

Exhaust Whistle



January 2024 - Official publication of the AACA Great Southern Region - Serving Central Alabama Vol. 36 No. 1

**Our next meeting will be at the Ranch House
on Thursday, February 22 at 6:00 pm**



The Keller car became a quest for Ron Barnett. He wanted to bring the car back to Huntsville. The 1949 Keller Super Chief Wagon is owned by the Barnett family. The Keller was a car made in Huntsville, Alabama USA from 1947-1950. Alabama's 3rd car line (after Great "Southern" and "Premocar") Only 18 cars were made. Only 4 remain.



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
Realracegirl1@yahoo.com

The Exhaust Whistle is a monthly
publication of the AACA Great Southern
Region, view expressed in the Exhaust
Whistle are not necessarily those of the
Region officers of AACA. Original material
may be reprinted if credit is given.

2024 Officers:

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

A Note From The

PRESIDENT

For those who don't know me, I am Ken McClellan, your new president for 2024. Compared to many of you, I am a newcomer to AACA, having joined about 11 years ago. However, I have been an auto enthusiast from an early age. My father worked for Chevrolet for 30 years, so I and my siblings couldn't help but be heavily indoctrinated in the love of all things with 4 wheels (and 2 as well).

I am excited to take on the challenge of this role and am committed to growing our club through this year. That being said, I am challenging each of you to commit yourselves to be an active part of your club. I hope to speak with each and every one of you over the next few weeks, to hear your thoughts and ideas about how to make our club one that we look forward to being involved in.

See you soon.

Ken McClellan

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.





Happy New Year

Wishing you peace and joy in 2024!

AACA National
Board of Directors & Staff



**artwork courtesy of Ken Eberts*

What Have You Been Up To?

John Morykwas Project

My latest T. Frame off restoration. I've gone into hibernation due to the cold.



Welcome New Members

John and Linda McClellan
Grant and Shirley Carson



GSR Calendar

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| January 25 | Membership Meeting |
| February 22 | Membership Meeting |
| March 28 | Membership Meeting |
| April 25 | Membership Meeting |
| May 23 | Membership Meeting |
| June 27 | Membership Meeting |
| July 25 | Membership Meeting |
| August 22 | Membership Meeting |
| September 26 | Membership Meeting |
| October 24 | Membership Meeting |
| November 21 | Membership Meeting |

GSR Classifieds

For sale: 1959 Morris Minor 2 door sedan. A solid and complete car that was daily driven in 2015-17, hasn't been touched since 2020. Will need tires and rubber for all glass. Questionable taste two tone beige and chocolate paint job and very incorrect but functional interior. Located near Huntsville, \$3000. Call or text Sam Barnett at 205-482-0165.

For sale : 1966 Jaguar Mark X. 4.2 with factory air. 305 Chevy engine, TH 400. Turns over easily. Hasn't run since 2016. Lots of extra parts. Solid car with decent interior, \$6500. Call James Meredith at 205-492-5546.

January Meeting Minutes

We met at the Church of St Francis for a delicious chili lunch. We had chili, corn muffins, crackers and a variety of desserts. It was a delicious lunch followed by fellowship and business meeting.

The business meeting was conducted by outgoing President Vicki Bolton.

Those in attendance included Arthur and Vicki Bolton, Ken McClellan, John and Linda McClellan, Eddie Bibb, Bo Bogarty and Margie, Ed and Carol Keller.

A Note From The

EDITOR

2024 is here and is a promising year for our local club and also our national club.

AACA has a full calendar of events all over the United States. You can tour places like Lafayette, Louisiana, Fredericksburg, Virginia or the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming. Nationals will take place in places like Charlotte, North Carolina, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico and Loveland, Colorado to name a few.

If you read through the many national events you will find that October 23-26 the North Alabama Region will be hosting the Southeastern Fall Nationals right in our back yard in Huntsville. Make sure you put this one on your calendar!

With our newly elected Vice President also serving as Activities Director we are sure to have many events this year. Please let anyone of our officers know if you have any ideas.

Get your vehicles ready for a great year and let's enjoy some events together this year!

Charlotte Dahlenburg

Officers for 2024 will be:

Ken McClellan-President

Bill Gardner-Vice President and Activities Chairman.

Vicki Bolton-Secretary

Charlotte Dahlenburg-Newsletter and webmaster.

Dues were collected from most of those present.

We selected Ranch House to be the next meeting place on Thursday Feb the 22nd at 6:00 pm

We are looking forward to a great year!



AACA Calendar

February 8-10

2024 Annual Convention Chantilly, VA

March 17-23

Founders Tour (1932-1998)

Location: Lafayette, Louisiana Sponsor: Louisiana Region

March 21-24

Special Winter Nationals

Location: Guaynabo, Puerto Rico Sponsor: Puerto Rico Region

April 4-6

Southeastern Spring Nationals/Grand Nationals

Location: Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, North Carolina.

Sponsor: Hornets Nest Region

June 9-13

Eastern Divisional Tour (Up to 1998)

Location: Gredericksburg, VA Sponsor:

June 20-22

Eastern Spring Nationals

Location: Saratoga Springs, NY. Sponsor: Saratoga Region

July 10 - 14

2024 AACA Western Divisional Tour (Up to 1998)

Location: Big Horn Mt., Wyoming Sponsor: Nebraska Region

September 12-14

AACA Western Fall Nationals

Location: Loveland, Colorado Sponsor: Poudre Valley Region

September 22-27

Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre1943)

Location: Maryland Sponsor: Sugarloaf Mountain Region

October 8-11

Eastern Fall Nationals

Location: Hershey, PA Sponsor: Hershey Region

October 23-26

Southeastern Fall Nationals

Location: Huntsville, AL Sponsor: North Alabama Region

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, Cottondale

1st Saturday - 8-11am Hoovers Tactical Firearms Cruise In 1561 Montgomery Hwy. Hoover. Hosted by Dixie Vintage Antique Automobile Club

1st Saturday - 3pm Jan - Mar 5pm Apr-Dec 202 South Gilmer Ave, Lanett, AL More info Billy Humphrey at mrmopar622@gmail.com. Free event

First Saturday - Cruising on the Square. 9-2pm. 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. Saks Fifth Plaza 129 Summit Blvd, Birmingham

3rd Saturday - 6pm Tallassee 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 Phenix 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

Last Saturday – 5pm-? 7900 Vaughn Rd at Taylor Rd Montgomery

Shows

February

1-4 World of Wheels, Birmingham

March

2 11th Annual Comer Museum Car & Bike Show, 9-2pm, 711 N. Broadway, Sylacauga, AL

2 4th Annual Anna Jent Scholarship Fund Car Show, 9-2pm. Vendors, Live Music and Door Prizes! Awards for cars, Trucks, Motorcycles and Racecars. Registration is \$20. Info at 205-317-6298.

6 Motor Fest 2024, 8-3pm, Orr Park Montevallo, AL. Car Entry \$25. Free to general public. Raffle prizes.

30 Hope Sharing & Caring Ministry Car and Bike Show, Reg starts at 8am. \$20 entry. Bevell State College in Hamilton. 50/50 Trophies for the top three, door prizes.

April

5-6 Wyatt's Rides Smokin the Classics at 1-22 Motorsports Park 3928 Byler Rd, Eldridge, Alabama.

6 First Annual Pollen Run Cruise In, 8-2pm. Moddy, AL. Free Event, All makes and models welcome. Rain out date April 13.

20 Pell City Car Show, 9-3pm. Pell City High School benefiting the PC High School Wrestling Team. 1300 Cogswell Ave. Contact: 205-200-0359. www.pellcitycarshow.com.

21 Alexandria Fest, Sunday 2-5pm. Alexandria Community Center. Food, Vendors, Car Show.

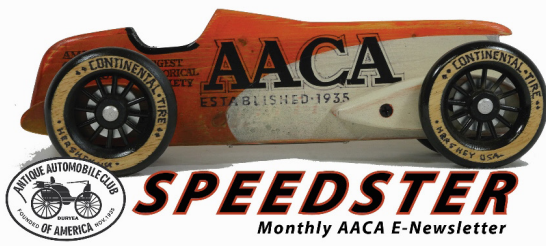
27 Vintage & Classic Car Show, 9-2pm. Veterans Park, 4800 Valleydale Rd, Hoover. Info at www.DVAAC.com.

May

11 Irondale Auto Classic, 10-4pm at Classic Car Motoring 3900 Grants Mill Road, Irondale. \$20 Reg. Food Trucks, Vendors, Music, Trophies.

18 37th All Pontiac Car Show, 9-2pm Mugshots Grill & Bar 3339 Lowery Parkway. Reg. \$20 Info 205-296-1409.





Membership Corner: It All Started with Matchbox and Hot Wheels Cars

By Michael S. Kissinger, Editor, Hershey Region
Chuck Wagon News, Mkissinger07@embarqmail.com

This is a member submitted article.

My love for this hobby started during my childhood. My grandfather would always bring my brother and I a Matchbox car when he visited. We later moved on to miles of Hot Wheels orange track in my parent's basement. In my teenage years, I started to assemble model cars. My grandfather always drove Chevrolet full size cars. I collected as many different years of Chevrolet 1/24 scale models as I could find in the 1970s. The 1973 George Lucas film, American Graffiti, was influential in my choice of the 1958 Chevrolet Impala as my favorite car. In high school, I took Automotive Technology in the afternoon at our local vocational school, and this gave me the skills to do most of my own work on cars. Then, my toys just got bigger.

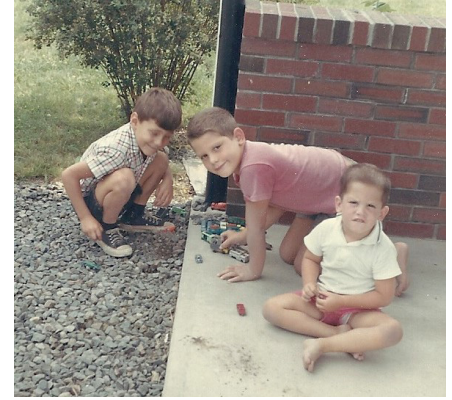
My brother, a friend and I playing with Matchbox cars about 1,000 years ago.

If I knew what these little cars would cost now, I never would have played with them outside!

After high school, I built a modified 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air hardtop and joined my first official car club – the Classic Chevy Club. Soon after, I joined two newly formed clubs that included the '58 to '64 Chevrolets – the Late Great Chevy Club and the National Impala Association. I then attended a few of their annual conventions that were close to home. I am still a member of the National Impala Association today.

Living in the Central Pennsylvania area, I am a 25-minute drive from the Carlisle Events flea market and AACA Fall Meet at Hershey. I was aware of the AACA, but my cars were either not quite 25 years old or modified when I started going to shows. I always thought a car needed spoked wheels to be a real antique. Many years later, a friend of mine convinced me to join the National AACA and the Hershey Region AACA. I joined National in 2003 and got on the waiting list for the Hershey Region.

My taste in cars changed and I found I was more interested in cars in their original condition, which aligned with the AACA. For many years, my wife and I worked in the show field souvenir tent during the Fall Meet at Hershey. Being part of the Hershey Region, I found the experience was as much the relationships with fellow members as it was about the cars. In 2012, I finished restoring a 1958



Chevrolet Impala I had started working on in 1997. It took a few Fall Meets and some borrowed tires from another member to get my Senior award.

Our hobby faces many challenges when trying to inspire interest in the younger generations. Today many are occupied with technology (video games, phones, etc.), trying to make ends meet, and just have no interest in preserving items from the past. With that said, technology and social media is here to stay. The National AACA has made a great step forward in offering more online services to its current and prospective members. The Hershey Region will, also, be moving our newsletter and other correspondence online in 2024.

The future of our hobby is dependent on the interest of the next generations. I believe accommodating the youth with more inclusivity and respect for their interests while adhering to our core mission of preserving automotive history can be a win-win for all. Not everyone in this hobby is going to start out with a six-figure restored award-winning marvel. Each of us have different reasons for our choice of an antique car.

Promoting the camaraderie and relationships with other like minded people that have the same passion for cars is one of the best reasons to join the AACA. It can be very intimidating to prospective new members looking at the AACA from the outside. Invite them to your meetings and activities. Letting the prospective new members join in your club events relieves some of their fear of the unknown. When attending our region events, the cars do not need to meet any judging guidelines. There is always time to work towards building a car to compete in an AACA Nationals show. Some of the Hershey Region members do not even have an antique car, however, still attend most of the club's events. So why wait. Join us and have fun with our club now.

Speedster articles courtesy of AACA



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.

Speedster articles courtesy of AACA



Puerto Rico
AACA 2024
SPECIAL WINTER NATIONALS

MARCH 21-24, 2024
GUAYNABO, PR

HOST HOTEL
 COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT SAN JUAN MIRAMAR
 787.721.7400 EXT. 5547
 RESERVATIONS: C.CRUZ@COURTYARD.COM
 MENTION AACA GROUP

MARIO GUZMAN
 PRESIDENT AND MEET CHAIRMAN
 787.635.8976
 GUILLODAVILA57@OUTLOOK.COM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
FEB. 28, 2024

COURTYARD
 BY MARRIOTT
 San Juan Miramar

Antique Automobile Club of America
Grand Nationals April 5, 2024
Southeastern Spring Nationals April 6, 2024

Hosted by Hornets Nest Region, AACA
Meet Email: aacact@windstream.net

HORNETS NEST REGION • AACA
CHARLOTTE
 SPRING MEET
AUTOFAIR
 CHARLOTTE MOTOR SPEEDWAY
April 4-7, 2024

AACA Grand Nationals & Southeastern Spring Nationals Information
Region Office
704-841-1396 (9-2, M-Th)

Hornets Nest Region
 Antique Automobile Club of America
 9307-H Monroe Road
 Charlotte, NC 28270

ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

Vehicle Registrations Will Be Handled With the Customary AACA Process.





The "Rocket Express". A monorail for children that carried kids around the toy department in 8th floor at the John Wanamaker department store in Center City, Philadelphia, Circa 1950s!

Department Store Monorails Are a Memory

Reprinted from www.vintag.es

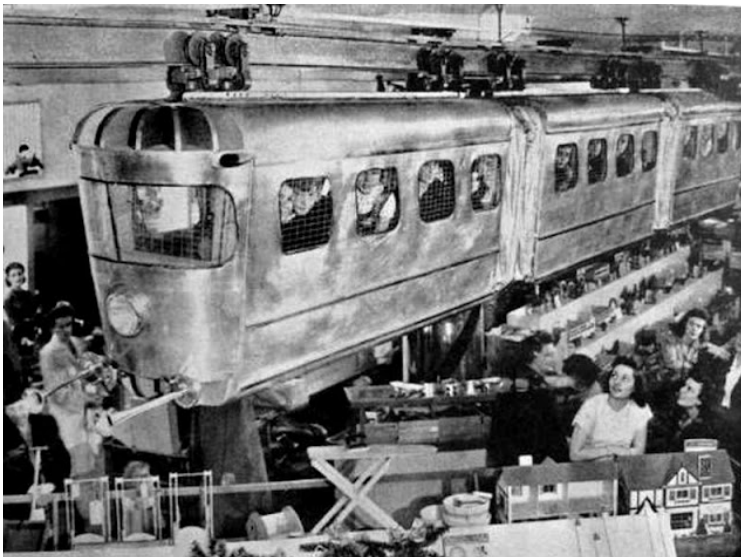
We've traded fun like this for the convenience of online shopping.

By James Gilboy

In the era of online shopping, department stores are but a hazy memory of a bygone era. Even with all the convenience Amazon offers, it's hard not to feel like we've lost something—especially the ceremonial experience of visiting a holiday market. Kids today just don't get that experience, meaning they also miss out on something many older folks still remember: Riding the overhead monorail at the store.

This may sound familiar if you grew up near one of the roughly 26 stores across the United States that operated such rides around the winter holidays. These "Rocket Express" monorails (as they were often called) were the subject of a recent video by Peter Dibble on YouTube, who cataloged the attractions' history and propagation.

These monorails were dotted around the U.S. in various department stores and malls starting in 1946, with the introduction of one at a Philadelphia-area store. The ride had been manufactured in part by industrial machinery company Loudon, which



supplied the overhead rails, while the rolling stock was made by a company calling itself Rocket Express—hence the train's name.

The monorails were sold or leased to stores, which ran them above their toy departments, giving kids birds-eye views of entire store floors. Also, it let them torment shoppers: they often tossed pennies at them from above, or fired squirt guns at them and sometimes even spit on people. (Kids these days, blah blah blah.)

Approximately 22 to 26 of these rides were operated around the country between 1946 and 2007, when the last known kiddie monorail was retired before the New York mall it ran in was demolished. (The train was preserved in a museum, but doesn't run any more.) It's hard to imagine attractions like these disappearing if brick-and-mortar retail hadn't withered over the last 15 years, owing to an unstable economy and digital retail's coming-of-age.

I dunno about you, but I'd be willing to give up free shipping to shop somewhere with kids riding a train



overhead - even if they're tossing coins at me. It's free money, I say.

Got a tip or question for the author? You can reach them here: james@thedrive.com

These monorails sized for kids, called the Rocket Express, that travel around and above the entire toy department (Toyland) from 1946 to 1984, along with the camera, piano and organ departments. Kids rode these monorails slowly around the toy department in view of all the toys. Adults would be hard-pressed to fit inside the enclosed cars that the children sat in as the ride operated.

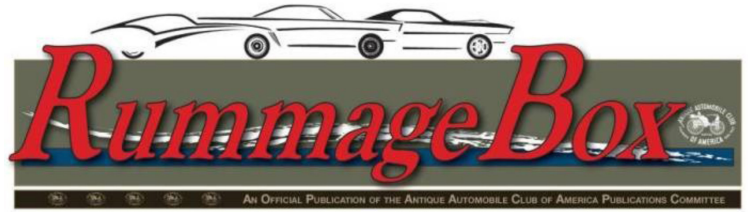
It has been speculated that the original monorail was retired because it could not be maintained as a viable and safe children's ride. The ride was removed in 1984 and was saved from the salvage heap by a foresighted worker who called the curator of the Please Touch Museum located in the Centennial District of Philadelphia (Fairmount Park), where the ride now resides.





Membership

**By Matt Hinson
Rummage Box Editor**



Welcome to my 30th issue as Editor of the Rummage Box. I have heard a lot recently from different AACA Directors about recruiting new members and membership growth. Any organization that has been around for many years is going to have members age to the point that they can no longer participate, or unfortunately, die. No matter how dedicated to the club we are, none of us are going to be here forever. I was lucky to have joined AACA when I was much younger than most people do, so despite many years in the club, I still expect to probably be around for another two decades or so. In the 27 years that I have been an AACA member, I have observed that most new AACA members are somewhere in the range of 45 to 55 years old when they first join the club. Not everybody is in that age range when they join, but most are. Most people reach that age before they have the time and financial resources to own a hobby car and are ready to join a car club.

I understand that many AACA Regions and Chapters are struggling to retain members or to attract new members to replace those who are no longer around. In my experience in Southeastern NC, we are steadily growing our membership. I just reviewed a 2005 Chapter Roster. In 2005, our Chapter membership included less than 40 families. Despite having had a lot of former members who have died in that time, today, our Chapter membership includes over 120 families.

Since I have spent multiple years as our Chapter Treasurer and Membership Chairman, I think I have a good idea of how we have maintained continuous membership growth over those years. Over the years, we have had a good Chapter website. We also have a chapter Facebook page. Both of those help potential members find us. In addition, we have members who go to local Cars and Coffee events and other non-AACA car shows in the area. We talk with other antique car owners at those events and simply ask them if they would be interested in joining the Antique Automobile Club of America and our local Region and Chapter. Not all join, but many do.

We use prospective member packets containing National, Region and Chapter Applications, an AACA brochure, a Region brochure, a letter from our Chapter President with information about our regular local Chapter events, and information on the dues structure. We also have potential members pay their dues for Chapter, Region, and National to the Chapter, so they only have to make one payment. Our Chapter Treasurer then pays their Region and National Dues. We also collect dues renewals in the same manner, and forward the dues to Region and National, also making it a simple process to renew each year with a single payment.

This method has worked well for us locally. I can't guarantee it will work everywhere, but if you are worried about membership decline, you might want to give it a try.

Rummage Box articles courtesy of AACA

How can you support AACA?

**Send a gift to the
AACA Building Maintenance Fund**

**For information on how to donate,
just call AACA National HQ at 717-534-1910.**

