
- 23 Vincent Middle High School Softball Car Show** 9-1pm 42505 AL-25, Vincent, AL \$25 entry
- 30 Great Southern Region Car Show at Pepper Place**
- September**
- 5-6 Hall of Fame Super Show** 3199 Speedway Blvd, Lincoln, AL Info 205-200-0339
- 20 5th Annual Lakeside Motorfest** 10-3pm Lakeside Park, Pell City \$20 reg. www.lakesideliveshow.com
- 27 12th Annual Cruising for Christ Car & Motorcycle Show.** 8-12pm. 2024 Redemption Way Odenville. Info 205-962-5584
- 27 Blountsville Harvest Festival Covered Bridge Auto Club 39th Annual Car Show** 8-Noon. Jack's Drive In Blountsville. \$20 entry. Info 205-625-8506.

October

- 5 The Brian Colburn Memorial Cruise-In.** 2-5pm 734 Hwy 78, Jasper Open to all Vehicles
- 5 American Legion Post #5 Antique Cars, Tractors and Motorcycles Show.** 8-5pm. Southside Community Center 2142 Hwy 77, Southside, AL. \$10 entry
- 11 2025 Thorsby Swedish Festival Auto Show.** 9-2pm. 54 Opportunity Dr, Thorsby, AL 35171. Pre-reg. \$20. Day of Show \$25. Contact thorsbyswedishfestivalautoshow@gmail.com
- 16-18 Etowah County Swap Meet & Car Show.** 201 Griffin St Attalla, AL. Info 256-490-5432
- 18 Ronald Griffith Memorial Car & Truck Show and Youth Fundraiser.** 8-1pm. Cross Creek Community Church, 4825 US Hwy 278 E, Hokes Bluff. Info 256-613-0096
- 19 Elation Church Fall Fest & Car Show.** 4-7pm. 1835 Gate 8 Rd, Anniston. Free entry
- 24-25 6th Annual Wyatt Spann Memorial Car Show.** Friday 5-10 Saturday 9-2pm. 3928 Byler Rd., Eldridge Exit 39 of I-22. \$20 entry fee. Info 205-412-5877





1939 Buick Roadmaster Indianapolis 500 Pace Car

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.

Buick's motorsports history includes two NASCAR titles and six Indianapolis 500 pace cars

The 1939 Buick Roadmaster Indy Pace Car painted in creamy yellow with black Indianapolis 500 lettering outlined in black

The 1939 Roadmaster Indianapolis 500 pace car was painted in creamy yellow with gold lettering outlined in black. (GM media archives)

Just three 1939 Roadmaster Indianapolis 500 pace cars were built. The cars were based on the rare Roadmaster convertible "80C," according to an auction report by R.M. Sothebys. Each car was presented in the "Indy 500 Livery" of the period-

popular colors of creamy yellow with gold lettering outlined in black.

The red interior featured an elaborate, painted wood-grain dash in red and red leather upholstery. The Indy 500 treatment also included a black parade tonneau and a cloth top with boot.

Among the features in the Indy 500 package were dual side-mount spare tires and an accessory spotlight at the base of the driver-side windshield, though neither feature is shown in this marketing photo.

Buick History

Buick was on a roll in 1939 with innovative advertising and promotion. Sales were soaring and there had been a host of product improvements, according to the 2011 auction report.

Buick boss Harlow Curtice was determined to set a new sales record. To stimulate sales, the 1939 Buick Roadmaster Indianapolis 500 pace car was created. It



1939 Indy500 Pace Car

was based on the rare Roadmaster Convertible Sedan.

A new sales target of 200,000 cars was set and at the dealer's kickoff meeting an airplane was displayed on stage with the number "200,000" painted on its wings. The campaign was successful as Buick sold more than 208,000 cars. The result solidified Buick's



1939 Indy500 Pace Car starts the race

position as No. 4 in the industry, behind only the Big Three.

R.M. Sothebys auctioned a 1939 Roadmaster Indianapolis 500 pace car at its 2011 Hershey, Pa., event. The car sold for \$62,500.

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Tour Director Kip Lankenau
Kip@kipmotor.com
214.498.0531
2127 Crown Rd., Dallas, TX 75229

Registrar Tammy Keith
aacatxdfw1@gmail.com
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AACA CENTRAL DIVISIONAL TOUR

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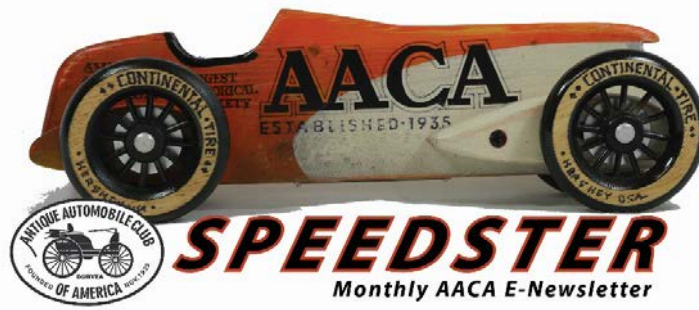


Host Hotel: Moody Gardens Resort and Spa
One Hope Boulevard, Galveston, Texas 77554
Call 409-683-1299 Monday-Friday between 7AM-8PM to
make reservation for the Antique Car Club room block. Group
rate is \$182. **Hotel Reservation Deadline: September 30**

Texas Rangers Presentation • Welcoming Day Party Activities
Technical Session on Chrome Plating • Driving Tour to the
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Band & Silent Auction • Judges Breakfast • CJE • Owners
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Chairman:
Jim Johnston
telcpressure@att.net
832-693-4008

Registration:
Sandra Johnston & Thomas Kidd
Sandra-jim@att.net
tak@citizenkidd.com
713-542-9481



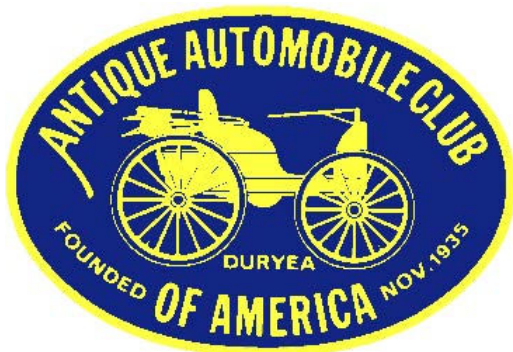
Speedster articles courtesy of AACAA

Attention Life Members: NEW Pin Available



Are you proud to be an AACAA Life Member? Show off your pride by wearing one of our brand-new AACAA Life Member pins.

The pins are made of a hard enamel that is colorful and classy. At only \$10 (plus \$5 for shipping), these new pins are an inexpensive way to show off your status in the club. They are also sure to be a conversation starter with other members as well as people you meet at car shows and tours. You must be a paid Life Member to purchase this pin. Call 717-534-1910 to order one today!



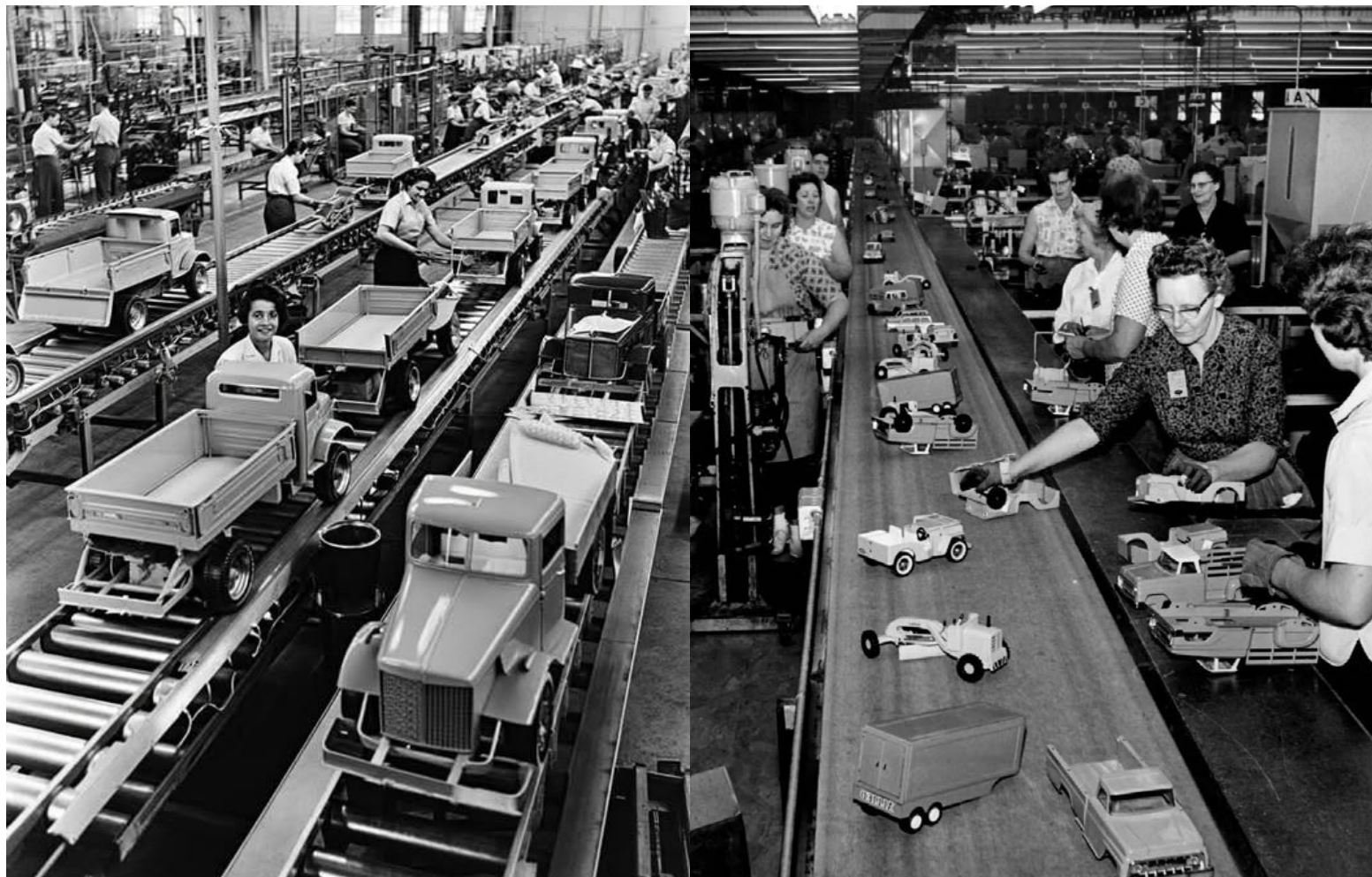
JOIN THE FUN! AACAA MEMBERSHIP



Come for the Cars, Stay for the People.

- Celebrating vehicles 25 years and older
- AACAA 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





Tonka: The First Truck You Ever Drove

Before we ever touched a real steering wheel, many of us were behind the dump bed of a Tonka truck. Heavy. Steel. Built to last. Tonkas weren't just toys—they were our first connection to machines, design, and speed.

These trucks weren't plastic or flimsy. Tonka trucks were made of pressed steel, bolted together like Detroit's finest. The yellow paint was thick, baked on like enamel. The moving parts weren't for show, they were functional. Dump beds tilted. Cranes spun. Cabs rattled down the sidewalk with real weight. For kids growing up in the golden era of muscle cars, Tonka was the only thing in the toybox that felt like a machine, not a prop.

Most of my Tonkas weren't just played with, they were raced. As kids, we turned the hill by our house into our own personal drag strip. We'd sit on top of our dump trucks, fire engines, and Jeeps, gripping the sides, knees tucked in, and let gravity do the rest. No helmets, no brakes, just bare knees, steel wheels, and pure adrenaline. We rode them hard until we were too skinned up to continue, the trucks dented and dusty but still rolling strong. My jeep sure could roll better than the rest of them. Looking

back, it wasn't just play it was our first taste of speed, competition, and the thrill of the ride.

Tonka came out of Minnesota, from a company that once made garden tools. But these trucks were clearly built by people who loved real machines. The designs copied full-size rigs from the '50s and '60s, with bold fenders and grilles like classic GMCs. They were made to survive—and they did.

A lot of collectors still have an old Tonka tucked in the garage, maybe dented and dusty, maybe missing a wheel—but still tough, and still cool. For car lovers, Tonkas hit the same notes: solid build, real design, and a story behind every scratch.

You'll see them at car shows and swap meets now, sometimes in the trunk of a classic. People smile, point, and say, "I had one of those." They bring back memories—and remind us where our love of cars started.

So next time you head to a show, throw a Tonka in the back seat. It just might be the thing that gets the most attention.

- Charlotte



Can You Hear Me Now?

By Steve Moskowitz, CEO, Antique Automobile Club of America

The Verizon television commercials have made the slogan, "can you hear me now" popular. We think it is a question we all should be asking ourselves. Do our members hear us? Are we communicating enough? Do we provide club members, region members and chapter members with enough information to allow them to enjoy our clubs to the fullest? If we are not, we MUST.

We have long since passed the days when the club magazine and the regions/chapters newsletters were the only source to get the word out. Technology has made major inroads to the way we now get a lot of our daily information from the news to sports and yes to our club. We are now in a world that demands instant communication and the sources are vast. It is incumbent on all leaders to make sure we take advantage of the resources available to get our fellow members engaged.

Today, AACA has many methods of communication. We not only have our fabulous magazine but our monthly newsletter, Speedster, our website, this Rummage Box, Judges newsletter, two Facebook accounts, Instagram, and email blasts. National wants to get the word out so news is always close at hand. Informing our members gives them a better experience and allows them to enjoy all that the club has to offer.

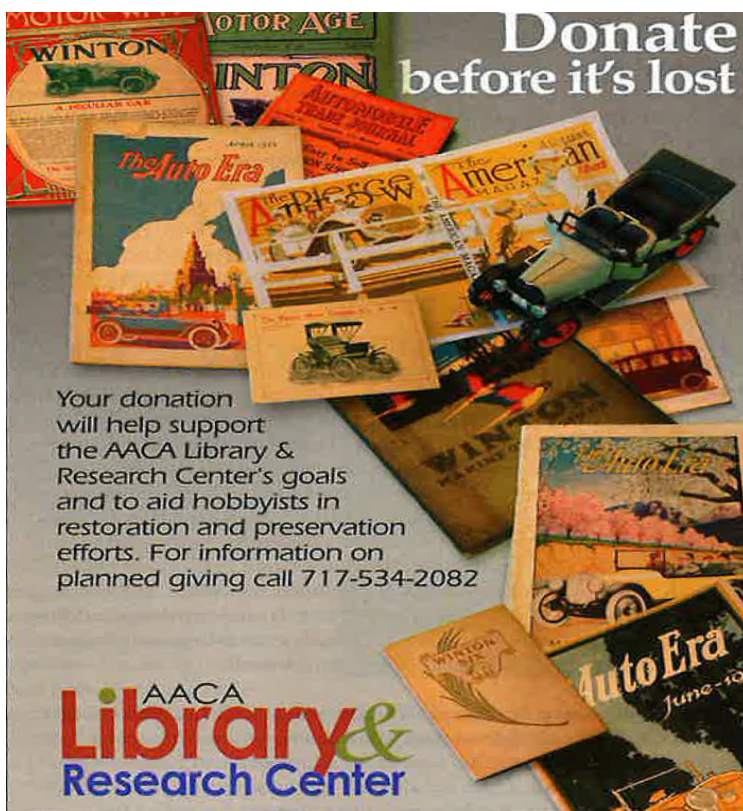
What are you doing to stay in touch with your fellow members? We have too many regions/chapters who do not have even a quality newsletter. Websites may seem daunting for some but national hosts them for free and can provide a template to start a site. If that is too big a challenge, there is always a Facebook page. Does your region have a method to call people or email them when something urgent is happening? You should have an emergency plan in place.

Need help? Your national headquarters staff, especially Pat

Buckley can help you start a website or assist you with ideas for a newsletter. Others in our office can explain Facebook and other technology. Also, we have national directors that will be happy to assist you. So, you are not left without paths to better communication. We are certain that our local clubs will be much more vibrant if their respective clubs maintain an appropriate cadence of staying in touch with its members.

There are other ways to communicate and we are even investigating the idea of offering podcasts, thereby being able to deliver informative and entertaining material to our membership in an entirely new format. In changing times, AACA needs to change in order to communicate more with you, our members. While all of these communication "devices" exist, they are worthless if people do not take advantage of them. So please, do not ignore correspondence that comes to you by your region/ chapter or national. You will be better for it and your enjoyment of AACA will skyrocket!

Rummage Box articles courtesy of AACA



Donate before it's lost

Your donation will help support the AACA Library & Research Center's goals and to aid hobbyists in restoration and preservation efforts. For information on planned giving call 717-534-2082

AACA Library & Research Center