



Exhaust Whistle



Great Southern Region AACA

October 2025 - Official publication of the AACA Great Southern Region - Serving Central Alabama Vol. 37 No. 10

Helena Old Town Car Show

Saturday, November 8 9-1pm. Buck Creek Park, Helena

Dinner Meeting 6pm

Thursday, November 20 at Golden Rule BBQ in Irondale



Central Fall Nationals - Galveston Texas

October 23–25, 2025

The Central Fall Nationals were held October 23–25 in beautiful Galveston, Texas, hosted by the Gulf Coast Region at the Moody Gardens Resort & Spa.

The threat of rain was a frequent topic of

conversation, but the Gulf Coast Region handled the situation perfectly, making everything easier for both participants and judges.

Darrin and I took Barrett to explore the Aquarium and the Rainforest Pyramid—both were a lot of

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A Note From The **PRESIDENT**

As I said in an earlier email, the fall weather is upon us and I hope you are getting out and enjoying a pleasurable drive while the foliage is beautiful and the temperatures are comfortable.

Our car show in Helena is quickly coming near. I hope our club as a whole comes out to support this endeavor and enjoys what can be a great show with good friends for a good cause.

I also want to announce that our next club meeting will be November 20th at Golden Rule BBQ in Irondale. As usual, we will meet at 6PM. Please come prepared to nominate our slate of officers for 2026. We will also want to discuss plans for a club Christmas gathering, if we as a group would like one, where, and when.

Hope to see you on the 8th and 20th.

Ken McClellan

YOU CAN RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EARLY!

Dues are \$20.00 per family.

You must be a member of AACA to be a member of the Great Southern Region.

AACA Annual dues are \$45.00.



Great Southern Region AACA

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gsraaca



AACA National Headquarters
P.O. Box 417 Hershey, PA 17033
Founded 1935 717.534.1910

www.aaca.org

**Dedicated to the preservation,
restoration and maintenance of
automobiles and automotive history**

Membership in the AACA is required to be a
member of the Great Southern Region
Ownership of an antique car is optional

The Exhaust Whistle

Great Southern Region, Birmingham, AL

Email stories and photos to Charlotte at
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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.

2025 Officers

President: Ken McClellan

Vice President: Bill Gardner

Treasurer: Vicki Bolton

Secretary: Vicki Bolton

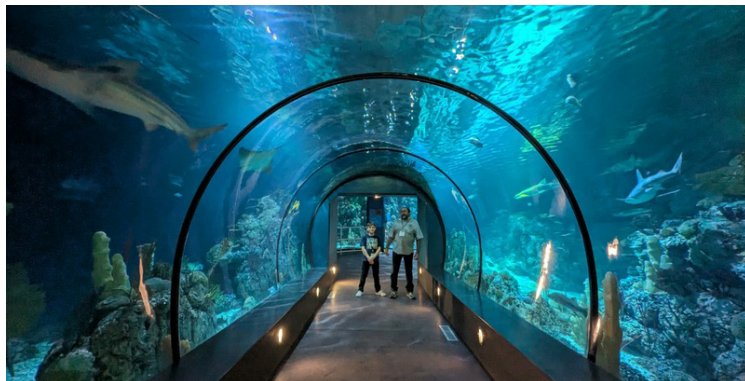
Editor/Webmaster: Charlotte Dahlenburg

Activities: Bill Gardner



fun! Thursday evening we attended a presentation on the history of the Texas Rangers, which drew quite a large and interested crowd. Light snack followed the presentation

Friday morning's adventure took us to the United States Coast Guard facility, where we had the privilege of boarding two of their boats. The Coast Guard crew was friendly and informative. From there, we hopped on the ferry and crossed over for lunch at Jose's Cantina. The food and company were excellent!



Aquarium at Moody Gardens



The Texas Ranger Presentation was well attended



Light snacks hosted by the Gulf Coast Region of AACA



President Ken and our First Lady Phylis



Show cars on the tour to the Coast Guard Station



Ken's 1970 Triumph GT6



On one of the Coast Guard Boats

That afternoon, Ken attended Judging School while I participated in the Round Table discussion. With a 100% chance of rain forecasted for Saturday, the show cars were moved to Level 3 of the convention center parking garage—a brand-new show field. It turned out to be a real treat to see many of the cars the night before the show!

Friday evening wrapped up with a group dinner. The buffet was fantastic, and the band The Fab 5



Ken and Phylis enjoying the tour



President Dave Anspach and our First Lady Debera



Lunch at Jose Cantina



Group photos of participants in the tour



Barrett and Darrin enjoying the view from the bridge



Cars on the Ferry to lunch



Judging school in Galveston

provided lively entertainment after the meal.

Saturday began early with the Judges' Breakfast at 8 a.m. For the first time all year, President Dave Anspach was able to sit down and enjoy breakfast with the judges. Afterward, we were divided into teams and given our assignments. I joined Kelly Adams' team, which included one apprentice judge. Judging went smoothly, and we finished in good time.

Before the awards banquet, we had a chance to browse the silent auction items. The banquet began at 6 p.m., featuring another excellent buffet and great



Judges breakfast with Darin Judging team



Charlotte with her Judging team



Ken sitting with admin until he gets assigned to a judging team



Friday Night dinner with friends and fellow members



Dancing to the Fav 5 Band



The motorcycle class



1941 Chrysler New Yorker

company—always the case when spending time with AACA friends.

Ken received the awards he'd been working toward, and I had the honor of serving as the "silent reader" during the presentations—a role I truly enjoyed.

It was a wonderful event from start to finish. We're already looking forward to seeing everyone again at the Winter Nationals in Cartersville, Georgia, in March 2026!

- Charlotte



Ken and Phylis getting the car on the show field



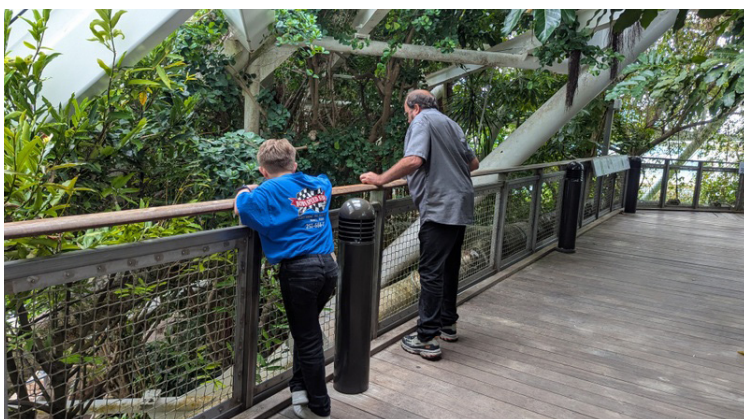
1938 Chrysler Royal



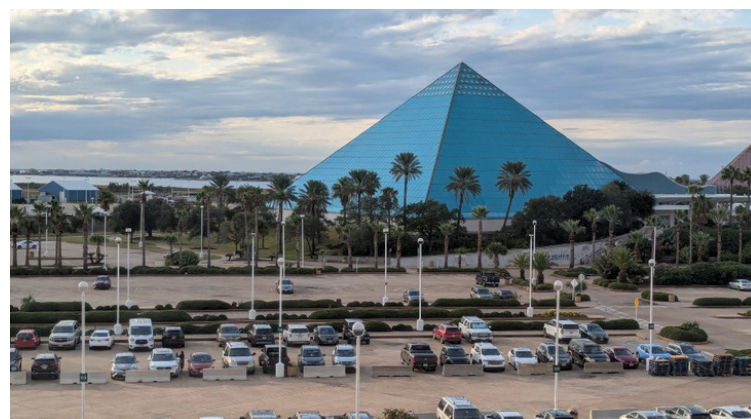
1949 Diamond T 201



The Silent Auction room



Barrett and Darrin at the Rain Forest



View from our room



Ken receiving his award

QSR 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 30	Car Show at Pepper Place
September 25	Dinner Meeting
October 14	Dinner Meeting
November 20.....	Dinner Meeting
December	Christmas Meeting

AACA Calendar

February 5-7

Annual Convention/National Awards

Location: Chantilly, VA 717-534-1910

March 19-21

Special Nationals

Location: Guaynabo, Puerto Rico Host: Puerto Rico Region

March 26-28

Winter Nationals

Location: Cartersville, GA Host: Lake Allatoona Region

April 9-11

Southeastern Spring Nationals

Location: Charlotte, NC Host: Hornets Nest Region

April 23-25

Annual Grand Nationals/Western Spring Nationals

Location: Las Vegas, NV Host: Las Vegas Region

May 28-30

Eastern Spring Nationals

Location: Indiana, PA Host: Shannock Valley Region

June 11-13

Southeastern Fall Nationals

Location: Oak Ridge, TN Host: Volunteer Region

June 15-19

Sentimental Tour

Location: Mechanicsburg, PA Host: Pontiac-Oakland Worldwide
Region

July 23-25

Central Spring Nationals

Location: Green Bay, WI

August 19-22

Annual Grand Nationals / Zenith Awards

Location: Allentown, PA 717-534-1910

September 9-14

Founders Tour (1932-2001)

Location: Williamsburg, VA Host: Historic VA Peninsula Region

September 20-26

Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre-1943)

Location: Dover, DE

October 6-9

Eastern Fall Nationals

Location: Hershey, PA Host: Hershey Region

A Note From The **EDITOR**

The classic car market in 2025 continues to show remarkable growth and broad appeal among collectors and enthusiasts alike. Vehicles 25 years or older that carry cultural, historical, or design significance are drawing strong attention from buyers and hobbyists across generations.

Today's trends focus on rarity, historical importance, investment potential, shifting demographics, and the emergence of future classics. One of the most exciting developments is the growing number of millennials, now in their mid-30s to 50s, joining the hobby. Their interests are expanding the definition of what qualifies as a "classic," blending appreciation for pre-1980 favorites with enthusiasm for post-2000 models that are just beginning to earn collectible status. These cars often offer a more accessible entry point for new enthusiasts.

As a club, understanding these trends helps us see how we can welcome and inspire the next generation of members. Limiting our idea of "antique" to vehicles from the 1970s and earlier overlooks three decades of incredible design, performance, and innovation. The cars of the late 20th century, many of which we once drove daily, are now becoming prized modern classics.

The key is mindset. Cars like the 2000 Chrysler 300M or the 2000 Ford Focus may soon appear at local shows, proudly owned by someone in their 30s or 40s. And those owners are not just participants, they're potential AACA members, eager to share their passion and show their cars at regional and national events across the country.

Our hobby thrives when it welcomes everyone who appreciates automotive history no matter which decade first fueled their love of cars.

Charlotte



Local Calendar

Cruise Ins

Cruise Ins

- 1st Tuesday - 5-8pm** Petro Bucksville 22526 Highway 216 McCalla
- Thursday Weekly - 6-9pm** VFW Post 6022, 7001 University Blvd E, Cottondale
- 1st Saturday - 8-11am** Hoovers Tactical Firearms Cruise In 1561 Montgomery Hwy. Hoover. Hosted by Dixie Vintage Antique Automobile Club
- First Saturday - 9-2pm.** Cruising on the Square. Downtown Jasper (April – Sept)
- 2nd Saturday - 5-8pm** Apr-Oct Bee Line Highway Classics & Cruisers Railroad St, Hartselle
- 2nd Saturday - 6-9pm** Apr-Oct Alabama Misfits Jack's Exit 267 off I-65 1195 Walker Chapel Rd, Flutondale
- 2nd Saturday - 8-11am** - Magic City Octane. 6200 Grand River Blvd E, Leeds, AL
- 3rd Saturday - 6pm** Tallahassee Shopping Center 400 Gilmer Ave
- 3rd Saturday - 2-5pm** Hooters Hwy 119 & Oak Mountain Park Road, Pelham
- 3rd Saturday - 3:30-8:30pm** Home Depot 41310 US Hwy 280 Sylacauga
- 3rd Saturday - 4:30-7:30pm** Home Depot 3784 US 431 Phoenix City
- 3rd Saturday - 6-9pm** Jack's Drive in Blountsville (May-Aug)
- 4th Saturday - 5-9pm** Pizza Bar 141 2nd St NW Carbon Hill
- 4th Saturday - 8-10:30am** 1110 Sparkman St. NW Hartselle American Legion Post 52
- Saturday Weekly 8:30-10:30** Shops of Colonnade 3418 Colonnade Pkwy, Birmingham
- 3rd Sunday - 1-5pm** Casual Pint, 5541 Grove Blvd, Hoover
- 3rd & 5th Sunday 3pm** 1204 Forestdale Square, Forestdale
- Last Saturday - 5pm-?** 7900 Vaughn Rd at Taylor Rd Montgomery

Shows

November

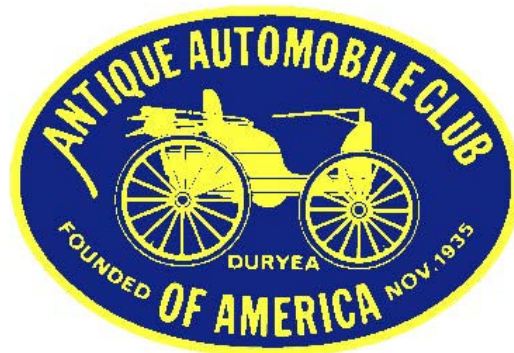
- 1 Cahaba Auto Fest Car and Motorcycle Show 8-2pm Centerville Historic Court Square, 35 CT SQ E, Centerville, AL info: 205-901-3864
- 8 Helena Old Town Car Show. 9-1pm. Buck Creek Park in Helena \$20 reg. Awards, Food Truck.
- 8 White Plains Arts & Crafts Fair/Car Show. 9-2pm. 23153 Hwy 431, Lafayette Info 334-338-1092
- 8 39th Annual Ho! Ho! Ho! Christmas Show, Cars, Truck and Motorcycle. 9-2pm Cullman Caring for Kids, 402 Arnold St. NE Cullman, \$20 entry, or toy of \$20 value Info: Edith 256-734-8726
- 8 Tiddles Bend Baptist Church Car Show, 10-2pm Youth Group Benefit 5574 Riddles Bend RD. Rainbow City, AL \$20 day of show.
- 22 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Throwdown Holiday Raceway 20105 Hwy 11, Woodstock AL

JOIN THE FUN! AACA MEMBERSHIP



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





William Clay Ford senior, Benson Ford and Henry Ford II at the launch of the Edsel brand and car in 1957. (All photos from Ford PR archives)

The Fateful “E Day” - September 4, 1957

The Edsel brand debuted as the ‘the car of the future’ and was introduced with great fanfare as an ‘entirely new kind of 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.

Ford Motor’s initial “E Day” had nothing to do with electrification, though it was hoped to be electrifying. Sept. 4, 1957, marked the infamous launch of the Edsel brand.

The brand was named for Edsel B. Ford, scion of company

founder Henry Ford. The new division was intended to be a fourth selling channel for the carmaker, along with Mercury and Lincoln. Ford spent big on the debut. A reported \$250 million went into development, manufacturing, and marketing on the model line, according to its page on Wikipedia.

Marketed as “the car of the future,” the “mid-priced” Edsel lineup was introduced with great fanfare as an “entirely new kind of car.” The distinctive dome speedometer.



1958 Edsels on test track for a press event.



The expansive fleet of 1958 Edsels for a press event.



The Edsel would introduce multiple advanced features for the time. Among them:

- The speedometer was a rotating dome, not the traditional horizontal strip or a round dial. The dashboard adopted warning lights such for conditions as low oil level, parking brake engaged and engine overheating. The format was in line with aircraft design.

- Edsel introduced a speed warning on the speedometer if the driver exceeded a preset speed. But it was not cruise control.



The Tel-A-Touch transmission selector.

- A column-mounted transmission shifter was standard. But Edsel offered the Tel-A-Touch push-button shifting system that was mounted in the steering wheel hub.

“The Edsel also integrated many elements of the Ford Lifeguard safety package into its design. Along with optional seatbelts, the Edsel featured a deep-dish steering wheel, double-latch doors and childproof rear door locks.

“The model line was among the first to introduce remote-operated trunk opening and self-adjusting brakes.”



The brand debuted with a seven-model lineup. Shown are 1959 Edsels.

In its inaugural model year, Edsel introduced a seven-model product line, including four sedans and three station wagons.

“The lower-trim Edsel Ranger and Edsel Pacer shared bodies with Ford sedans (118-inch wheelbase) while the higher-trim Edsel Corsair and Edsel Citation shared bodies with Mercury sedans (124-inch wheelbase).



A 1959 Fordor Sedan.

“Sharing its body and 116-inch wheelbase with Ford station wagons, Edsel offered the two-door Edsel Roundup and the four-door Edsel Villager and Edsel Bermuda.

According to Wikipedia, the brand was also promoted by the top-rated television special, “The Edsel Show,” on Oct. 13. But the promotional effort was not enough to

counter the adverse initial public reaction to Edsel styling and unconventional build.

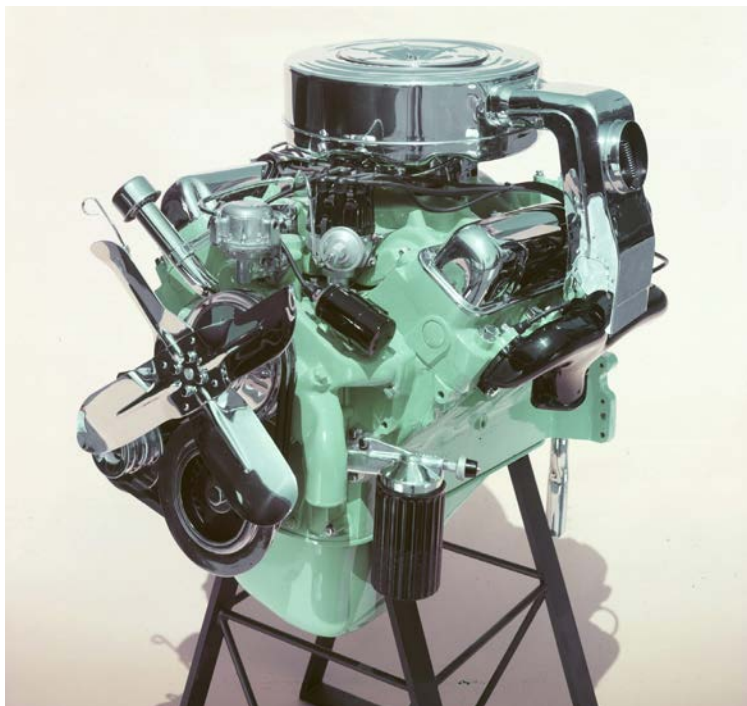


Three across seating for the Ford executives.

A reborn LaSalle

"After the launch date, Edsel was described as a 'reborn LaSalle,' a General Motors brand that had disappeared in 1940. For months, Ford had been telling the industry press that it 'knew' (through its market research) that there would be great demand for the vehicles.

"Ford also insisted that, in the Edsels, it had built exactly the 'entirely new kind of car' that Ford had been leading the buying public to expect through its pre-introduction publicity campaign for the cars.



1958 Edsel's 410 cubic-inch (6.7-liter), OHV V-8.

"In reality, however, Edsels shared their engineering and bodywork with other Ford models, and the similarities were apparent once the vehicles were viewed firsthand.

The Edsel brand was introduced in a recession that catastrophically affected sales of medium-priced cars. Edsels were considered overhyped, unattractive (distinguished by a vertical grille), and low quality.



1958 Edsel chassis.

Ford's damage control moved quickly. In January 1958, the free-standing Edsel division was added to Lincoln-Mercury, according to the Wiki report. The re-christened Mercury-Edsel-Lincoln Division adopted Edsel sales and marketing operations.



A 1958 Edsel dealer showroom.

"As the model year progressed and sales fell below expectations, multiple Edsel-only dealers closed or expanded their brand offerings with the encouragement of Ford Motor Co. The alternate brands included Lincoln-Mercury or imported Ford of Britain and Ford of Germany franchises.



Ford design VP George Walker attends the 1958 Edsel introduction in the Styling Rotunda.

But the Edsel brand was not be saved. Ford quietly discontinued the Edsel brand before 1960.

Here are a few more Edsel photos too good to not share:



1958 Edsel and 1932 Ford Phaeton with V8 engines.



The top-line 1958 Edsel Citation hardtop

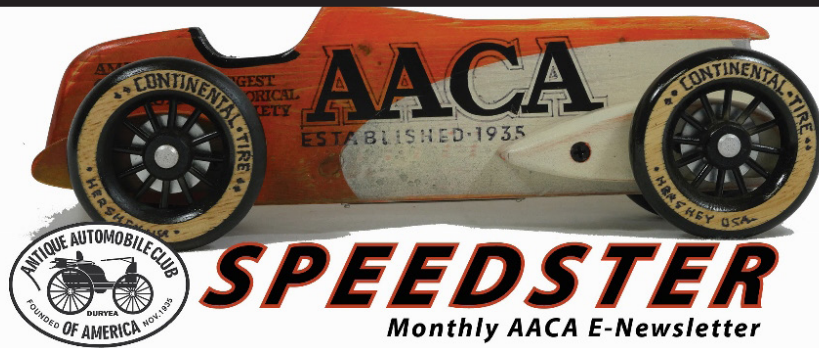


And the infamous horse-collar grille.

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



Speedster articles courtesy of AACA

ATTENTION: Regions & Chapters

\$3,000-\$5,000 Grants Available to Regions Hosting National Activities

The AACA National Board of Directors realizes that the financial risk involved with hosting a national show or tour has caused many regions and chapters to be hesitant to volunteer to host a national event. Some regions simply do not have the funds available to even think about hosting.

The board has approved a grant program for any region receiving board approval to host a national event that has not hosted one for more than ten years. Here's how it breaks down:

\$5,000 grants available to regions hosting national car shows

\$5,000 grants available to regions hosting national 5-day tours

\$3,000 grants available to regions hosting national 3-day tours

There are many opportunities to host one of these events. We have Winter Nationals available and will schedule up to three years in advance. Spring and Fall National shows are available to schedule for Eastern, Southeastern, Central and Western Divisions, also up to 3 years in advance.

Touring events share the same opportunities. Founders Tour, Sentimental Tour, Vintage Tour, Reliability Tour, Glidden Tour and all four Divisional Tours have available openings for your region to reserve for up to three years in advance.

For more information, please contact Greg

Jackson, VP National Activities, at greg.jackson15@outlook.com or 704-408-6217.

Don't miss this opportunity to host a national event. Take advantage of this special grant program while the National Board has this offer available!





This corporate PR image for the Volvo Amazon has the caption: “Three models are lifted to check their total weights.” (Photos courtesy of Volvo)

1956 Volvo 122 ‘Amason’ aka Amazon

The Volvo Amazon was a midsize car manufactured and marketed by Volvo Cars from 1956 to 1970, according

to its page in Wikipedia. It was introduced to the United States in 1959 as the 122S during the New York

International Auto Show.

When introduced, the car was named the Amason (with an 's') in tribute to the fierce female warriors of Greek mythology, the Amazons. German motorcycle manufacturer Kreidler had already registered the name. After negotiations, the two companies agreed that Volvo could only use the name Amazon within Sweden. Subsequently, Volvo began its tri-digit nomenclature and the line became known as the 120 Series.

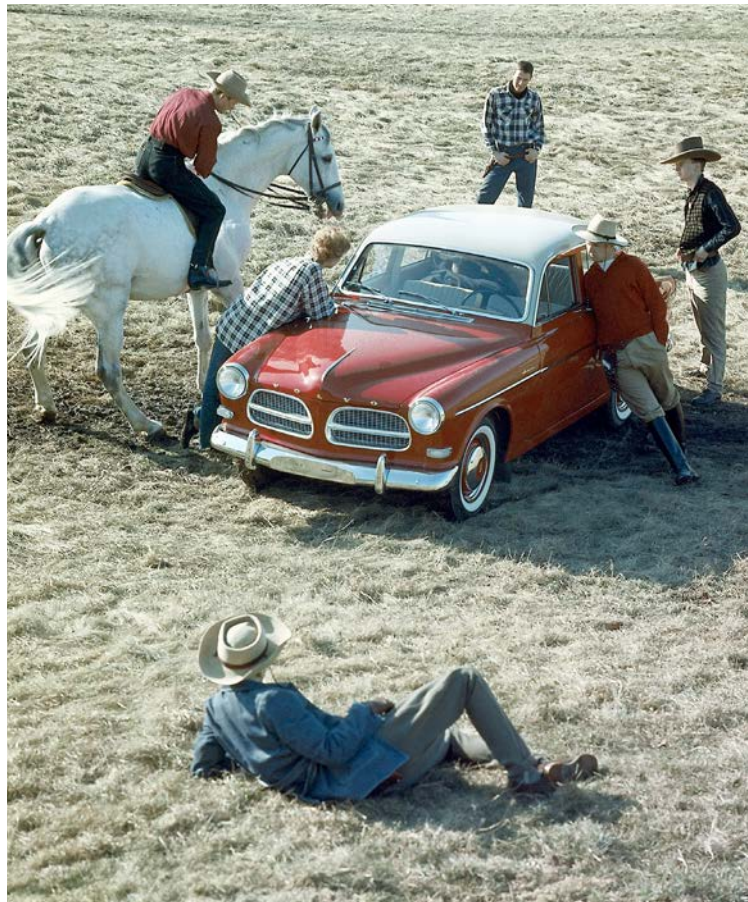
Ponton Styling

The Volvo Amazon was sold in body styles of two-door sedan, four-door sedan, and five-door wagon — all noted for their ponton styling.



In 1959, Volvo claimed to be the world's first manufacturer to provide front seat belts as standard equipment.

"The Amazon's "pontoon" (pontoon-like) three-box styling was inspired by U.S. cars of the early 1950s, according to Wikipedia. The ponton styling strongly



This group of caballeros (ranch hands) might be pondering an Amazon pickup.

resembled the Chrysler New Yorker sedan and the Chrysler 300C hardtop coupe. Amazon designer Jan Wilsgaard said he was inspired by an American Kaiser he saw at the Gothenburg, Sweden, port.

At introduction, the Amazon had a choice of two four-cylinder engines. The base in-line OHV 1.6-liter had 60-horsepower and there was an uplevel 85-hp variant. Power upgrades came in 1961 with a 70- or 90-hp 1.8-liter four-cylinder, with a bump to 95-hp in 1965.

The Volvo Amazon had floor-mounted manual transmissions had either three- or four-speeds, with or without overdrive. However, some cars were delivered with a steering-column shifter.

Always a safety innovator, Volvo invented the three-point seat belt. It then began to provide the front seat belts as standard equipment. The belts were added to all Amazon models, including those for export.

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.



Where Do You Want to Go Next?

Greg Jackson
2025 VP National
Activities / 2024 Youth
Development & Awards

If you are reading this, chances are you have a love of antique cars and are looking forward to the spring and summer show and tour season. We are blessed again this year to have willing regions and chapters that have stepped forward to host an event. The 2025 Calendar will include nationals in Charlotte NC, Tucson AZ, Beckley WV, Dayton OH, Hershey PA and Galveston, TX. Tour locations for this year will be in Lancaster County, PA, Northern

Maine, Owensboro KY (Glidden tour hosted by the VMCCA), and San Antonio to Gonzales TX. Always check for up to date event information on aaca.org and make sure to follow the registration deadlines for each! The regions and chapters hosting the events would love to have you - but please let them know by the cut off for planning and coordination with venues, caterers etc. There are many opportunities to host an event in the future. We have open calendar availability in each region of the country and can schedule up to 3 years in advance. We would love to come visit you in your neck of the woods soon! Please consider the offer the Board of Directors enacted in 2024 to allow a region or chapter that has not hosted a national event in the last 10 years, a grant of \$5000 in seed money to cover up front costs of hosting.

Mileage Award Program

Touring is not a spectator sport, so for those who enjoy driving their vintage vehicle, the AACA Mileage Award Program (MAP) has been set up. So, as the old saying goes, "Ladies and Gentlemen, start your engines" and prepare to enjoy AACA touring.

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

The vehicle owner must register the vehicle in the MAP. Registration included completing the MAP form and returning it with \$25 to AACA Headquarters.

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

Mail your copy 2 at each increment for National



Headquarters to approve and your award will be mailed to you.

Direct questions to general@aaca.org or 717-534-1910.

CAR

HELENA
OLD
TOWN

Hosted by the
Great Southern
Region of the
Antique Automobile
Club of America



SHOW

SAT, NOV 8TH

9 AM-1 PM

Location: Buck Creek Park in Helena

Awards for
Original and Modified Classes
Top Ten
Youth Choice
Best of Show

Food
Truck

\$20
ENTRY FEE

Net proceeds will be donated to
Helena Firefighter Charity

Visit This Event at Helena Old Town
Facebook or Great Southern Region
website and Facebook below.



MORE INFO: GREATSOUTHERN.AACA.COM • FACEBOOK - GSRAACA