



Exhaust Whistle



Great Southern Region AACA

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

Vol. 38 No. 4

Next Outing - Drive to Kymulga Grist Mill May 16- Invite a friend!



Cartersville Tennessee March 26-28

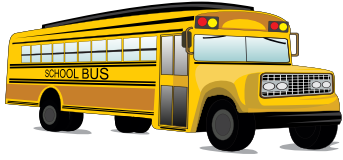
We arrived at the show field just as the morning light was settling in, right around 8 a.m. Friday and the weekend was already off to a great start. Barrett jumped right in to help lay out the field, and it quickly became one of his highlights of the entire event. Working alongside Norm Hutton and Fred Bartemeyer, he got a hands-on lesson in everything from spacing each car to calculating turning radius for smooth parking. For a 13-year-old, it was a proud moment, especially being treated like one of the adults and he soaked up every minute of it.

While Barrett was hard at work, I attended the Membership Round Table. It was a well-attended session filled with fresh ideas and great discussion about how to bring new members into the hobby.

Later, Darrin and I attended Judging School, led by Dave Bowman. It was fascinating to learn about the updates and changes, and it gave us a whole new appreciation for the judging process.

Of course, one of the best parts of any event is catching up with friends both old and new and we

Continued on Page 3



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



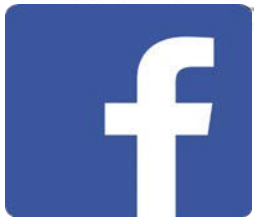
Great Southern Region AACA

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We are on Facebook!
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gsraaca

Donate before it's lost

Your donation will help support the AACA Library & Research Center's goals and to aid hobbyists in restoration and preservation efforts. For information on planned giving call 717-534-2082

AACA Library & Research Center



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

Exhaust Whistle

Great Southern Region, Birmingham, AL
Email stories and photos to Charlotte at Realracegril1@gmail.com

www.greatsouthern.aaca.com

facebook: [gsraaca](https://www.facebook.com/gsaaca)

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





Barrett helping set up the show filed

made plenty of time for that.

But the real treat came with our visit to the Savoy Museum. The exhibits were outstanding, each one worth lingering over. We were especially lucky to hear from longtime Great Race friend Corky Coker, whose stories made the experience even more memorable. Afterward, we were given rare access to the museum's storage facility, home to more than 150 cars, and even got a demonstration of the specialized car jack used to rotate vehicles in and out of exhibits. It was something not many people get to see.

Saturday came early, and we were back at the show



Vicki addresses Judging School



Indoor gathering area at the College



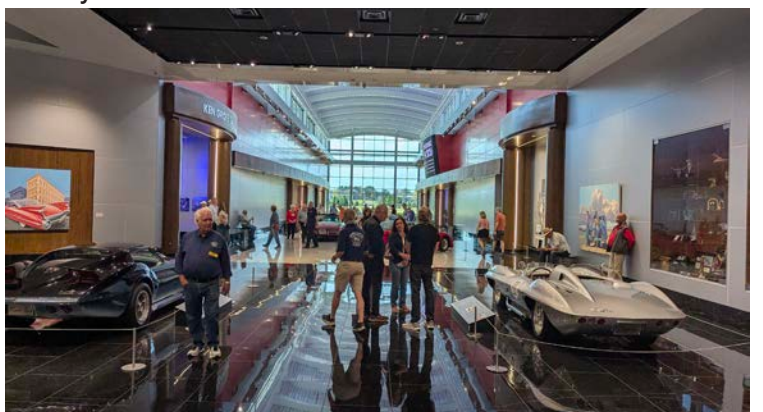
Membership Roundtable



Corky Coker speaks about the importance of the hobby



The storage building at Savoy Museum



The main hall at the Savoy Museum

field before long. Barrett returned to help park cars, while Darrin and I headed to the Judges Breakfast to receive our assignments. I was placed on the sports car team and what a treat that turned out to be! Judging such rare and beautiful cars alongside a great group of teammates made for an unforgettable experience.

Once judging wrapped up, I took some time to

wander the field and admire the incredible variety of vehicles on display before heading back to the hotel to recharge for the evening.

The awards banquet capped off a fantastic weekend, with several of our members taking home well-earned honors. All in all, it was a successful show, filled with great experiences, good friends, and memories we won't soon forget. - Charlotte



Learning about exhibit rotation



Judges breakfast



Vicki greeting each participant



Entering the show field



Ken McClelland's car on the show field



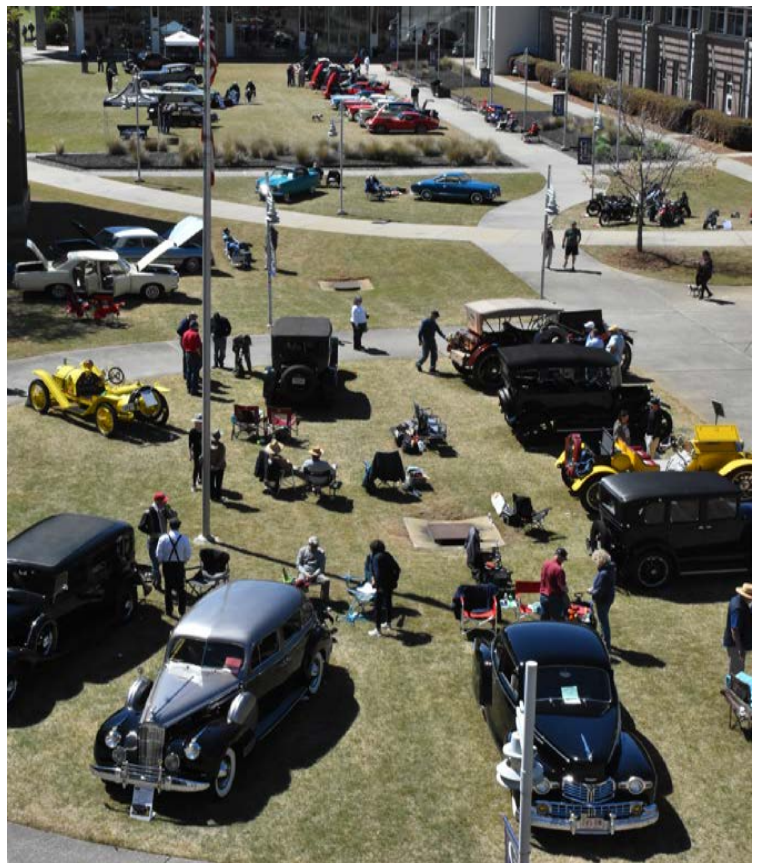
Donna Loeble's Pontiac Firebird



Vicki addressing the Awards Banquet



Donna Loebler receiving her preservation award



The show field



Museum show cars exhibit



The motorcycle section of the show Field

*It's a Wonderful Life
with the Shannock Valley Car Club*
2026 EASTERN SPRING NATIONALS
 May 28-30 ■ Indiana, PA

Host Hotel: Hilton Gardens Inn
 \$149 + tax per night
 Call or Book Online:
 724-349-2222 (CODE: AAC26)
 group.hiltongardeninn.com/18tjm4

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

Register online at AACA.org or request
 registration materials from AACA National

What Have You Been Up To?



Helping with registration



Darrin at registration

Easter Egg Hunt March 22

The excitement had been building for months, and when the day finally arrived, the Easter Egg Hunt Poker Run truly delivered! Swapping playing cards for colorful eggs gave this classic event a fresh, playful twist and turned it into a fun-filled adventure for all ages.

With 87 participants, the weekend kicked off strong thanks to early registration and a festive setup that welcomed everyone in. The tables were lined with great door prizes, and the buzz of anticipation carried right into the start of the run. Even with a quick route adjustment, everything flowed smoothly, and the energy stayed high as participants hit the road, eager for the next stop.

One of the highlights for me was having my friend Kelly Adams fly in from Georgia to join the fun. Kelly took the wheel while I handled navigation though “handled” might be a generous term! I managed to get us turned around once, and we quickly resorted to GPS to make our way from the downtown airport to the next stop, which only added to the adventure and gave us a few laughs along the way.

Driving through downtown Mobile was a treat in itself, with the stunning live oak trees arching overhead and leading us into some of the oldest, least-traveled sections of the city. It was a beautiful reminder of the charm and history right in our backyard.

The day wrapped up with a lively field hunt that brought out participants of all ages from young kids to an inspiring 85+ hunter who joined right in on the fun. Afterward, everyone gathered to enjoy plenty of food, laughter, and prizes. The eggs were filled with candy, along with a few lucky finds containing tickets for door prizes, adding an extra layer of excitement.

All in all, it was a memorable event that brought people together, created lasting smiles, and supported a great cause through the club’s College Scholarship program. - Charlotte



Kelly driving the 55 on the Hunt route



Getting ready to hunt eggs



Waiting on the last car to come in!

GSR Calendar

January 22 Dinner Meeting
 February 26 Dinner Meeting
 March 26 Dinner Meeting
 April 23 Dinner Meeting
May 18 Drive Tour
 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

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 21-26
Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre-1943)
 Location: Dover, DE

October 6-9
Eastern Fall Nationals
 Location: Hershey, PA Host: Hershey Region

**IT NOT TO LATE 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.

A Note From The EDITOR

The chase for the story behind an antique car is what makes the hobby so interesting, because these cars are never just cars. They've got a history that's waiting to be pieced together.

Part of the fun is the detective work. You start asking who owned it, where it's been, and what kind of life it lived. Every little clue like an old sticker, a worn seat, a faded tag adds to the story.

Then there's the people side of it. You're not just learning about the car, you're learning about the lives connected to it family trips, daily drivers, barn finds, all of it.

And the chase never really ends. Even after a restoration, there's usually more to uncover.

In the end, you're not just restoring a car you're helping preserve a piece of history and carrying its story forward.

Charlotte

2026 Southeastern Fall Nationals June 11-13 • Oak Ridge, Tennessee

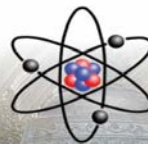
Presented By The Volunteer Region

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



Chair: Roger Frazee

865-803-3412, rkfrazee@gmail.com

Stay up to date at VRAACA.COM



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

May

- 2 25th Annual Spring Open Car Show.** 9-2pm Bass Pro Shop. 2553 Rocky Mount Rd Prattville, AL \$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, AL
- 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
- 2 Hackleburg Neighbor Day Car & Bike Show.** 8-2pm 525 Walker St. Hackleburg, AL. \$20 entry. Info 205-495-4890
- 9 4th Annual Irondale Auto Classic.** 10-3pm. 3900 Grants Mill Road, Irondale. \$20 registration. Info 205-393-5016
- 9 Classics in the Park Hueytown Car Show.** 10-2pm. 104 Forest Rd Hueytown AL. Trophies, Best of Show in

Each Category

- 9 Car Show.** 9-2pm. City Complex Vernon AL \$20 Reg. All Makes and Models welcome. 50/50, Door prizes, Vendors, Great food.
- 16 53rd Annual Arley Day Festival Car Show and Parade.** 8:30-2pm. Hamner Park. Arley AL. 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
- 28-30 Battle in Bama.** Talladega Speedway. www.battleinbama.net for info
- 30 Cullman County Relay for Life Benefit Car Show.** 5-10pm 401 2nd Ave SW. Cullman, AL \$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.** 300 Water Street at Union Station Train Shed, Montgomery. Cars, Food, Fellowship
- 13 Mopars by the Lake** 8-3pm. 1544 Sportsman Lake Road
- 20 Clearbranch Methodist Church Car Show.** 9-2. 8051 Glenn Rd. Trussville. \$10 entry, 50/50. Benefiting Men's Ministry Community Outreach
- 27 Bear Creek Friendship Festival Car and Motorcycle Show.** 8:30-2pm Twin Forks Road off Hwy 79 Bear Creek, AL Info 205-269-3663

August

- 22 Cars for a Cause Car Show.** 10-1pm Campus 124 - Back Lot 2408 Pelham Pkwy., Pelham AL \$30 Reg. Scavenger Hunt, Family Fun, Food Trucks, Trophies, Music, Vendors, Outdoor Games

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. \$20 entry. Door prizes, 50/50, Money Tree



A Look back at Bicentennial Chevrolets



Reprinted from the Spring 2026 Space Age Chevrolet Region

It's difficult to believe that our Country's bicentennial was 50 years ago. Now we're at the USA's semiquincentennial, or 250th birthday. There was a big build-up to the bicentennial, starting with a lot of flag-themed merchandise as far back as 1972. Chevrolet jumped on the bandwagon with the Spirit of America trim package on the 1974 Impala, Nova and Vega.

The 1976 model year saw the introduction of the new subcompact Chevette. Chevrolet claimed the Chevette was the first U.S. built metric car. Chevrolet really offered something for everyone in 1976, with nine available car series. This was reflected in the

model year production of 2,103,682 units. The cars' styling wasn't bad, but the federally mandated five MPH bumpers looked out of place.

Since 1976 cars are now 50 years old, that means 2001 models are 25 years old and eligible for AACA judging. My guess is that 2001 Corvettes will be the star antiques from the 2001 model year. I doubt the Venture vans will be collectible. We owned a 2001 Venture and it had transmission trouble with only about 60,000 miles on it. It would have problems deciding what gear to shift into and it would buck. We finally cured it by putting Marvel Mystery Oil in the transmission fluid.

Besides Hershey, I'm hoping to attend the AACA meets in Western Pennsylvania and Allentown this year. I hope to see some of you there.



Let's begin the look back at 1976 with:



Chevette: The bare bones Scooter model is pictured here. Base price for this car was \$2899. It had a

94.3 inch wheelbase, was 159 inches long, 62 inches wide and weighed 1870 pounds. This model had no back seat. For a base price of \$3098 you could get a Chevette with a back seat. Two four-cylinder engines were offered, a 52 horsepower 85 cubic inch job, and a larger 60 horsepower 97.6 cubic inch engine. Rally and Estate trim packages were optional. Model year production was 187,817.



Vega entered its sixth model year with a new full-width grille. To combat earlier durability woes, Chevrolet now offered a five-year 60,000 mile warranty on 1976 Vega engines. Pictured above is a 1976 Vega hatchback with the GT equipment package. The Cosworth Vega shared this body style. Vega was also available as a notchback coupe and a two-door Kammback station wagon. Base model Vega prices started at \$2984. The Cosworth Vega started at

\$6066. All Vegas were powered by four-cylinder engines. Chevrolet produced 152,589 Vegas for 1976. This total includes 1447 Cosworth Vegas. That's not a bad production run for a car that was in its next to last model year.

12th AACA Sentimental Tour

1928-1958 vehicles only

June 14 - 19, 2026

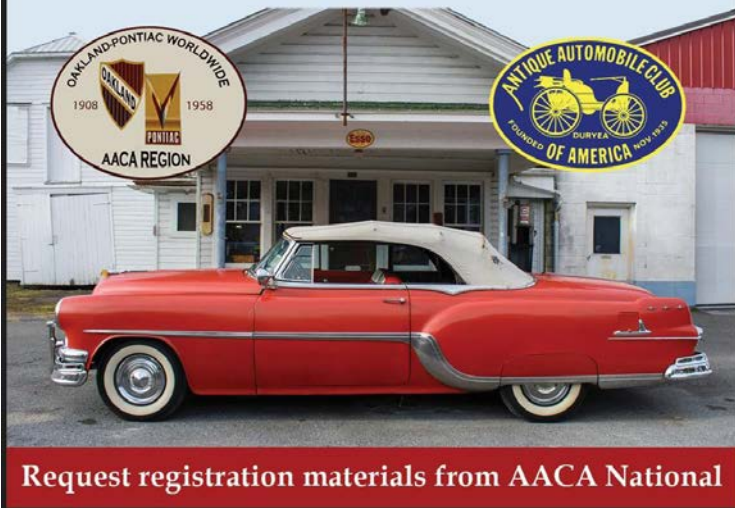
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

Tour Chair: Don Barlup

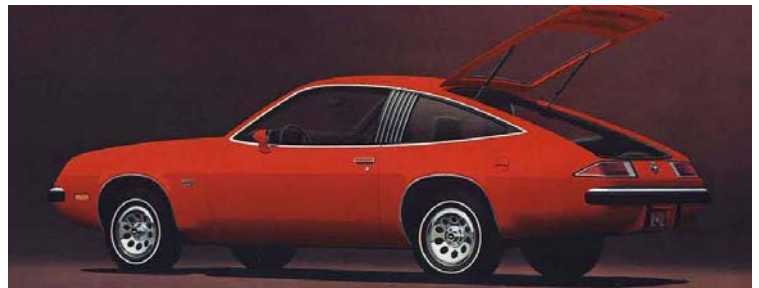
Pullman1914@aol.com, 717-877-4766

Tour Registration: Marilyn Lewis

lewisfmjk@yahoo.com, 618-295-3384



The stylish, Vega based, sporty Monza was in its second model year. The Towne Coupe is pictured here. For \$256 over the \$3359 base price, you could order a padded vinyl half-top with an opera window. Towne Coupe weighed 2625 pounds. The 2+2 Monza had a completely different front fascia and roof line from the Towne Coupe. Available Monza engines were the 70 or 84 horsepower versions of the 140 cubic inch Vega four. The optional 305 cubic inch V8 cost \$224. 1976 Monza production was 74,354.



1976 Monza 2+2





This photo of a 1976 Nova Concours from the sales brochure is a fantastic representation of the era. What could be more 1970s than a car with a padded half-vinyl top, opera windows and federally mandated oversize bumpers. The guy in the bell-bottom leisure suit behind the car just adds to the 1970s flavor. Concours was an appearance package for the Nova coupe. 1976 Nova was available in three body styles, the coupe, hatchback and four-door sedan. The standard engine was a 250 cubic-inch straight six that made 105 horsepower. The 140 horsepower 305 V8 was a \$165 option. Prices started at \$3248 for the coupe, \$3283 for the sedan and \$3417 for the hatchback. Nova, now in its 15th model year, continued to be a sales hit. Chevrolet produced 334,928 Novas for 1976. Included in that total was the last ever Nova Super Sport option. I couldn't find a figure for how many Super Sports they made. The Nova SS came with rally wheels, SS fender graphics and lower body stripes. Bucket seats were optional on the Nova SS.



The 1976 Camaro was indistinguishable from the 1975 model. The 250 cubic inch six was the base Camaro engine this year. The 305 and 350 V8s were optional. The 350 had a four-barrel carburetor and produced 165 horsepower. Base price for a six-cylinder equipped Camaro was \$3762. The 305 V8 added \$165 to the base price. Pictured above is the Type LT Sport Coupe. This package included anodized rear trim plates, custom wheels with white striped tires and a half vinyl sport roof. This version of Camaro carried a base price of \$4320. The optional Rally Sport package consisted of rally wheels, Rally

Sport graphics and a blacked out hood. All Camaros had bucket seats, sport steering wheel, and power steering as standard features. 1976 Camaros had a 108 inch wheelbase and were

195.4 inches long and 74.4 inches wide. Camaro sales totalled 182,959 for the 1976 model year.



1976 Corvette set a new sales record with 46,558 cars sold. List price was \$7605 and weight was 3445 pounds. This was the first model year with no convertible Corvette. Engine choices were a 180 horsepower or 210 horsepower 350 cubic inch V8. Aluminum wheels were a \$299 option. Maintenance free batteries were a new feature for 1976.

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





Monte Carlo was another vehicle that changed little for 1976. Updated taillights and front grille were the visual changes. Two versions were offered, the “S” sport coupe and the Landau coupe. “S” coupes were listed for \$4673 and weighed 3907 pounds.

Landau coupes listed for \$4966. A half-vinyl roof, dual sport mirrors and Turbine II wheel covers were standard on the Landau coupe. The 305 V8 was the standard Monte Carlo engine. A 350 or 400 cubic inch V8 was optional. Sales were brisk for 1976 with 353,272 Monte Carlos sold.



Chevelle was available as the Malibu, upgraded Malibu Classic and Laguna in 1976. Body styles included four-door sedans, station wagons, Colonnade coupes and Landau coupes. Chevelle engine choices were the 250 cubic inch six, 145 or 165 horsepower 350 V8s or the 400 cubic inch V8. Malibu Classics (Landau coupe pictured above) were distinguishable from plain Malibus by larger taillights, bright window moldings and a formal front grille with double-stacked rectangular headlights. Prices ranged from \$3636 for a Malibu Colonnade coupe to \$4971 for a Malibu Classic Estate Wagon. Total 1976 Chevelle production was 330,259 units. This total includes the two and three-seat station wagons.

The 1976 full-size Chevrolets were the largest passenger cars Chevrolet ever produced. They rode on a 121.5 inch wheelbase and were 222.9 inches



long and 80 inches wide. The top photo is an Impala sport sedan and the bottom photo is a Caprice Classic coupe. Bel Air was discontinued at the end of the 1975 model year. This left Impala as the lowest priced full-size model. Chevrolet offered an Impala “S” sedan as the Bel Air’s replacement. This model had little trim, bias ply tires and small wheel covers. The Impala “S” was priced at \$4507 but only sold 18,625 units. Impala’s standard engine was a 145 horsepower 350 V8. Available engine options were a four-barrel

165 horsepower 350, a 175 horsepower 400 V8 and a

225 horsepower 454 V8. Besides the sport sedan, Impala body styles included four-door sedan, Custom coupe, Landau coupe and two and three-seat station wagons. The most expensive Impala was the three-seat wagon which carried a base price of \$5283. Impalas accounted for 239,487 sales in 1976.

Caprice Classic was fancier than Impala with square headlights, a more delicate looking grille and a Caprice emblem above the grille. Other exterior upgrades included vinyl body side moldings and standard full wheel covers. Caprice also carried nicer interiors than Impala, but used the same body styles and engines. Base prices for Caprice Classic ranged from \$5013 for the four-door sedan to \$5546 for the three seat wagon. Chevrolet produced 184,639 Caprice Classics for 1976.



Next Let's Drive Tour
May 16
Kymulga Grist Mill





Pierce-Arrow Society Becomes First AACAA Affiliate Club

The Antique Automobile Club of America is pleased to announce that the Pierce-Arrow Society has become the first organization to join AACAA's new Affiliate Program. This marks an important step as AACAA expands the ways it supports clubs across the collector car community.

As the inaugural Affiliate Club, the Pierce-Arrow Society is helping introduce a program created by AACAA to strengthen collaboration within the hobby, enhance member benefits, and streamline services for participating organizations. The program is designed to provide support while allowing each club to maintain its own identity and traditions.

AACAA looks forward to welcoming additional organizations into the Affiliate Program and is pleased to have the Pierce-Arrow Society take this first step with us.

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

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

Tour limited to 75 vehicles 25 years and older
Registration open March 9 to June 27, 2026

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
AACAA Group Rate:
\$115.00 per night +tax

Register online at AACAA.org or request registration materials from AACAA National



Redesigned from the ground up in many ways, the new Ford retained the drivetrain of previous Ford models. A 226 cubic inch six-cylinder came standard, while an optional 239 cubic inch flathead V-8. (Photos courtesy of Ford PR archives)

April 26, 1948: Ford Begins 1949 Model-Year Production

Nicknamed "Shoebox Ford," the 1949 Ford debuted the first post-WWII major redesign

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.

The 1949 Ford was the first all-new automobile design introduced by the Big Three after World War II, according to its page in Wikipedia

Civilian production had been suspended during the war, and the 1946 through 1948 models from Ford, GM, and Chrysler were updates of their pre-war models.

The 1949 Ford would come to market in June, beating Chevrolet by about six months and Plymouth by about nine, according to AutomotiveHistory.org.



The 1949 Ford 'pontoon' styling would continue through the 1951 model year, with an updated design offered in 1952



New Fords bore model names such as the Custom or Standard Tudor or Fordor, referencing the number of doors on the car. The new models came in coupe, sedan, and convertible body styles, with steel and woody wagon variations.

Redesigned from the ground up in many ways, the new Ford did retain the drivetrain of previous Ford models. A 226 cubic inch six-cylinder came standard, while an optional 239 cubic inch flathead V-8 made the car more fun.



New-for-1949 models came in coupe, sedan, and convertible body styles, with steel and woody wagon variations.

The "Shoebbox" Design

According to Wikipedia, the '49 Ford body style became known as "Shoebbox Ford" for its slab-sided "pontoon" design. But the 1949 Ford is credited with saving Ford and ushering in modern, streamlined car design with changes such as integrated fenders.

This design would continue through the 1951 model



The redesigned Mercury Eight for 1949 also debuted the "pontoon" styling of the new Fords. The fresh styling was a sales success for both brands.

year, with an updated design offered in 1952. Frank L. Engle designed the crest.

The redesigned Mercury Eight for 1949 also debuted the "pontoon" styling of the new Fords. The fresh design ended the monotony of warmed-over pre-war style, which helped differentiate Mercury from its comparable Ford cousin, a trick that spelled sales success. Sales figures for both Ford and Mercury broke records in 1949.