
THE VOLUNTEER REGION AACA

BEYOND THE LIMIT



vraaca.com



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[volunteerregionaaca](https://www.instagram.com/volunteerregionaaca)



Volunteer Region AACA

2026 OFFICERS & BOARD

OFFICERS

President:

RG Lewallen

lewallenrg@gmail.com

Vice President:

Ken Lund

kjlund71@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Tom Howard

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Secretary:

Debbie Hixon

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Webmaster:

Roger Frazee

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National Liaison:

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BOARD

Director:

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Director:

Ben Curtis

bscurtis6423@gmail.com

Director:

Herb Thomas

herbthomas7720@comcast.net

Director:

Keith Pierce

clintonbaptistams@gmail.com



UPCOMING REGION EVENTS



September 12th: Tour to
Etowah, TN



October 17th: Cumberland
Gap Tour



November 8th: Annual
business meeting



See page 5 for
full list of events

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS



Stay tuned for emails
regarding any upcoming
events!

UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS



September 20-26 - 2026 8th AAA Glidden Tour (AACA) - Dover, DE.



October 6-9 -2026 Eastern Fall Nationals - Hershey, PA



Check out full 2026
Calendar on page 16



By RG Lewallen, President

PRESIDENTIAL PARTINGS

What a summer we have been having! It has been busy but very rewarding. With all our activities we have been having, summer has just been flying by. Sherry & I had the privilege to attend the Grand National at the NB Center in Allentown, PA and what an event this was. We had a total of 12 Volunteer Region members attend this event! The show field at the NB Center must have been one of the most beautiful show fields I have seen since attending AACA National events.

We had a great tour to Dayton and attended the Scopes Monkey trail re-enactment. While Sherry & I missed this one, everyone that attended had a wonderful time. On the same date we had other members attend the Auto Through the Ages show in Townsend and enjoyed that show as well. In August we had a group attend the Cars for Canines at Melton Lake Park. As you may recall this was our first official meet that we attended last year once our new region was formed. We also had three families attend the August Apple Country Tour in North Carolina.

We will finish out this summer and fall with two club hosted events. The first will be the garage tour to the Lay's garage in Athens on September 12th and on October 17th we will do The Thunder Road Tour to Cumberland Gap with the Air Stream Streamin' The Gap, and Crusin' The Crater at Middlesboro!



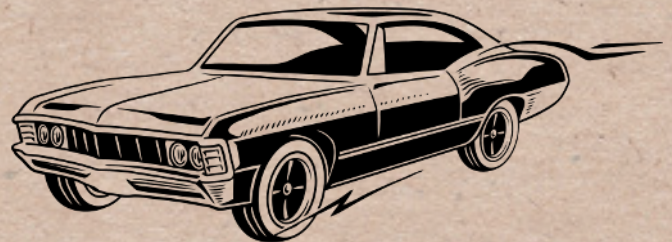
As we have a great line up for our September & October there is also many other local & national events available this fall. Hershey will be happening the same week of fall break in Knox County so that gives more people to attend the Hershey week in Hershey, PA. If you have never attended Hershey, I highly recommend this event for you to attend. Hopefully we can take the opportunity to attend these as we finish up the car show season.

RG

By Rick Lay, National Liaison

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

It is hard to believe that eleven of the fourteen AACA National Activities for the 2026 year have passed! That said, there are still things going on between now and the end of the year! Coming up, as I write this update, the Founders Tour will start in Virginia September 9th through the 14th. Then, the Revival AAA Glidden Tour, hosted in the even-numbered years by AACA and the odd years by the VMCCA will start in Dover, Delaware. The 5-day Glidden Tour is for vehicles 1943 and earlier. And then, there is the Eastern Fall Nationals at Hershey the first full week of October, which this year will be October 6th through the 9th! In the next newsletter, we will start talking about 2027.



THE VOLUNTEER REGION AACA 2026 SCHEDULED MONTHLY TOURS

FEBRUARY 21ST: Tour of UT sports facilities.
Calhoun's for lunch.

Host: Kenny and Terry Widener

MARCH 28th: Cartersville, GA National Meet

Host: Jan & Roger Frazee, Jean & Ken Lund

APRIL 10-11th: Granville TN, Mayberry/Lucy (1 or
2 day event)

Host: Beth and Brad Harris

MAY 2ND: Tour Oak Ridge Museums. K-25 and Oak
Ridge History Museum. Lunch at Big Ed's.

Host: Beverly and Robbie Gray

JUNE 11-13TH: Southeaster Fall Nationals, Oak
Ridge TN

JULY 18TH: Scopes Monkey Trial, Dayton TN

Host: Beth and Brad Harris

Autos Through the Ages, Townsend TN

Host: Ken & Jen Lund

AUGUST 29TH: Tour of DaisyTown, TN

Host: Debbie and Jimmie Hixson

SEPTEMBER 12TH: Tour to Etowah, TN..

Host: Jordan and Rick Lay

OCTOBER 17TH: Cumberland Gap Tour. Rose gas
station. National AirStream, Middlesboro Cruise-in.

Hosts: Cindy & Scott Hill, Debbie & Keith Bullen

NOVEMBER 8TH: Annual Business Meeting

DECEMBER 6TH: Volunteer Region Christmas
Party to be held at Museum of Appalachia.

TRIP TO DAISYTOWN

One of the best-kept secrets in the Smoky Mountains National Park is Daisy Town, a ghost town that was once a weekend getaway for the area's millionaires.

The Volunteer Region explored and learned the secrets of Daisy Town during the September tour, hosted by Debbie and Jimmie Hixson. Thirty members and guests gathered in Maryville for the one-hour drive into the heart of the national park until they reached the hamlet that has been saved from ruin by the Park Service.

A short time after the group arrived, a park volunteer showed up and invited visitors to gather around as she told the story of how this remote village was established and built by Wilson B. Townsend, a lumber baron from Pennsylvania who came to East Tennessee to harvest the virgin timber that once stood tall in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Townsend built the Little River Railroad in order to carry timber out of the area. Eventually, he decided to create a resort in the river valley and transport Knoxville's elite to the area via a passenger car attached to his train. Notables like Daniel Mayo, David Chapman, and others built summer cabins and named the area "Daisy Town."

When the land became part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Daisy Town residents were granted a lifetime lease on their cabins. The last lease expired in 1992.

Volunteer Region members enjoyed learning about Daisy Town and exploring the 18 remaining cabins. After leaving the area, the group traveled along Little River Road to Townsend, where everyone enjoyed a great lunch and friendship at The Abby Restaurant.

The club is grateful to hosts Debbie and Jimmie Hixson for organizing this wonderful September tour.

TRIP TO DAISYTOWN CONTINUED



Members traverse the rugged terrain to explore the Daisy Town cabins. (Photo by Debbie Hixson)



The group gathers around a Park Volunteer to learn about the history of Daisy Town. (Photo by R G Lewallen)

GRAND NATIONAL IN ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

What a great weekend for the AACA Annual Grand National in Allentown, PA. Our region was well represented with a total of 12 members attending this event. The event was held at the NB Center and what a location to host this event!

The campus in Allentown, Pennsylvania is the physical expression of The NB Center for American Automotive Heritage's philosophy of celebrating cars as they were intended. Designed to preserve the cars that defined the middle of the American automotive market in the twentieth century, it is a place where vehicles are not simply saved—they are actively used and understood. This is not a museum. Museums suggest static artifacts and passive viewing. These cars are functional machines, and they are treated that way. The 27-acre campus, with more than two miles of interconnected roads, is built to keep them moving. Every vehicle is maintained in running and driving condition and exercised regularly, reinforcing the belief that true preservation requires mechanical operation, not just display.

Beyond the cars, the Allentown campus is a place of gathering for collectors, historians and preservationists from the world over. The core of the property is the former Boulevard Drive-in movie theater with one of the largest functional outdoor movie screens in the US. There are 14 buildings that make up this campus. The Lodge is in the middle of the campus and was in the center of the beautiful show field.

We had 7 members that attended and assisted by judging. Those were, Rick Lay, Dawne Lay, Jordan Lay, Mike Tullock, Robbie Gray, Randy Rutherford, & RG Lewallen. We had three families showing vehicles this year they were, Henry Hart and his daughter Allison Raymes with Henry's 1962 Pontiac Super Duty. Lloyd Knevelbaard with his 1963 Pontiac Grand Prix, and Sherry & RG Lewallen with their 1958 Chevrolet Impala.

There were over 500 vehicles on display competing for a Grand National as well as 18 vehicles that were nominated for the prestigious Zenith award. The events, the location and the weather could not have been better. This years Grand National at the NB Center will go down as one of the best ever!



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

GRAND NATIONAL IN ALLENTOWN, PA



Beverly Gray & Sherry Lewallen



Volunteer Region members at the awards banquet

HISTORY IS WRITTEN IN THE MILES

We all have moments in our lives that stand out as important and special events. Marriage. Birth of a child. Graduation. Retirement. These are moments that we carry with us throughout the remainder of our lives.

The weekend of August 22, 2026 was one of those moments for me. Let me tell you a story that began many years ago.

It was 1962. A little ten-year-old boy named Peter Carrabba had just arrived home with his family from a vacation. Pulling into their driveway in Massachusetts, Peter saw a sight which he has never forgotten. A surprise was parked in his parent's garage: a large, black muscle car! Peter's older brother, Fred Carrabba, had purchased the car from Ted Ware Pontiac in Westborough, Massachusetts, while his family was away. Fred, or Freddy as I know of him, was an avid drag racer. He raced his 1962 Pontiac Catalina 421 Super Duty to considerable success throughout the Northeast during the 1962 and 1963 racing seasons. The Pontiac quickly became known as a car to beat among the performance brackets at the time along the East Coast drag racing circuits. In speaking to Peter, I learned that he viewed his older brother (who was twenty years older) almost like a father. Frequently on Sundays, Freddy would take young Peter to the drag strip. Peter has recalled how his classmates from school would want to see and hear the car!

By the end of 1963, the Super Duty was retired. Over the years, it was lost to history. In the mid-1980s, my dad, Henry Hart, purchased the car and moved it down to Florida where he was living. At that time, the Super Duty had been destroyed and was in pieces. My dad fixed it up over the next couple of years, along with help from my uncle.

By 1988, they had brought the muscle car back to life—not as a race car, but as a piece of classic history to be preserved and shown for years to come. As a little girl, as young as three or four years old, I remember going to car shows with Dad. I have grown up with a deep love for cars. I've loved this car for more years than I can really remember. Most importantly, because of the Super Duty, I have been blessed with time to bond with my father and memories which I will forever cherish. Last year I went to the Grand Nationals car show in Dayton, Ohio. Hands down, this will forever be likely the most incredible car show location I will ever see. Seeing the Super Duty driving beneath Air Force aircraft is something that is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. When we left that show, I told Dad that I wanted to go with him to the Grand Nationals moving forward.

This year, the Grand Nationals were held at the NB Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania. The Center is a beautiful location dedicated to preserving the American automotive heritage. The weekend could not have been more perfect, with comfortably overcast skies and the slight flirting of autumn in the air. Little did I know what was in store to make this show just as memorable as 2025, but for vastly different reasons. Over the years, Peter had been in touch with my dad. I had the privilege of meeting Peter in May 2024 when he came to visit Tennessee, where we live now. Peter and Dad had agreed that if a car show ever brought the Super Duty up North, Peter would be notified. Allentown was the perfect opportunity for Peter to reunite with the Carrabba history! As exciting as this was, even more so was when I learned that Peter was bringing his family with him!

HISTORY IS WRITTEN IN MILES

In learning about the Carrabba-Pontiac history, I learned that Freddy sadly passed away many years ago when his three children were still young. To hear that Freddy's wife, children, and four of his grandchildren were driving down to Pennsylvania was remarkable. For Freddy's family, this trip to Allentown was not so much about seeing a car from 1962, but rather about reconnecting with the memory of a loved one they have missed for many years.

I cannot express what it was like to witness the Carrabbas connect with the memory of someone they care so deeply for. As I watched Dad back the Super Duty out of the trailer, I felt a moment of reverence that cannot be explained. Dad drove the car into the NB Center's location for the show, and Freddy's wife rode in the front passenger seat. I felt like I was seeing history overlapping with the present.

I went into this event with excitement to see what the trip held and looking forward to time spent with my dad. I came away with a car family that I never knew that I had. I even met my 'car sister'—Freddy's daughter. Our fathers both owned the Pontiac, creating a unique bond between us that will last forever.

This is what I believe the Antique Automobile Club of America is about. Yes, it is about looking at nice cars. It is about rare finds. It is about the friendships we make through each show. But, to me, the bottom line is that this organization is about the stories behind the cars.

To Freddy's family, thank you for letting Dad and me become a part of your story. Thank you for welcoming us in to share such an intimate experience with you. Thank you for letting us learn about Freddy. Peter, your smile, joy, and enthusiasm for the Super Duty are contagious, and I hope to continue to share this beauty with the world as you have!

If you have stuck with me through this journey of love, memories, and one very special car, I leave you with one thought.

History is written in the miles.

I encourage you to find the stories that lie not just beneath the hood, but within the soul of the cars themselves.



HISTORY IS WRITTEN IN MILES



TOUR TO NORTH CAROLINA

In August, six members of the Volunteer Region enjoyed a three-day tour in the mountains of Western North Carolina during the Apple Country Tour, hosted by the Great Smoky Mountains Region and the Little Detroit Chapter.

Roger and Jan Frazee drove the tour in their 1961 Corvair Lakewood, while Tom Howard and Rick Lay drove Rick's 1998 Mercury Grand Marquis. Randy and Rita Rutherford drove their 1942 DeSoto Airflow.

This was not Tom Howard's first visit to the Great Smoky Mountain Region. In fact, Tom presented the region with their AACA charter in 1998, when he was national president. He and Tour Chairman Hulon McCraw have been friends since those early days of the GSMR.

The three-day event began with a drivers' meeting and dinner at the Blue Ridge Community College Conference Center, where guests were welcomed and given an overview of the upcoming three days of touring.

The first day began back at Blue Ridge Community College, where participants toured the automotive education facilities. As students advance in their automotive education, they often work at local dealerships while finishing their degree work at the college. The school teaches all phases of automotive technology, from mechanical repairs to paint and body work.

After leaving BRCC, the group traveled to a large orchard and cold storage facility. There, the owner explained that most of the apples grown and stored there are shipped to Gerber, where they are processed into applesauce. The early harvest season for this year's apple crop was just about to begin while the tour was there.

Lunch was served at the Sky Top orchard, where the group was entertained with live bluegrass music. After lunch, guests could take a hayride or fire the unique apple cannon.

The second day of the tour was the longest, at 120 miles, but it was a pleasant drive with great scenery and interesting stops including the House of Flags Museum, which houses more than 1,000 historically significant flags. Soon, the tour led the group to South Carolina to the Benson Automotive Museum. While at the museum, tour guests were treated to lunch at the Alfa Romeo dealership next door.

The final stop of the day, before returning to Hendersonville, was a visit to the Parker Binns Winery, which features breathtaking views of the mountains of North Carolina.

The third day began with a visit to the WNC Air Museum, which, unlike many aviation museums, features antique aircraft built for civilian use. From barnstorming biplanes to the luxurious Fairchild 24-R, complete with a plush interior and roll-down windows, vintage airplanes and helicopters filled the hangar.

Next, the tour stopped at the speed shop, owned by world-champion drag racer Matt Cook. Mr. Cook opened up his massive facility to the group and even fired up one of his "gasser" drag racers.

The last stop of the day was the historic Johnson Family Farm, one of the early settlements of Henderson County. More than ten structures still stand on the farm, some of which were built by hand by Brothers Vernon and Leander Johnson. Before they died, the Johnsons donated most of their property to the Henderson County School System, where the middle school and high school are located today.

The three-day event concluded where it began, at the Blue Ridge Community College. There, guests enjoyed the closing banquet before bidding farewell to new and old friends. The Smoky Mountain Region and the Little Detroit Chapter combined their efforts to provide an enjoyable and memorable AACA Divisional Tour through the Apple Country of Western North Carolina.

CONTINUED



Tour Chairman Hulon McCraw provides driving directions during the opening night banquet.

Jan Frazee and Tom Howard visit among the flags at the House of Flags Museum.



Guests enjoy lunch and bluegrass music at the Sky Top Orchard.

CONTINUED



This Dodge Charger is one of dozens of immaculate vehicles on display at the Benson Auto Museum.



This Fairchild 24-A is on display at the WNC Air Museum. Its luxury features include a leather interior and roll-down windows.



World Champion Drag Racer Matt Cook fires up his "Gasser" for the tour guests.

VOLUNTEER REGION AACA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SHONEY'S IN LENOIR CITY, TN
JULY 2, 2026

OFFICERS

President: RG Lewallen, Present
Vice President: Ken Lund, Present
Secretary: Debbie Hixon, Present
Treasurer: Tom Howard, Present
Past President: None

BOARD

Director: Jordan Lay, Present
Director: Ben Curtis, Present
Director: Herb Thomas, Present
Director: Keith Pierce, Present

GUESTS

Rick Lay, National AACA Liason
Sherry Lewallen
Jimmie Hixon
Susan Thomas
Jan Frazee
Roger Frazee, Webmaster

CALL TO ORDER

Volunteer Region President, RG Lewallen,
called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

WELCOME/ROLL CALL

Officers, Board Members, and guests were
present as listed above.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous board meeting
were previously presented to each officer
and board member via email. No changes or
additions were recommended. Herb Thomas
made a motion to accept the minutes as
presented. Ben Curtis seconded the motion.
None opposed. The motion carried.

MONTHLY TOUR REPORT

Ken Lund presented each monthly tour for
the current year.

Brad and Beth Harris, hosts of the July 18th
tour, have everything ready for the Scopes
Monkey Trial in Dayton, TN.

Autos Through the Ages will be held this
same weekend. A meeting place will be
decided on for those who want to attend this
and go as a group.

The tour for August 29th will be hosted by
Debbie and Jimmie Hixson to Daisy Town.
More details to follow.

The tour for September 12th will be a garage
tour at Rick Lay's hosted by Rick and Jordan
Lay. More details to follow.

The tour for October 17th will be to the
Cumberland Gap hosted by Cindy and Scott
Hill along with Debbie and Keith Bullen.
More details to follow.

November will be the annual business meeting.

December will be the Christmas party.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Secretary, Debbie Hixson, reported we gained 5 new families since the last Board meeting. The new members are:

Michelle and Lloyd Knevelbaard

Mike Rochford

Sandra and Robert Wagner, Jr.

Daniel Chambers

Robert (Bo) Croley

A motion was made to accept each of these new members by Ken Lund. The motion was seconded by Jordan Lay. None opposed. The motion carried. The Volunteer Region now has 69 families as members.

WEBMASTER REPORT

Roger Frazee states the website has made several changes. The new national guidelines for the website are noted. Welcome any suggestions for the website.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Jordan Lay states the newsletter will be out the first of next week. Please send all ideas to Jordan. No update on social media pages at this time.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Rick Lay commented on all the positive feedback from the Southeastern Region Fall Meet. Thanks to everyone for their hard work. The meet was a great success. There is a lot going on with national AACA until the end of the year. AACA Central Division Spring Nationals in Green Bay, WI, at the end of this month; the first week of August is the Southeastern Divisional Tour in Flat Rock, NC; the Annual Grand Nationals and Zenith Awards in Allentown, PA on August 19-22, the Founders Tour will be September 9-14, followed by The Glidden Tour in Dover, Delaware. We will have Hershey October 6-9.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL FALL MEET

President, RG Lewallen, states he could not be any more proud of our club who worked so hard to make this meet a great success. It was a great team effort.

Roger and Jan Frazee also commented on the hard work of volunteers to make this a very successful meet. All comments have been positive. Also noted that the field layout was excellent. Tom Howard stated it was the best meet in his 60 years of attending meets. Rick Lay commented on the communication of volunteers, which was outstanding.

TREASURER REPORT

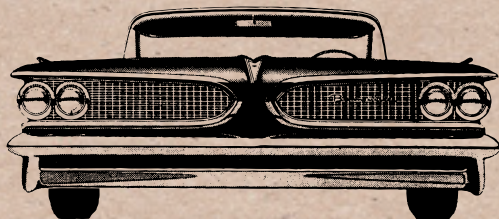
Treasurer, Tom Howard, presented the current financial report. A copy of this report was given to each member present. A copy of the financial report is also on file. A motion was made to accept the financial report as presented by Ken Lund. Herb Thomas seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.

Discussion was carried out to transfer the \$5,000 grant money from National AACA for the Southeastern Regional Fall meet checking account into the regular Volunteer Region checking account to cover additional expenses. Tom Howard put this in the form of a motion. There was no further discussion. Ken Lund seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The Volunteer Region now has storage space available for club items at a warehouse on Clinton Highway at no cost to the club thanks to Kenny Widener.

The club celebration after the Southeastern Regional Fall Meet will be held on Saturday, July 11, 12 noon, at Melton Lake Park. Buddy's barbecue and ice cream will be served at no cost to members.



NEW BUSINESS

See the Bylaws section for the Nominating Committee for discussion of nominations for members of the Board of Directors for the upcoming year.

Roger Frazee states there are 14 event T-shirts left over from the Meet. Five of these T-shirts belong to no-shows at the Meet. After discussion, it was decided to contact the 5 no-shows to see if they want their shirts. If no response by July 10, these T-shirts will be auctioned off to club members at the club celebration picnic on July 11. Also, will give the Calutron girl and Katy Watt a T-shirt. A motion was made that Jordan Lay will auction off the remaining T-shirts at the celebration picnic. Tom Howard seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.

Dash plaques from the Meet will be given to club members at the celebration picnic.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be September 3, 2026, at Shoney's in Powell, TN.

ADJOURN

Ben Curtis made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM. RG seconded the motion.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
SHERRY LEWALLEN FOR
DEBBIE HIXSON, SECRETARY

2026 AACA NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2026 Annual Convention

February 5-7 ▪ Chantilly, VA
Steve Rossi, sldmrossi@aol.com

2026 Eastern Spring Nationals

May 28-30 ▪ Indiana, PA
Paul Colligan, thefarmrv@windstream.net

2026 Special Nationals

March 19-21 ▪ Guaynabo, PR
Jose Davila, guillodavila57@gmail.com

2026 Southeastern Fall Nationals

June 11-13 ▪ Oak Ridge, TN
Roger Frazee, rkfrazee@gmail.com

2026 Winter Nationals

March 26-28 ▪ Cartersville, GA
Kraig Bolus, kbolus3@gmail.com

2026 Sentimental Tour

June 15-19 ▪ Mechanicsburg, PA
Don Barlup, pullman1914@aol.com

2026 Southern Spring Nationals

April 9-11 ▪ Charlotte, NC
Phillip Cole, pcole@wnccumc.net

2026 Central Spring Nationals

July 23-25 ▪ Green Bay, WI
Russ Walker, russellwalker@aol.com

2026 Western Spring Nationals/Grand Nationals

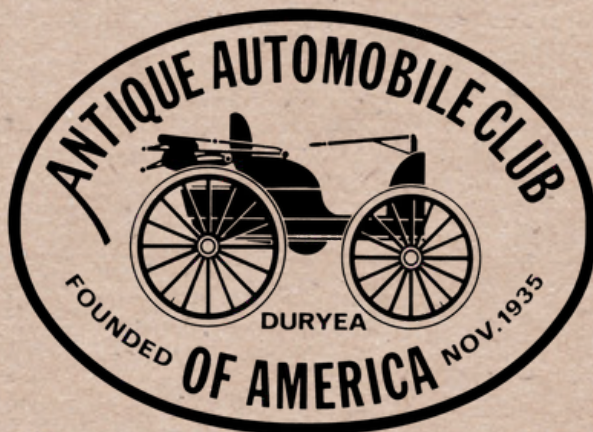
April 23-25 ▪ Las Vegas, NV
Micael Fecchino, chevyfordply@gmail.com

2026 Grand Nationals/Zenith

August 19-22 ▪ Allentown, PA
Steve Moskowitz, aaca1@aaca.org

2026 Founders Tour

September 9-14 ▪ Williamsburg, VA
Scott Dayton, smdayton40@gmail.com



2026 80th Revival AAA Glidden Tour (AACA)

September 20-26 ▪ Dover, DE
Dave Anspach, aacadave1054@yahoo.com

2026 Eastern Fall Nationals

October 6-9 ▪ Hershey, PA
Bonnie Kulikowski, bonnieshepp1925@gmail.com