



Exhaust Whistle



Great Southern Region AAC

December 2025 - Official publication of the AAC Great Southern Region - Serving Central Alabama Vol. 37 No. 12



A Fleetwood's Holiday Journey to the Lights of St. Augustine

Back at the beginning of December, my brother and I went with the Atlanta Allanté Club to the annual "Christmas Cruise", which is always in a different place. This year it was in St. Augustine Florida. They say it is the most decorated city in Florida. This year I decided to drive my '89 Fleetwood Coupe instead of my Allanté, because some in the group hadn't seen it.

The first leg of the trip would be going to Chatsworth, GA to pick up my brother. Uneventful really, with no issues. We spent the rest of the day getting his stuff packed in the car. Folding a rolling walker with a seat to fit it in the trunk was an experience. I guess I should mention here, that my brother had a stroke a couple of years ago and we figured it might help if we had a lot of walking

to do. Anyway, everything fit in the trunk. It really is bigger than it looks.

The next day, we headed to Pooler, GA for the first night. We made a couple of stops along the way for the usual, food and gasoline. The first stop was a Carolina Barbecue at Buckee's. Yes, we had to eat in the car, but we didn't make a mess. By the time we got to Macon, it had started raining. Later that evening we met up with several club members at the Drury Inn, which was a really nice place.

The next morning, we all had breakfast at the hotel, they had more than the usual complementary breakfasts. Then we headed off to St' Augustine. We arrived at the Marriott Bonvoy about 1:30pm
Continued on Page 3

A Note From The PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to everyone as we welcome 2026 into not only our personal lives but for our club as well. For those who were not able to join us for the Christmas Gathering, you were very much missed. I think those who attended had a good time but it would have been so much better if you had been able to attend.

At that party, I proposed my thoughts for event/meeting planning for this new year. I strongly encourage each of our members/couples to pick out a month and plan for the club what you enjoy. I'm sure you know great places that I have never heard of. Whether it is a drive to a particular destination, just a drive around our beautiful state, to an out of the way restaurant or ice cream shop, or just a dinner meeting at your favorite eating place. This also means that our regular Thursday of the month meeting may be replaced with whatever interesting event has been planned for that month. We can keep everyone up to date through our newsletters, website, Facebook page, whatever.

January will start with a dinner meeting on the 22nd with location TBA. We can start filling out the event calendar at that meeting but in reality, don't wait until then. First come first served means if you plan first, you get the month you want. I am excited to see what we will enjoy every month.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Ken McClellan



**We are on
Facebook!
Like and follow us
gsraaca**



A monthly publication of the Great Southern Region - AACA



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
Realracegril1@gmail.com
www.greatsouthern.aaca.com
facebook: gsraaca

The Exhaust Whistle is a monthly publication of the AACA Great Southern Region, views 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

December 2025



and got checked in. It was not as nice as the Drury Inn. Next, we met up with other members that had also just arrived. There were 28 of us in all. Several members live in Florida. We did a lot of catching up and discussing various projects. The club had arranged for a couple of shuttle busses to take all of us over to The Columbia Restaurant, where we had reservations. It has been nearly 35 years since I had eaten at the Columbia, but that was at the one in Tampa. It was just as nice as I remembered. If you have not been to one of the seven Columbia Restaurants in Florida, plan on going, you will not be disappointed. They have been family owned since 1905, seven generations. After dinner, we went back to the hotel for more socializing.

The next day did not go exactly as planned. It was really cold, drizzling rain and my brother was not up to sightseeing on an open trolley. Instead, skipped breakfast and found a really good Chinese buffet. Then we decided to just drive around and do our own sightseeing inside the car with the heat on. That evening was supposed to be the Christmas light tour of the old downtown St. Augustine. We decided to do that on our own too. It is beautiful at night. Then back to the hotel, more socializing.

On Sunday morning, we checked out and headed toward my brother's house. We made several stops

along the way. Of course we had to stop at another Buckee's, this time for a brisket, and some snacks for the road. After we hit the Georgia line, we kept seeing the "We're Nuts" signs for Ellis Brothers Pecans. We couldn't pass that up. They had samples out for almost everything in the store. We couldn't pass up a few things and probably spent \$75. When we left, there were cotton patches on both sides of the road, leading back to the interstate. My brother couldn't resist and had to get out and pick a double handful. We plan to plant a few seeds next year. He thought it was hilarious that we stopped on the side of the road in a Cadillac to pick cotton. About that time, it started raining again and didn't stop until we were almost back to his house. I stayed a couple of days to help him with a few projects.

I made it home on Wednesday. The Fleetwood really did great. It didn't use a drop of oil and it averaged 22.5 mpg on the entire trip, but it really needed a bath. The whitewalls were barely visible after almost a thousand mile run with it raining most of the time. I've discovered the best whitewall and wire hubcap cleaner. Scrubbing Bubbles foaming bath tub cleaner. Just spray it on dry tires, let it sit a few minutes and then give it another quick shot and gently scrub with a nylon brush. The before and after photos are included. - Bill Corn



A great way to close out the year.

We closed out the year at the McClellan home in Leeds at a wonderful Christmas party. Ken and Phyllis were very gracious hosts. We were all having such a wonderful time that I don't think anybody took any pictures. Their home was decorated beautifully for Christmas. Many of us elected to eat in the back room overlooking the incredible scenery. The view is just amazing. There was an abundance of food and plenty of desserts. I don't think anyone left hungry. In fact, I think most of us took plates home. We had lots of good conversation and fellowship, which was a great way to close out the year.

A hearty thank you to Ken and Phyllis for hosting the party! – Vicki Bolton



CARTERSVILLE, GA



CHARLOTTE, NC



OAK RIDGE, TN



FLAT ROCK, NC



2026 calendar is bursting with activity close to home!

Arthur and I will be very busy next year as we travel around the country to the many events that are on the calendar for 2026. As many of you know, I will be the AACA President for 2026. I hope some of you will be able to attend some of the events, as there are several nearby. There will be a Winter Nationals in Cartersville, Georgia, in March, for which registration is now open. Charlotte will once again host the Southeastern Spring Nationals at the Charlotte Raceway. This year will be very special, as the show will be held inside the racetrack. The Tennessee Volunteer Region will hold a Nationals in June in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The last event in the Southeast is a Divisional Tour in Flat Rock, NC, hosted by the Great Smoky Mountain Region and Little Detroit Chapter. We have been on tours hosted by the Great Smoky Mountain Region, and they always do a great job.

My last recommendation is for the Annual Convention in Chantilly, VA, in February. If you have never been to the Annual Convention, or it has been a while since you have been, it is quite an experience.

Of course, the installation of officers will take place at the Annual Meeting. Thursday features a bus tour to Washington, D.C., to see the monuments. I am really looking forward to this event, as I have never been to D.C. There will be the Director Welcome Reception on Thursday evening, featuring lots of desserts to sample. Friday will be packed with activities. There is the First Lady's Luncheon at noon. The Regions Banquet will be on Friday evening. Regions can promote their activities for the upcoming year at this event. It will be followed by a 1970s casino night, where you can play casino-styled games for free and win prizes. The weekend closes with the Awards Banquet on Saturday night. The convention also features seminars, a trade show exhibit, and judging school on Saturday morning.

Please see the National calendar for the rest of the activities that are planned this year. I hope that some of you will plan on attending some of the events this year. I would love to see you!

– Vicki



**AACA Southeastern Spring Nationals
April 11, 2026
at Charlotte AutoFair**
Hosted by Hornets Nest Region

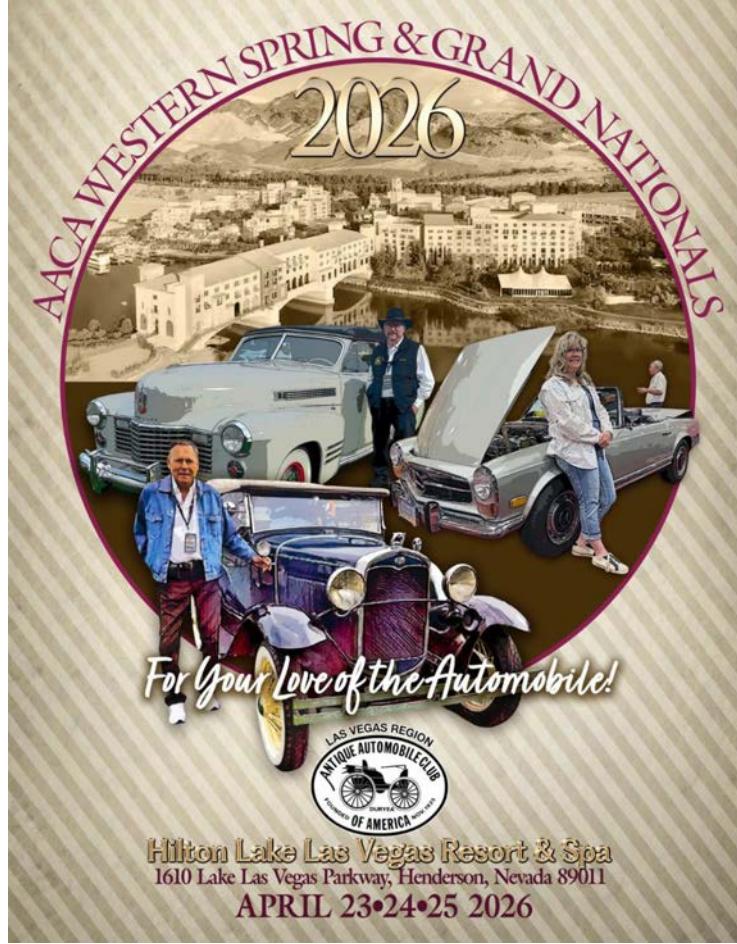


Hornets Nest Region
9307-H Monroe Road
Charlotte, NC 28270
hnraaca@gmail.com

**Information:
Region Office
704-841-1990
Mon-Thur 9-3**



*Vehicle Registrations Will Be Handled
With the Customary AACA Process.*



Hilton Lake Las Vegas Resort & Spa
1610 Lake Las Vegas Parkway, Henderson, Nevada 89011
APRIL 23-24-25 2026

AACA Central Spring Nationals
July 22-26, 2026 • Green Bay, Wisconsin
Registration & Hotel Deadline: June 20

Show Highlights: Lambeau Field Tours • Welcome Party • Craft Event • Members Roundtable • Judging School • Ice Cream Social • Oneida Dancers • Leisure Time @ Oneida Casino • Judges Breakfast • CJE • Nationals Car Show • Cocktail Hour & Banquet

Host Hotel: Tundra Lodge
865 Lombardi Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54304
877-888-3727, ask for AACA rate
Includes \$10 daily breakfast if you show your AACA badge

Questions? Contact Chairman:
Russ Walker, 920-819-1407, russellswalker@aol.com



Request registration materials from AACA National

SAVE THE DATE!
2026 AACA Eastern Spring Nationals
May 28-30 • Indiana, PA

Questions?
Nationals Chair: Paul Colligan
724-599-8711, sv26spring@gmail.com



Request registration materials from AACA National



GSR Calendar

January 15 Dinner Meeting
February 19 Dinner Meeting
March 19 Dinner Meeting
April 16 Dinner Meeting
May 21 Dinner Meeting
June 18 Dinner Meeting
July 16 Dinner Meeting
August 20 Dinner Meeting
September 17 Dinner Meeting
October 15 Dinner Meeting
November 19 Dinner Meeting
December 17 Dinner 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 5-8
Southeastern Divisional Tour
Location: Hendersonville, NC
August 19-22
Annual Grand Nationals / Zenith Awards
Location: Allentown, PA 717-534-1910
September 9-14
Founders Tour (1932-2001)

At Note From The EDITOR

The holidays always bring packed schedules and plenty of opportunities to simply enjoy time with family and friends. Now that the shopping bags are empty, the cookies are eaten, and the decorations have been admired (and slightly judged), it's time to exhale.

Winter has arrived, and nature appears to be taking a well-earned nap. The cooler temperatures and shorter days have a way of encouraging reflection and, inevitably, thoughts of new projects, along with a few old ones that have been politely waiting their turn.

Out in the garage, the '66 GTO has been far too dormant and is practically tapping its hood, begging to be finished. The '55 needs some attention as well if it's going to be ready to show and tour in 2026. And of course, that's just the short list.

While cleaning out flower beds this week, it struck me just how much upkeep everything requires. In a moment of optimism (or delusion), I decided to make a checklist fully believing that writing things down somehow makes them get done. The goal, of course, is to actually cross items off... not just admire the list.

January will bring cold temperatures and plenty of opportunities to jump-start a few projects. With any luck, the checklists will help me be more productive. And if not, I can at least dream about it while staying warm.

Whatever's on your list, just get started and who knows, you might even finish one of those projects in 2026. After all, hope springs eternal... even in winter.

Charlotte

Puerto Rico
2026 AACA SPECIAL NATIONALS
MARCH 19-21, 2026 GUAYNABO, PR



1934 MG PA

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
San Juan, Miramar
www.marriott.com (787) 721-7400

MUNICIPIO DE GUAYNABO
DE PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico Region

Jose "Guillo" Davila
787-382-9813
guillodavila57@outlook.com

"Best Antique Car Show on the Island, By Far!"

Raymond Beniquez
787-881-1957
raybeniquez@gmail.com

Request registration materials from AACA National



A monthly publication of the Great Southern Region - AACA

December 2025



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

1st Saturday - 9-12 pm MOB Inc Monthly Car Show 40 Inverness Pkwy, Hoover

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

January

12 Crusin The Capital 2-6pm 7919 Vaughn Rd Montgomery

30- Feb 1 55th Annual World of Wheels Birmingham More info: worldofwheels.net/birmingham/

March

14 The Worx Auto Expo 10-3pm The Village Green 3113 Park Court Millbrook

April

18 4th Annual Pell City Car Show 9am. Pell City High School

May

1 4th Annual Irondale Auto Classic. 8-1pm. 3900 Grants Mill Road, Irondale



The Military Sponsorship Program is available to all of the Military Veterans that have proudly served to protect our homeland and freedoms.

With this program, AACA is extending a limited number of complimentary 2023 memberships for first-time AACA applicants. More information on this program

and an application can be found on the AACA website under member information and drop down to Military. These complimentary 2023 memberships are for first-time AACA applicants and are limited by the funds available for this program. These complimentary applications for membership are intended for individuals who have a genuine interest in the antique car hobby.



A monthly publication of the Great Southern Region - AACA

December 2025



A Ruff Ride: The 1936 Running Board Dog Sack

Source: Excerpted from *Popular Mechanics*, June 1935.

<https://hemmingforddogblog.wordpress.com/2009/03/14/popular-mechanics-circa-1936/>

https://www.weirduniverse.net/blog/comments/travel_sack_for_dogs

<https://www.autoblog.com/news/mans-best-friend-relegated-to-running-board-sack-in-1936>

<https://thestarryeye.typepad.com/pets/2009/03/sack-lets-dog-ride-outside-car-cat-wig-for-kitty.html>

In the ever-creative world of early automotive accessories, few inventions have sparked more head-shaking and curiosity than the Detachable Dog Sack. Introduced in 1936 and featured in *Popular Mechanics*, this canvas contraption was designed to transport your dog not in the car, but on the outside of it secured to the running board like a furry parcel.

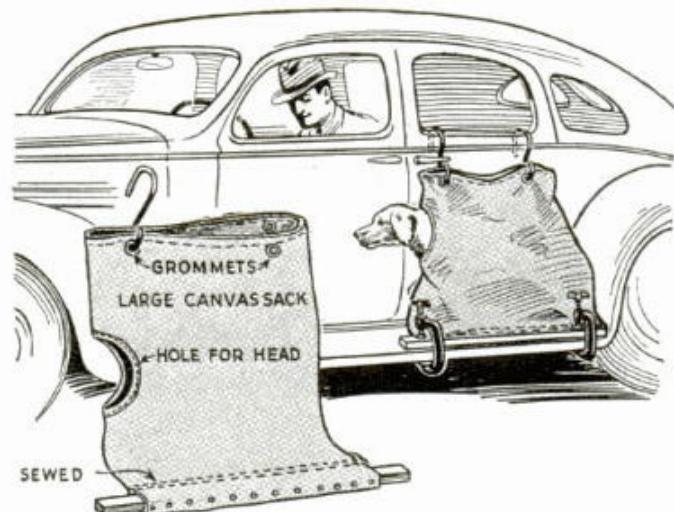
At a time when cars were rapidly evolving in style and speed, many families were taking longer trips and including their pets in the journey. The challenge? Keeping the car's interior clean from muddy paws, shedding fur, and the occasional nervous nibble on the upholstery. The solution? According to the inventors strap the dog to the outside and let it ride in its own canvas "sack," which they claimed was both safe and comfortable.

The design was surprisingly simple. The bottom of the sack was clamped directly to the running board, and the top was hooked to the frame of an open window. A hole was cut near the front so the dog's head could poke out, allowing it to take in the sights and smells as the car cruised along. The hooks were even covered in rubber tubing, supposedly to prevent scratching the car's paint.

In theory, it was a tidy solution. In practice, it bordered on the absurd. Dogs were left mere inches from the road, vulnerable to weather, flying debris, and other hazards. One wrong turn, one close brush with a roadside post, and this so-called innovation could have turned tragic. Safety regulations were still decades away, and in an era that celebrated daring over due diligence, the Detachable Dog Sack slipped through as just another "handy" new idea.

It did not take long for this invention to fall out of favor. By today's standards, it is hard to believe it was ever considered acceptable, much less clever. Still, it makes for a fascinating footnote in the history of car

Dog Rides Comfortably in Sack on Running Board



Your dog will ride safely in this sack, which is quickly attached or removed

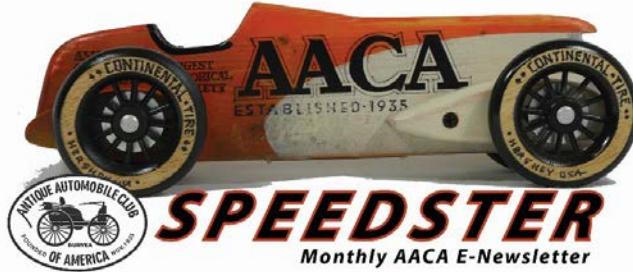
When you take your dog along for a ride, but prefer not having it inside the car, it can ride safely and comfortably in this sack, which is carried on the running board. The bottom of the sack is clamped to the running board and the top is fastened to the lower part of an open window with hooks, covered with small rubber tubing to prevent marring the car.

travel and serves as a reminder of the inventive, if occasionally misguided, spirit of the 1930s.

This curious piece of canine travel gear has since earned a place on multiple lists of "worst inventions of all time," but it also stands as a snapshot of a time when people were still figuring out how to live with and travel with their cars.

Have you ever come across an odd or little-known automotive accessory from the early days of motoring? Maybe a strange contraption from a swap meet or an ad clipping from an old magazine? We would love to hear about it. Share your story or photo with the club, and we may feature it in a future issue. After all, the history of the automobile is not just about chrome and engines it is also about the weird, the wonderful, and the downright wacky.

Gee, a canvas sack tied to the car.... what could go wrong? - Charlotte



Speedster articles courtesy of AACAA

Experience True Southern Hospitality Only in Cartersville, Georgia... Museum City!! Registration is Now Open!

March 26-28, 2026

Winter Nationals

Cartersville, GA

Registration Deadline: February 24

The Lake Allatoona Region invites you to attend the AACAA Winter Nationals on the beautiful new campus of Georgia Highlands College in Cartersville, GA. The Courtyard by Marriott Cartersville across from the college serves as our host hotel. Free shuttle services to our off-site excursions are courtesy of Cartersville Museum City, cartersvillemuseumcity.com.

Also happening Saturday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., the 18th Annual Northwest Georgia Women's Expo at the Clarence Brown Conference Center located next to our host hotel. Complimentary tickets are available for all AACAA Winter Nationals participants.

Event Highlights:

- Thursday Welcome Reception at Old Car City USA
- Friday Excursions: Historic Downtown Cartersville, Booth Western Art Museum, Etowah Indian Mounds, Tellus Science Museum
- Friday Membership Roundtable & Judging School
- Friday Tour & Special Presentation at the Savoy Automobile Museum
- Friday Evening Georgia Highlands College Meet & Greet
- Saturday Swap Meet & Car Corral
- Saturday CJE & Owners Briefing
- Saturday Winter Nationals Car Show at Georgia Highlands College
- Saturday Evening Awards Banquet at Georgia Highlands College

Host Hotel:

Courtyard by Marriott Cartersville
5460 Highway 20, Cartersville, GA 30121
678-721-1660, \$159 + tax (includes breakfast)

Booking link: tinyurl.com/2026WinterNationals

Reservation deadline: February 24, 2026

Questions?

- Chairman: Kraig Bolus, kbolus3@gmail.com, 770-363-4293
- Registration: Marion Benson, marionbenson@bellsouth.net, 404-680-6654
- Information & Updates: lakeallatoona.aaca.com

REMINDER: Your 2026 membership dues MUST be paid prior to registering for any 2026 National Activities.

AACAA Winter Nationals

March 26-28, 2026

Georgia Highland College • Cartersville, GA

Host Hotel: Courtyard by Marriott Cartersville
5460 Highway 20, Cartersville, GA 30121
678-721-1660, ask for AACAA rate

ATLANTA METRO

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

Georgia Highlands College (GHC)

For more information, visit Lakeallatoona.aaca.com
Request registration materials from AACAA National



A monthly publication of the Great Southern Region - AACAA

December 2025





At the 1965 Indy 500, it was ironic that race winner, Ford driver Jim Clark, took his victory lap in the Plymouth Pace Car. Colin Chapman is on the left. (Ford Archive photos)

1965 Plymouth 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.

A Plymouth has paced the Indy 500 for one year only, and it was with irony.

The 1965 Plymouth Fury Convertible Pace Car, with the Commando 383-cubic-inch V-8, was painted white with a blue top and two-tone blue interior. The Pace Car was driven at the 49th running of the race by Chrysler-Plymouth division general manager P.M. Buckminster.

The occasion was ironic because the race winner was Ford driver Jim Clark. And as the winner, he took his victory lap in the Plymouth Pace Car.

The St. Louis Car Museum recently sold a 1965

Plymouth Pace Car and included this in its report:

"Plymouth launched its new 3rd generation Fury lineup for 1965, which included the new and luxurious Sport Fury model. The Sport Fury was selected as the official Indianapolis 500 Pace Car, a first for Plymouth.

"Approximately 1,300 cars were made for dealerships throughout the country, but only 35 festival cars participated at the actual track event [like the one the museum was selling.]

Commando V-8

The full-size 1965 Sport Fury was the top-line model among three other Fury trim levels that year. The Pace Car's optional Commando V-8 had 330 horsepower and was backed by a three-speed 727 Torqueflite automatic transmission. The "727" is considered one of the most robust automatic transmissions ever built.



A monthly publication of the Great Southern Region - AACA

December 2025





Colin Chapman (left), Jim Clark (center), and the tire engineer confer before practice at the 1965 Indy 500.

“Factory equipment included buckets seats, a center console with tachometer, power steering, power brakes, power top with boot cover, front and rear bumper guards, full dash instrumentation, 14-inch redline tires and full wheel covers, a glove box light, windshield washer, seatbelts, and Plymouth Transaudio AM radio.

Special features on the Plymouth Pace Car included:

Indy 500 dash plaque;
Red, white, and blue badging;
Hand holds on the rear fenders;
“Official Plymouth Pace Car” decals with the race date on each side;

Unique front bumper guard, rear bumper flag holders, and unique floor displays holding the various race flags of a standard race.

Special ephemera with the car included an original Indianapolis 500 race day program and a framed picture of the Plymouth Pace Car making the victory lap with winning driver Jimmy Clark.



JOIN THE FUN!

AACA

MEMBERSHIP



ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE *of* CLUB
AMERICA



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

