

Exhaust Whistle



March 2024 - Official publication of the AACA Great Southern Region - Serving Central Alabama Vol. 36 No. 3

March 28 Meeting at 6 pm
Dale's Southern Grill 1843 Montgomery Hwy, Hoover, AL
Bill Gardner will present:
"History of the Great Southern Automobile"



2024 Founders Tour

Getting There

Paul and Tracy, David and Joyce, Darrin, Barrett, and I headed down 90 to Lafayette, Louisiana. The slow going on 90 took its toll, but when the rain started, it was nice to be traveling slowly. About 30 minutes into the rain, the blue skies appeared, and the next challenge appeared. The big green sign that was posted at our next turn said Highway 90 was closed at the border. We traveled the remainder of the route on the interstate, traveling 60–65 miles per hour.

We arrived at the destination with just an hour until

the opening banquet. The greetings started, and we went off to our room to refresh. We meet with the other six members of the Great Southern Region, the Bibb's, McClellan's and the Senkbeil's.

We walked over to the opening banquet. It was a nice time to say hi to everyone and get the basic information for the days to come.

Crawfish and Cantilevers

The first day of the tour started at the hotel. We visited the German Heritage Museum in Roberts

Continued on page 3



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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2024 Officers:

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

A Note From The

PRESIDENT

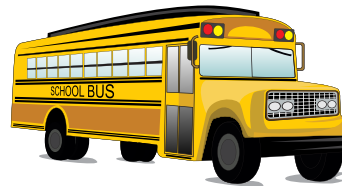
I hope this finds you all well and looking forward to the warmer weather that is now coming upon us (albeit with that yellow stuff as well).

The warmer weather also gives us lots of opportunities to get out and drive our cars. We are working on lots of opportunities to do just that and need your input for what you enjoy.

Please join us Thursday (3/28) evening, 6 PM, Dale's Southern Grill in Hoover, for our next meeting.

Live to Drive

Ken McClellan



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

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.





The German Heritage Museum

Cove. The museum houses the story of the German families who settled in Acadia. We were served the most delicious, buttery German cookies.

Our next stop was at D&G Frey Crawfish Farm in Iota. We learned how the small crawfish are peeled and packaged. It was interesting that the more fat and darker the yellow fat, the better they will taste. The ladies that peeled the crawfish were so fast.

We watched the sorter clean and sort little, medium, and large into colored bags. The big ones go to the restaurants, and the small ones this year were peeled due to the shortage of crawfish.

We were served salad, crawfish etouffee', and an assortment of cookies. After lunch, we headed to Crowley for some Cajun entertainment. We then found Frozo ice cream.



Enjoying Ice Cream at Frozo



Ken and Phylis McClellan at the Ford Model A Dealership

cream on a tour.

We ventured over to the Ford Model A dealership. The vehicles would ship to dealers in a box with their parts sideways in the crate. The dealer would bolt all the parts together using the vehicle elevator. The building had since been turned into a museum and housed City Hall.

Jungles, Hot Sauce and Rip Van Winkle

We started the second day of the tour at Mel's Diner. It is a nice breakfast spot. It is designed to mimic the 1980s sitcom.

Louisiana has some great back roads to travel. There are stretches of wide open spots with farmland. Anything from rice paddies to sugar cane fields can be found. The "don't blink or you will miss it" little town



Peeling the crawfish



Enjoying some Cajun Music



The Jungle Garden



The Tabasco Vats

centers are reminiscent of days gone by.

After about an hour of travel time, we arrived at Avery Island. We stopped at the gate, received our pass, and drove over the two biggest speed bumps ever.

We stopped at the little country store and got our pass to enter the Jungle Garden. The three-mile-long trail through the garden let us experience the best of everything in the typical vegetation of south Louisiana. We stopped to pose in our cars with the azaleas in bloom. We drove around a pond and saw several alligators, turtles, and ducks. The massive live oaks were dripping with Spanish moss.

We traveled over to the Tabasco plant for a tour and lunch. We viewed the vats, which are two stories high. The Tabasco could be in the vats for 2 or 3 years. The vats had an automatic system for stirring. Barrett

found a button you could push, and it would stir the vats and send the smell out for you.

In another building, they were bottling. That was cool to see two of the four lines in operation. One worker on the line held up a handmade sign that said welcome cruisers.

Lunch was a sample of the menu from the 1868 restaurant: red beans and rice, gumbo and etouffee' along with hot bread pudding.

After lunch, we drove over to Jefferson Island. We entered the area through the long, live oak corridor. As we went up the hill to the Joseph Jefferson home, we viewed the home through the many flowers in bloom.

When we got out of the car, we were greeted by peacocks—lots of them. The island has a unique history that includes the actor Joe Jefferson, who played Rip Van Winkle in the 1800s.

We all discovered we were not in as good of shape as we could have been. The walk to the house was a bit steep. We learned about the family and had the chance to see as authentic home belongings as we have seen.

After returning to the hotel, a “few” of us headed to Borden’s Ice Cream for the Buzzard Breath meeting.

Riding with Steve and his Buddy

St. Martinsville did not disappoint. On the third day, I chose to ride with Steve Eason in his 1957 Corvette.

The morning was spent at St. Martin De Tours Catholic Church. When we walked in, all the statues



Enjoying lunch



St Martin De Tours Catholic Church



The Jefferson home



St Johns Restaurant

were covered in purple cloth. We sat for a while in pews that were built in the late 1700s. They were from the original church building. This church evolved into a cross-shaped structure in the 1800s and very early 1900s.

We were on our own to tour the church grounds and the Teche boardwalk. We made it over to the Acadian Museum, where we looked at a mural and listened to a recording representing the people depicted. Each person was told this in the voice of their descendant. The African American Museum was next door. The museum had many items that displayed the culture of the people. Lunch was at St. John's restaurant. It was in an old train depot building. The food was excellent. We were lucky to be the first to be seated and served. Due to some confusion, many people had to wait an hour and a half to eat.

The afternoon includes a guided tour of Shadows on the Teche. The Weeks family had a big story to tell about the history of the sugar cane industry, slavery, the Civil War, and more. The grandson was the last member of the family to own the home before donating it to the Historic Preservation Society.



Shadows on the Teche

We all walked to the Bayou Teche Art Museum, which housed the Blue Dog artist, George Rodriguez.

After our tour, but before heading back to the hotel, we headed over to Baskin Robin's for ice cream.

Don't Rain on my Parade

You could see the looming rain in the distance as we left the hotel. This was not going to stop our fun. On our fourth day of the tour, we drove quite a few miles past many of the places we had been. We saw the frogs in Rayne, the Rice Theater in Crowel, and the crawfish farms that covered the plains, all on the



Parked on Mains Street

way to Jennings.

Our first stop was on Main Street. The street was blocked for us. This made for great photos.

We started at the Ziegler Art Museum, where several Louisiana artists were featured, including James Audubon and Elton Louviere. After viewing the works of art, we went across the street to an antique store. I found some interesting things but did not bring any home with me.



Ziegler Art Museum



W. H. Tupper Merchandise Museum



Lunch at Mike's Seafood



Holding the alligator

We then walked back to the other end of the street to see the W. H. Tupper Merchandise Museum. This housed the entire inventory of the store at its closing in 1949. We did continue down to the end of the street to check out the bakery. Before we knew it, it was lunchtime. Mike's Seafood provided a buffet lunch that was very good.

The afternoon took us to Gator Chateau at Oil and Gas Park. We all took turns holding a year-old alligator.



Driving in the rain to the Veterans Home



Vermillionville

From this stop, we caravanned over to the SW Louisiana Veterans Home. It was beginning to rain quite a bit. We didn't see many vets, but we sure hope they saw us.

Acadian Culture

The thunderstorms woke us up during the night. The rain was heavy and washed pollen out of the air.

On our last day of the tour, we headed to Vermillionville to tour the reproduction of Acadian Village. We spent the morning casually strolling through the buildings.

The highlight of the village was the ferry across the bog. Darin and David gave several rides across.

Lunch was at the event center on the grounds. This place had the spiciest food so far. That made it much easier to not overeat.

We drove .2 miles to the Jean Lafitte Acadian Cultural Center and walked through the artifact display. We watched a 30-minute movie about the hard lives of the Acadian people. We left there and headed to Borden's Ice Cream for a late snack. A short break at the hotel was welcome before the closing banquet.

This was a fun tour, and so many new friends were made. We are looking forward to the next one!

- Charlotte



Acadian Cultural Center

The Blow Up Paint Booth



Darrin's new toy is the blow-up paint booth. The suburban has some issues with the paint; it was soda blasted by Phil.

The paint booth was stretched across the driveway, and the suburban was pulled into the paint booth. Darrin applied a coat of primer to the suburban before the bare metal had a chance to rust. - Charlotte



St Patty's Day Parade

John Morykwas took his Model T to Biloxi for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. After enjoying the parade, the fuel pump went out on his truck, so he bought the below-average Dodge 2500 Power Wagon for towing the toys.



GSR Calendar

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.

February Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on 02.22.2024

We met at the Ranch House on Old Columbiana Road in Vestavia at 6 pm.

Here were 10 people in attendance: John Cover and Ann, Ed and Carol Keller, Arthur and Vicki Bolton, Bill Gardner, Bo Bogarty and Ken and Phyllis McClellan.

Everyone ordered dinner first and during dinner, there was discussion about several local auctions.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 by President Ken McClellan. The minutes were read and approved. The question was asked about future meetings and activities. It was suggested to have meetings during the winter months and then activities during the warmer weather.

A Note From The

EDITOR

Spring is here!

The weather is getting much nicer. Our week-long tour in Lafayette, Louisiana, has sparked the need to tour again.

Our own backyards have so much to offer for us to see. We have history, museums, back roads, and more we can explore and experience.

Our region is named after the Great Southern Automobile, and the logo has the Sloss Furnaces character. Bill will be speaking about the automobile; maybe a tour that includes the furnaces is in order.

At the meeting on Thursday, bring up some of the places you have enjoyed or places you would like to see. If you know of a garage that has a few interesting cars in it, we might want to go see them as well.

Bring your ideas and let's work together to get a few tours together, a few outings, a few dinners in interesting places, and, of course, we can always end up at an ice cream joint.

Charlotte Dahlenburg

It was suggested that we try to have presentations at the meetings to encourage attendance.

The club is interested in trying to have membership information at other car club events. John Cover said he would ask if we can have a table at the Dixie Vintage shows.

Vicki Bolton discussed the Annual Convention and the various activities that occurred at Convention.

The next meeting will be held at Dale's Grill on the 28th of March with Bill Gardner doing a presentation on the Great Southern Automobile.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Vicki Bolton



AACA Calendar

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: Fredericksburg, VA Sponsor: Buzzard Breath Region

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

August 22-24

Special Fall Nationals

Location: Hampton, VA Sponsor: Historic VA Peninsula 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 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

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

Shows

March

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

13 4Ever Foundation Car Show, 1555 Federal Dr., Montgomery, AL Info 205-434-5752.

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.

27 Cullman County Relay for Life Car Show 5-10 pm, Depot Park.

27 3rd Annual Fire"Em Up Car/Truck/Motorcycle Show. 8-2pm, Lake Lurleen State Park. \$20 reg. Door prizes, Trophies, Food trucks

May

4 MACC Corvette & Camaro Show, The Shops at Grand River, 6200 Grand River Blvd E, Leeds, AL 11-3pm Pre-reg \$20 Day of Show \$25. Trophies and more. Info 205-699-3700.

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.

18 Arley Day Festival Parade & Car Show 8-2pm. Hamner Park, Arley, AL, Parade 7:30 - 8:30 am, Breakfast 8-8am. Awards, Registration \$25. Info 256-350-3500.

18 50th Annual East Alabama Ole Car Club Car Show & Southeast Alabama Spring Automotive/Motorcycle Swap Meet. USA Town Center Outlet, Opelika, AL. 8-2pm. \$20 entry fee. Info Dave 334-703-5528.





Membership Corner:

5 Suggestions to Increase Your Club Membership

By Paula Lynn Ruby, AACAA National VP Membership, paulaspackard@hotmail.com

01

REGION PARTICIPATION

It is crucial that your region stays active in the community all year long.

Different ways to get involved include:

- Cruise Nights
- Car Shows
- Local Charity Events
- Parades
- Museum/City Tours

Every member should be an active participant in the club activities and be recruiting new faces throughout the process. As a club leader, be sure to carry membership applications with you to all events and follow up with prospective members. Also be sure to discuss yearly recruitment goals for the members to work towards.

02

MEMBER PARTICIPATION

Be sure to establish new activities for your members to participate in. The more you are involved, the more prospects will be interested.

Every car event is a recruiting opportunity... **be where the cars are!**

03

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

At each event, set up a membership area for all prospective members and advertise using an AACAA banner and have member applications ready to go. Also, create a website highlighting...
 Membership Benefits
 A "Join Here" section - all guests welcome
 Featured Members Cars

04

ADVERTISE

When in doubt, use the resources available to you including...

- VP of Membership
- Divisional VPs
- AACAA Headquarters Staff
- AACAA Website

05

REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

Speedster articles courtesy of AACAA



National Awards Mystery Unraveled

By Chuck Crane, Reprinted from The High Beam

Unless you have showed at AACA National meets, you probably have read about winners shown in "Antique Automobile" and wondered how they got those awards and what they mean. AACA has approximately 70 national awards for vehicles along with awards for individuals and such things as museums.

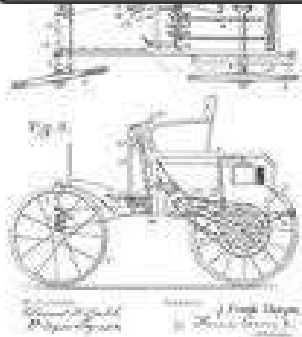
There is a team of about 25 very senior judges who look at roughly 4000 vehicles at meets and tours throughout the year. Hulon McCraw and I are on that team and I think of us as the old goats in the yellow shirts. We nominate about 300 vehicles a year that we think are the best of the best for these awards. Letters are sent by the VP of National Awards to each nominee to see if they want to have their vehicle considered and if they so choose, they

are to send photos of their vehicle to the VP. The team meets at Hershey in early December and spends a full day selecting the winners.

A vehicle can win a national award only once but may fit into several different categories. It is that simple. But some of the pictures sent in by the owners are of such poor quality and backgrounds that they look like mug shots in a criminal lineup. It is considered a real honor to be considered for a national award and some vehicles may be nominated several times before winning an award.

When looking at the oval AACA badge, it will have a National Award badge tab on the bottom.

In addition to the vehicle awards, there are the newsletter (Master Editor) and Website (Master Webmaster) awards selected differently. The GSMR/LDC are now in that competition this year. - Chuck Crane



World War II and the Interrupted Production of 1942 Models



Turning to Defense Work - On Feb. 3, 1942, the last Buick was built before the Flint, Mich. factory was converted to World War II defense work.

Reprinted from <https://www.motorcities.org/story-of-the-week/2023/world-war-ii-and-the-interrupted-production-of-1942-models>

By Robert Tate, Automotive Historian and Researcher

Images Courtesy of GM Media Archives, Ford Motor Company Archives, Chrysler Media Archives, Shorpy Historic Archives

After the attack on its naval base at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States entered World War II. American automotive manufacturers virtually overnight transitioned from making their 1942 models to make

vehicles, planes, engines and many other important components to help the Allies win the war. As the Great Depression began to subside, Americans worked to regain a normal lifestyle as Germany invaded Poland in 1939, and Japan began to assert control in many parts of Asia in the early 1940s.

The transition to a wartime economy brought many material substitutes in the manufacturing of the 1942 models. More plastics were used for interior components, and molybdenum



1942 Ford sales material Robert Tate Collection

replaced nickel in valves, gears and shafts for automobiles at the time.

The final 1942 Ford models were manufactured on February 10, 1942. The 1942 Fords were not that much different than the 1941 model designs. Some automotive historians have said that a limited quantity of 1942 vehicles, mostly trucks, were made under government authorization for essential civilian needs. During the war, Ford Motor Company manufactured the world-famous Jeep and B-24 bombers, which were built at their Willow Run plant.



The last 1942 Buick GM Media Archives

The last Buick model was assembled in Flint Michigan on February 3, 1942, by which time most all manufacturing plants in the United States had switched to wartime production. Buick's last pre-war vehicle was a wartime "blackout" special model. The term "blackout" was used on production models as the wartime transition was underway, according to Jim Donnelly, automotive writer for Hemmings/Classics.



The 1942 Plymouth Blackout model Hemmings Classics Automotive News

The 1942 Plymouth model P14 brightwork was painted and not chromed, with a limited number of body styles offered. Running boards were concealed. Production of these models started in July 1941, and these cars became known as "blackout models" as well. After Pearl Harbor, Chrysler Corporation was among the first to receive government contracts. The first they were awarded was for tanks. By January 1943, Chrysler employed 145,000 workers on 30 major contracts in 24 plants. As more production was needed, new plants were constructed and other facilities were used, including the old Graham-Paige building in Detroit. Before the war, the body drop was always a key moment in the automotive assembly process, when the auto body was lowered onto the chassis. DeSoto modified the operation for production of Helldiver wing section aircraft parts.



1942 DeSoto ad Chrysler Archives

On January 28, 1942, engine production at Lincoln and Mercury plants ceased. On February 10, all of their automotive manufacturing plants shifted to war production. The last Lincoln to come off the line was a 1942 Lincoln Zephyr.



The last 1942 Lincoln Zephyr Ford Motor Company Archives 6

Packard also started manufacturing engines and boats to support the war effort. For example, the last 1942 Packard automobile was produced at the Detroit East Grand Boulevard plant on February 9, 1942. Packard retooled their facility to manufacture marine V-12 engines destined for PT boats, as well as Rolls Royce Merlin aircraft engines for P-400s and P-51s.



The last 1942 Packard assembly Packard Archives

In early 1942, the last Nash automobile was assembled at the Kenosha, Wisconsin plant, and the company transitioned into making aircraft engines and helicopters. This was part of the Nash-Kelvinator Corporation.

Hudson also contributed to the war effort. The last Hudson model victory sign said (not pictured) "Last 1942 Hudson and built to last" and is now a part of our history books.

In conclusion, the 1942 model year was a turning point in the American automotive industry when car production ended and every automaker focused on the production of materials dedicated to winning World War II.



The last 1942 Nash assembly Chrysler Archives 8

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

Hosted by Hornets Nest Region, AACA
Meet Email: aacactl@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



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





What's it Going to Take?

By Dave Anspach
2023 AACA Secretary/
Treasurer



What's it going to take to get things to change? The membership of the greatest Antique Automobile Club on the planet has been steadily declining for years and nothing that has been tried has changed it. Now don't get me wrong... we aren't in great danger, but if the declining membership doesn't turn around, before long there will be a big problem. There is an answer... it is YOU!

It has probably been stated a thousand times that if every member just got one new member, our membership would double. It's a simple concept. JUST GET ONE NEW MEMBER! Surely every person out there has a family member who isn't an AACA member. Get them a membership for Christmas! Any person with even a little interest in cars will appreciate the fine issues of Antique Automobile with its excellent pictures and articles.

How about a friend or neighbor? There is a car person in your life who would love such a gift! If you don't want to give a membership, how about using a free one from your local region? Every region would love an opportunity to sign up a new member. And let's not forget those free military memberships. Here is an opportunity not only

to give something to those folks who have protected our freedom, but to add to the club membership at the same time. In both of the above cases, you are giving someone something for free!

I will tell you that in both cases, do yourself a favor and fill out the form with the person present and send it in for them. I have lost a lot of prospective members due to forgetfulness.

Finally, don't forget those people you meet at car shows, cruises and on the road! Always have membership materials, promotional items and spare magazines with you. You meet prospective members everywhere! People will see how much you enjoy the hobby and they just might want to join you!

So what's it going to take to get YOU to get a new member? It's YOUR club, it's up to you to make it grow and prosper! It is the responsibility of every member. Got any other ideas on how to grow the club? Contact me or any board member! We all would love to hear what YOU think!

Rummage Box articles courtesy of AACA



How can you support AACA?

Send a gift to the
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For information on how to donate,
just call AACA National HQ at 717-534-1910.

