



# Exhaust Whistle



Great Southern Region AACA

March 2026 - Official publication of the AACA Great Southern Region - Serving Central Alabama

Vol. 38 No. 3

**Next Outing - Drive to Jackson Lake Island  
April 25 - Ollie's Bargain Outlet Parking lot in Hoover at 9:30 am  
leaving no later than 10 am. Invite a friend!**



## Special Nationals – Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

At the AACA Special Nationals in Guaynabo, all eyes were on Vicki Bolton as she stepped into her new role with the grace and enthusiasm that have long defined her involvement with the Antique Automobile Club of America. Though this marked her first Special Nationals as President, it was far from her first time in Puerto Rico a place she and her husband, Art Bolton, have come to cherish over years of attending this beloved event.

From the moment she arrived on Thursday, March 19, Vicki was immersed in the vibrant hospitality of the Puerto Rico Region. The warm welcome set the tone for a memorable few days, beginning with a scenic visit to La Marquesa Forest Park, where attendees took in breathtaking views from a sky tram ride high above the lush landscape. It was a perfect introduction to the

Continued on page 3

# *A Note From The* **PRESIDENT**

I really hope everyone of you are having the opportunity to get out and drive your favorite vehicle while our weather is great.

If you haven't already seen my email, Bill Corn has planned a really nice drive on April 25 to Jackson Lake Island near Millbrook. That is the site of the fictitious town of Spectre from the movie Big Fish. Hopefully the weather cooperates and we have a very enjoyable day. We will start at Ollie's Bargain Outlet Parking lot in Hoover at 9:30 am leaving no later than 10 am. Please make plans now to participate.

In addition, plans are now to have a drive to Kymulga Grist Mill in May on the 16th. That date has been selected so we can avoid any interference with Memorial Day weekend plans. Fingers crossed for great weather.

Once again, please participate or otherwise it makes no sense to go to the effort to plan these events.

Thanks in advance for your support and involvement.

*Ken McClellan*



*Schools are in session so please be careful on the roads, those children are our kids and grandkids.*



Great Southern Region AACA

19 followers • 1 following

Sign Up Following Message

**We are on  
Facebook!**

**Like and follow us  
gsraaca**



AACA National Headquarters  
P.O. Box 417 Hershey, PA 17033  
Founded 1935 717.534.1910  
[www.aaca.org](http://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**

## **Exhaust Whistle**

Great Southern Region, Birmingham, AL  
Email stories and photos to Charlotte at  
Realracegril1@gmail.com  
[www.greatsouthern.aaca.com](http://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.

## **2026 Officers**

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



natural beauty and spirit of the island.

Friday brought a blend of learning and culture. Many judges scheduled for the event attended Judging School before joining fellow attendees on a tour of the Galería Senatorial de Arte Puertorriqueño. A highlight of the day was a special visit to the Capitol District, made possible through the generosity of Thomas Rivera Schatz, a gesture that underscored the strong connection between the event and the local community.

Saturday was the main event, and it began early. By 5 a.m., buses were rolling toward the show field, where more than 140 vehicles would soon gleam under the Caribbean sun. Despite the heat, the energy never wavered. In one of her most meaningful roles of the weekend, Vicki personally greeted each participant as they arrived, setting a welcoming tone



Birds at the La Marquesa Forest Park,



Dinner, drinks and at the La Marquesa Forest Park,



Capital District visiting the Senate Room



Lunch at the Capitol building



Judges & Nationals Organization Committee visit the Capitol.

that resonated throughout the day. With 80 judges traveling in from the mainland, the show upheld the high standards and camaraderie that define AACA events.

The weekend culminated in a dazzling Awards Banquet an evening filled with celebration, laughter, and a touch of magic. Live music and an illusionist captivated the crowd, while beautifully presented food and drinks added to the festive atmosphere. As prizes lined the tables and winners were announced,

it was clear that this year's Special Nationals had once again exceeded expectations.

For Vicki Bolton, the experience was more than just an event, it was a heartfelt reminder of the connections, traditions, and shared passion that make the AACA community so special. And in Puerto Rico, those qualities shine just a little bit brighter.

Compiled from many posts on facebook about the event - Charlotte



Vicki under the tent greeting everyone as they enter the show field



Vicki on the show field





Vicki captured during the awards banquet and ceremony



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



  
**AUTOFAIR**  
 April 9 - 11, 2026

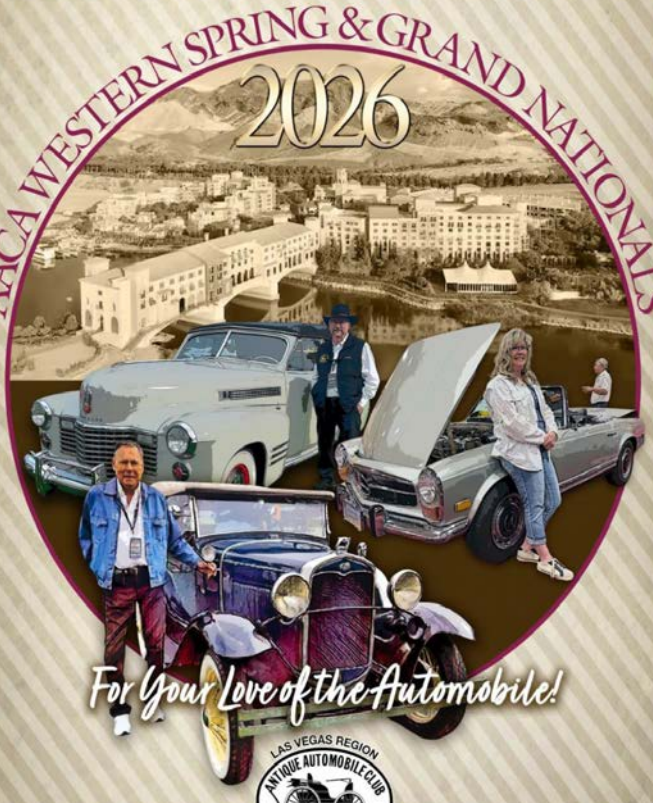
**Information:**  
 Region Office  
 704-841-1990  
 Mon-Thur 9-3

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




Vehicle Registrations Will Be Handled  
 With the Customary AACA Process.

**AACA WESTERN SPRING & GRAND NATIONALS**  
**2026**



*For Your Love of the Automobile!*

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



# GSR Calendar

January 22 .....	Dinner Meeting
February 26 .....	Dinner Meeting
March 26 .....	Dinner Meeting
<b>April 23 .....</b>	<b>Dinner Meeting</b>
May 28 .....	Dinner Meeting
June 25 .....	Dinner Meeting
July 23.....	Dinner Meeting
August 27 .....	Dinner Meeting
September 24.....	Dinner Meeting
October 22 .....	Dinner Meeting
November 19.....	Dinner Meeting
December .....	Christmas Gathering

# AACA Calendar

- 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)**  
Location: Williamsburg, VA Host: Historic VA Peninsula Region
- September 20-26**  
**Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre-1943)**

# A Note From The EDITOR

**Charlotte Dahlenburg**



**Great Southern Region of Alabama**  
[greatsouthern.aaca.com](http://greatsouthern.aaca.com)

I was unable to attend the AACA National Convention this year in Chantilly, Virginia, but it looked like a wonderful event.

Our club was honored once again for both the newsletter and the website. It's truly a privilege to support the club through its media presence.


Please keep the stories coming and continue sending in your photos—they are what make our newsletter and website so special and help capture the spirit of our club.

*Charlotte*

**Charlotte Dahlenburg**

**The Exhaust Whistle**

**Great Southern Region of Alabama**



**Darrin and Charlotte's 1955 Chevy Bel Air**

**IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

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.



# Local Calendar

## Cruise Ins

- 1st Tuesday - 5-8pm** Petro Bucksville 22526 Highway 216 McCalla
- Thursday Weekly - 6-9pm** VFW Post 6022, 7001 University Blvd E, Cottdale
- 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

### April

- 4 JHS Blue Regiment Car Show.** 2-5pm 112 Mais St. Jemison. Reg. \$25 and get free ice cream
- 4 Holiday Raceway Cruise in Auto Show.** 11-4pm. 20105 Hwy 11 Woodstock. Open Track, Test and Tune, Swap Meet
- 11 Dilynn's Benefit Show.** 10-1pm 1846 Brantley Ave NW Cullman. Car, Truck, Motorcycle, Jeep and Toy Classes.
- 11 Church Car Show Fundraiser.** 8 am registration. 22584 Hwy 5 Lynn. Info 205-300-8391
- 11 3rd Annual Car Show 2026.** 12-4:30pm. Gabes.3001 Pelham Pkwy, Pelham. \$20 entry, 50.50, door prizes, food trucks, trophies, all vehicles welcome.
- 11 Benefit Car Show Fairview Baptist Church.** 9-1pm Ragland. \$20 entry, info 256-338-6554
- 18 4th Annual Pell City Car Show.** 9am-3. Pell City High School 1300 Cogswell Ave, Pell City. \$20 entry

- 18 3rd Annual Music & Motors.** 8-1pm. 650 McConnel Loop, Fayette. Reg \$10. Music, Food, Trophies, 50/50.
- 18 Paws for the Cause Fundraiser Jeep & Classic Car Show.** 11-4pm. 6015 Warrior River Rd., Bessemer.
- 25 4th Annual Riverview Baptist Car Show.** 9am. 4995 Hwy 77 Southside. Youth Camp fundraiser.
- 30 Corner High School Band 5th Annual Hotrod Jazz Festival & Car Show.** 5-8pm 4301 Warrior Jasper Road, Dora. \$20 reg.

### May

- 2 25th Annual spring Open Car Show.** 9-2pm Bass Pro Shop. 2553 Rocky Mount Rd Prattville. \$25 Reg. includes 1 free lunch. Info Tamara 334-313-2374
- 2 Catty Billy Rad Rod Show & Concert.** Car show starts at 1 pm Music at 5 pm. 100 North Main Columbia.
- 2 Mt Olive Fire Dept. 5th Annual Fire Em Up Car Show.** 8-2pm 12500 Wildcat Dr, Northport. \$20 reg. Door prizes, Trophies, Food Vendor
- 9 4th Annual Irondale Auto Classic.** 10-3pm. 3900 Grants Mill Rd., Irondale. \$20 registration. Info 205-393-5016
- 9 Classics in the Park Hueytown Car Show.** 10-2pm. 104 Forest Rd Hueytown. Trophies, Best of Show in Each Category
- 9 Car Show. 9-2pm.** City Complex Vernon. \$20 Reg. All Makes and Models welcome.
- 18 53rd Annual Arley Day Festival Car Show and Parade.** 8:30-2pm. Hamner Park, Arley. Cash prizes.
- 23 Cruising for a Cure.** 9-2pm. Southside Stadium Parking Lot 2142 Hwy 77, Southside. \$10 entry fee, 50/59. Top Pick Awards, Drawing for Dollars
- 30 Cullman County Relay for Life Benefit Car Show.** 5-10pm 401 2nd Ave SW. Cullman. \$20 donation.

### June

- 6 24th Annual Alabaster Cityfest Cruise-In Car Show.** 9-2pm. 1921 Warrior Pkwy at the Thompson High School enter from Thompson Rd, Free Event, Register for door prizes.
- 6 14th Annual Train Shed Car Show.** 9-2pm. 300 Water Street at Union Station Train Shed, Montgomery. Cars, Food, Fellowship.
- 27 Bear Creek Friendship Festival Car and Motorcycle Show.** 8:30-2pm Twin Forks Road off Hwy 79 Bear Creek. Info 205-269-3663

### September

- 10 Vette Spectacular.** 9-2pm Classic Car Motoring 3900 Grants Mill Rd. Irondale

### October

- 24 40th Annual Blountsville Harvest Festival Car Show.** 8-2pm. Jacks Drive-In Blountsville. Door prizes, 50/50, Money Tree





At first glance, a 1906 photograph of an electric tour bus outside New York City's Flatiron Building looks surprisingly modern

## From Horsepower to Electric Power

By Charlotte Dahlenburg

### How Fifth Avenue Helped Invent the Modern Bus

At first glance, a photograph taken in 1906 outside New York City's famous Flatiron Building looks surprisingly modern. A double-deck bus sits at the curb while well-dressed passengers climb aboard the open upper deck, ready to set off to "see New York." The scene could easily pass for a modern sightseeing tour. But in 1906, it was something entirely new.

Long before buses became common, Fifth Avenue was quietly becoming the testing ground for a revolutionary form of transportation.

### An Avenue That Didn't Want Tracks

In the late 1800s, most cities relied on horse

railways and streetcars. Tracks were laid down busy streets, and trolley cars quickly became the dominant form of urban transit. Fifth Avenue, however, was different. The wealthy residents and businesses along Manhattan's most fashionable avenue strongly opposed streetcar tracks. They believed rails would spoil the appearance of the boulevard and interfere with carriage traffic.

As a result, Fifth Avenue continued to rely on horse-drawn omnibuses long after streetcars had taken over elsewhere in the city. Ironically, that resistance to rails created the perfect opportunity for something new.

### Enter the Motor Bus

In 1902, New York became the first American





DOUBLE DECK BUS, ON FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

New York was the first city to use “motor omnibuses” for public transit

city to experiment extensively with motor buses for public transportation. The very first bus used on Fifth Avenue was battery powered, an ambitious idea, but not particularly reliable. Still, it signaled the beginning of the end for horse-drawn transit.

The real breakthrough came in 1905 when the Fifth Avenue Coach Company introduced fifteen French-built De Dion-Bouton double-deck motor buses. With



The midtown block dubbed “Rubberneck Row”

their open upper decks and solid rubber tires, they offered riders something no horse-drawn coach could match, speed and a great view of the city. The ride could be a little bumpy, but the public loved it.

Within just a few years, a fleet of 132 motor buses had replaced every horse-drawn omnibus operating on Fifth Avenue.

### Hybrids Before Hybrids Were Cool

One of the most surprising things about these early buses is how advanced they were. Many used what we would today call hybrid technology.

Instead of directly powering the wheels, a gasoline engine ran an electric generator. That generator supplied electricity to motors that turned the wheels.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JIMMY STEWART**  
OF KALAMAZOO MI

**2026 AACA Eastern Spring Nationals**  
May 28-30 • Indiana, PA

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

**ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA**

**SHANNOCK VALLEY REGION OF AACA**

**Request registration materials from AACA National**



Passenger Omnibus for service on Fifth Avenue.

The system provided smoother acceleration and made the buses easier to drive in heavy city traffic. In other words, hybrid buses were running on Fifth Avenue more than a century ago.

The improvement in performance was dramatic. A round trip that once took nearly an hour and forty-five minutes behind a team of horses could now be completed in about an hour.

### The Birth of the Sightseeing Bus

It didn't take long for entrepreneurs to realize that these buses were perfect for sightseeing. Early "observation automobiles" carried tourists through the city on double-deck vehicles, giving passengers an elevated view of Manhattan's landmarks. These were the direct ancestors of the sightseeing buses we see in cities today.

One favorite stop along these tours was West 44th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. Around 1900 this block was packed with famous institutions such as the Harvard Club, Yale Club, the New York Yacht Club, and the New York Bar Association. Passengers riding the upper deck constantly turned their heads



A view of Fifth Avenue in 1909

to catch all the sights, earning the street a nickname that stuck "Rubberneck Row."

### The End of the Horse Era

By 1907, the transformation was complete. That year the Fifth Avenue Coach Company auctioned off



Sight seeing busses in 1908 were packed full

## 2026 Southeastern Fall Nationals

June 11-13 • Oak Ridge, Tennessee

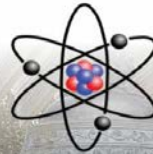
*Presented By The Volunteer Region*

Time to book your room at the Doubletree by Hilton!

215 S Illinois Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

865-481-2468, special rate \$144 + tax (mention AACA)

Book Online: [tinyurl.com/SEFallNationalsHotel](http://tinyurl.com/SEFallNationalsHotel)



Chair: Roger Frazee

865-803-3412, [rkfrazee@gmail.com](mailto:rkfrazee@gmail.com)

Stay up to date at [VRAACA.COM](http://VRAACA.COM)





Passenger buss in 1913 on Fifth Ave

its remaining horses, stagecoaches, and harnesses. Newspapers of the day described the sale as the closing of a historic chapter in transportation. After centuries of horsepower, Fifth Avenue had fully embraced motor power.



Passenger Omnibus for service on Fifth Avenue.

## A Legacy That Shaped American Transit

The success of Fifth Avenue's motor buses quickly caught the attention of other cities. Transit systems across the country began replacing horses and streetcars with buses, and American manufacturers soon began building buses of their own. What started as a solution for one trackless avenue helped reshape urban transportation across the United States.

Today's double-deck tour buses may look modern, but their roots stretch back more than a century. Long before electric vehicles returned to the spotlight, New York was already experimenting with hybrid buses and sightseeing tours.

Fifth Avenue didn't just witness the future of transportation - it helped invent it.

*Sources and Photo Credits: Old Time Photos of Yesteryear Facebook Page Published Oct 9, 2020; New York Public Library; New York Transit Museum; <https://ephemeralnewyork.wordpress.com/tag/first-bus-new-york-city/>; [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com); [www.coachbuilt.com](http://www.coachbuilt.com)*

## 12th AACA Sentimental Tour

1928-1958 vehicles only

June 14 - 19, 2026

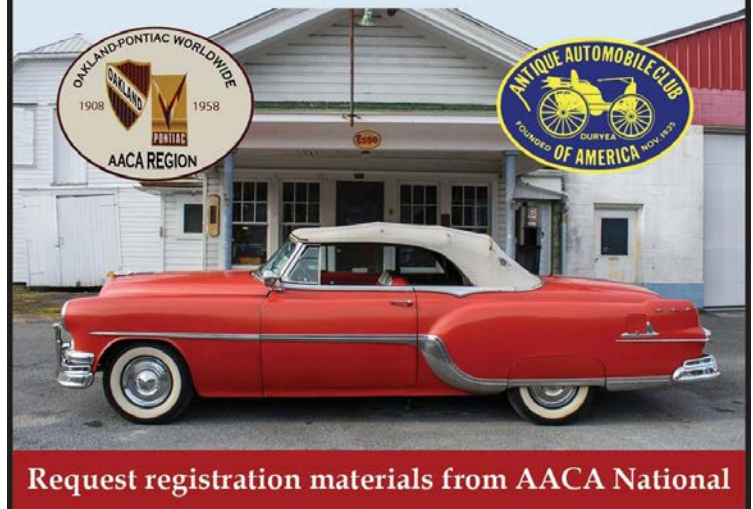
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

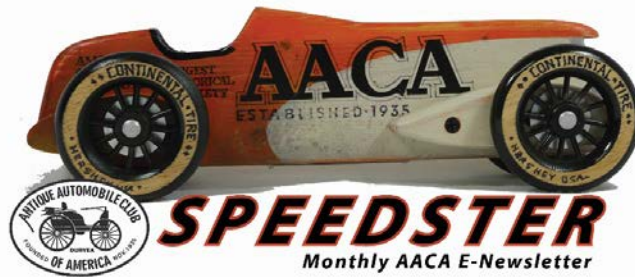
Tour Chair: Don Barlup

Pullman1914@aol.com, 717-877-4766

Tour Registration: Marilyn Lewis

lewisfmjk@yahoo.com, 618-295-3384





Speedster articles courtesy of AACAA

## AACA's Chrissy Arnold - My First Article

By Chrissy Arnold, Speedster Editor

Hello Speedster readers! My name is Chrissy Arnold, and I am thrilled to be writing to you for the very first time as part of the AACAA team. Many of you may have already seen my name in emails or online, but I am excited to officially introduce myself here. I recently stepped into the role of Marketing and Advertising Coordinator, and it has already been a wonderful experience getting to know this community.

Before I share a bit more about myself, I want to recognize someone who set a very high bar: Stacy Zimmerman. Stacy made Speedster something members genuinely look forward to each month. It is clear how deeply she cares about this club and its people. I am incredibly grateful for the foundation she built, and I fully appreciate the big shoes I am stepping into.

My very first AACAA event was the Hershey Fall Nationals this past year, and it was the moment I knew AACAA was going to be my forever home away from home. I met so many members who welcomed me instantly and made me feel like I had been part of the club for years. The enthusiasm and camaraderie I experienced were unforgettable. Seeing thousands of people gather to celebrate history, craftsmanship and shared passion showed me how special this organization truly is.

My professional experience has always focused on creative work and communication, and I have always had an interest in cars. I even found myself hanging out and cruising with the "car crowd" back in my high school days. Ironically, that '87 CRX I was driving at the time is a collectible antique now. Boy, I wish I still had her! As an adult, I've attended and even shown a car or two at events like the Carlisle Ford Nationals. While those shows were different in style and atmosphere, they gave me a deep appreciation for the stories behind the vehicles and the people who care for them. That appreciation translates naturally into the antique and preservation world, and I feel lucky to now be part of a community that values history in such a meaningful way.

Looking ahead, I hope to continue building strong

communication, celebrating our members and highlighting the incredible events and vehicles that make this club so great. My goal is to keep Speedster enjoyable, informative and reflective of the energy and passion that define AACAA. I also look forward to featuring more member stories, because your experiences are what bring this hobby to life.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly. I cannot wait to meet more of you, learn from you and be part of AACAA's continued growth. Please feel free to reach out anytime. I love connecting with our members and want our communication to always reflect what matters most to you!

### 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 AACAA rate

*Includes \$10 daily breakfast if you show your AACAA badge*

**Questions? Contact Chairman:**

Russ Walker, 920-819-1407, russellswalker@aol.com



*Request registration materials from AACAA National*





The 1953 Cadillac Le Mans concept, named for the 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race in France, never went into production, but the design was an exercise using fiberglass and two-seater design. (GM Archives)

## 1953 Cadillac Le Mans Concept

By Mark Maynard - Mark Maynard has written about cars, their people, and products for 30 years. You can email him at [MaynardsGarage@gmail.com](mailto:MaynardsGarage@gmail.com) or visit his website, [MaynardsGarage.com](http://MaynardsGarage.com).

The 1953 Cadillac Le Mans was a star dream car at the 1953 General Motors Motorama. The big Caddy's futuristic design and powerful performance impressed the public and the automotive press, and it helped to set the stage for the next generation of Cadillac cars.

Designed by GM's legendary design chief, Harley Earl, the Le Mans concept was named for the 24 Hours of Le Mans race in France, in which Cadillac competed in 1950.

Earl uses the concept car to showcase Cadillac's vision for the future of automotive design. The Le Mans concept was a two-seat, fiberglass-bodied roadster with a low

profile and a long, sleek body. Innovative design elements included a wraparound windshield, hidden headlights, and a tailfin design that would become a signature feature of Cadillac cars in the 1950s.



The Le Mans concept's sporty styling closely resembled the 1954 Eldorado limited production convertible, according to a report at SuperCars.net. Compared to a standard Cadillac convertible, the Le Mans was nearly eight inches lower and its fiberglass body and 115-inch wheelbase made it 400 pounds lighter.

While the 1953 Le Mans concept was never put into production, four versions of the Le Mans concept were built, of which three are accounted for today. One is in the GM Heritage Center in Detroit. But there is some mystery as to the whereabouts of the fourth car, explained in a



2013 AutoWeek story by Wallace Wyss.

1953 Cadillac Le Mans Specifications

Body style: 2-seat roadster; fiberglass body on steel ladder frame

Engine: 6.4-liter, 331-cubic-inch 250-horsepower Cadillac V-8

Transmission: 4-speed Hydramatic

Wheelbase/Length: 116/196 inches

Width/height: 74/51 inches

Curb weight: 4,405 pounds



**AACA SOUTHEASTERN DIVISIONAL TOUR**

**Apple Harvest Season**  
Western North Carolina  
**AUGUST 5-8, 2026**

**Tour Highlights:**

- Sky Top Orchard
- Brooms Blooms Farm
- House of Flags
- Polk County Historical Museum
- Carolina Carriage
- Benson's Automobile Memory Lane Museum
- Parker-Binns Winery
- WNC Air Museum
- Matt Cook's Drag Racing Facility
- Historic Johnson Farm

**Tour Co-Chairs:**  
Hulon McCraw, GSMR  
hcmccraw@gmail.com  
828-606-2918

Mike Block, LDC  
mike@sailparrottales.com  
770-547-7088

**Tour Registrar:**  
Kim LaRowe  
klarowe68@gmail.com  
828-779-2378

**Host Hotel:**  
Mountain Inn & Suites  
755 Upward Road  
Flat Rock, NC 28731  
828-692-7772  
mountaininnflatrock.com  
AACA Group Rate:  
\$115.00 per night +tax

Register online at [AACA.org](http://AACA.org) or request registration materials from AACA National

*2026 Founders Tour*  
*An Amazing Race through History*  
September 9-14 ~ Williamsburg, Virginia

**Reservation Deadline:**  
**May 15**

Hosted by the Historic Virginia Peninsula Region AACA

Visit [hvpr.aaca.com](http://hvpr.aaca.com) for more information

Register online at [AACA.org](http://AACA.org) or request registration materials from AACA National