Edition #8 November - December 2026

THE VOLUNTEER REGION AACA

BEYOND THE LIMIT



VOLUNTEER REGION ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA
FOUNDED NOV. 1935 DURYEA

vraaca.com

volunteerregionaaca@gmail.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
sistom60@gmail.com

Secretary:
Debbie Hixon
ourdogeli@gmail.com

Webmaster:
Roger Frazee
rkfrazee@gmail.com

National Liaison:
Rick Lay
layco@bellsouth.net

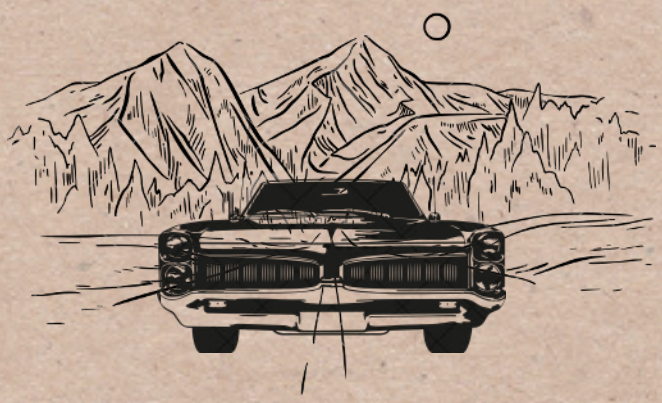
BOARD

Director:
Jordan Lay, newsletter editor
jordanlay120@gmail.com

Director:
Ben Curtis
bscurtis6423@gmail.com

Director:
Herb Thomas
herbthomas7720@comcast.net

Director:
Keith Pierce
clintonbaptistams@gmail.com



SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES ON PAGE 10

2027 OFFICERS & BOARD

OFFICERS

President:
Ken Lund
kjlund71@gmail.com

Vice President:
Roger Frazee, webmaster
rkfrazee@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Tom Howard
sistom60@gmail.com

Secretary:
Debbie Hixon
ourdogeli@gmail.com

Past President:
RG Lewallen
lewallenrg@gmail.com

National Liaison:
Rick Lay
layco@bellsouth.net

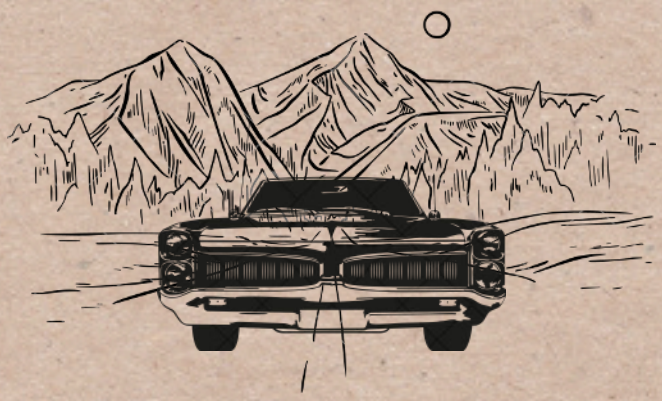
BOARD

Director:
Jordan Lay, newsletter editor
jordanlay120@gmail.com

Director:
Herb Thomas
herbthomas7720@comcast.net

Director:
Rob Del Moro
delmoro.rob@gmail.com

Director:
Scott Hill
scjkhill@tds.net



SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES ON PAGE 10

UPCOMING REGION EVENTS



December 6th: Christmas Party @ Museum of Appalachia.



January: Annual Planning Meeting - Date TBD.



January 8th - 9th: Cabin Fever at Knoxville Expo Center.



Stay tuned for full list of events

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS



Stay tuned for emails regarding any upcoming events!

UPCOMING NATIONAL EVENTS



February 4-6- 2027 Annual Convention/National Awards - King of Prussia, PA



February 18-20 -2027 Winter Nationals - Melbourne, FL



April 8-10 -2027 Annual Grand Nationals/Zenith/Southeastern Spring Nationals - Charlotte, NC



June 3-5 -2027 Eastern Spring Nationals - Fredericksburg, VA



Check out full 2027 Calendar on page 13

By RG Lewallen, President

PRESIDENTIAL PARTINGS

This will be my last post for "Beyond the Limit" as I will be rotating off as president at the end of December. I will say that it has been a privilege to be associated with such a great group of men & women that have formed our region. You all are only 1½ years young and have demonstrated your willingness to get involved with whatever is going on with our group. A good example is what everyone did in June to host the AACA National Fall meet in Oak Ridge! This was a very successful event and everyone worked together to do whatever was necessary to accomplish each task that we had before us. We still have some exciting events planned even through the fall and winter months ahead. Our Christmas party will be on December 6th at 5:00 PM at Museum of Appalachia. In the September board meeting your board elected for the region to assist in the cost so the cost for each one attending the Christmas party is only $22.00. We need a final count of attendees by Friday, November 20th so please get your notice into Ken and pay Tom for this event.

This upcoming January, the board has approved to have a booth at Cabin Fever. This is always a big event in the wintertime to get out and break the winter blues. We always have great participation from members for this event. It is a great way to get the word out about our new region, make new friends and we usually sign-up new members for our region. Last year during this event we were able to add 16 families to our region! Be watching your emails for an opportunity to sign up supporting our booth.

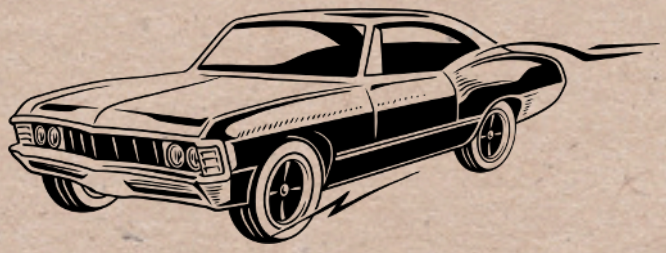
Sherry and I wish everyone the best for this upcoming holiday season, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2027!

RG

By Rick Lay, National Liaison

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Well… all fourteen AACA National Activities for the 2026 year have passed! The only thing left is for me and Tom Howard to go to Hershey the first weekend of December for our National Awards Committee meeting. There, the committee of 25 National Awards judges will be choosing the over 70 National Awards from some 252 vehicles nominated in the various award categories at Nationals and National Tours. The Awards will be given out at the National Awards Banquet at the 2027 AACA Annual Convention to be held at the Valley Forge Casino Resort in King of Prussia, PA, February 4-6, 2027. We have four nominees from our very own Volunteer Region! And… the Winter Nationals will be our first judged event of the year, February 18-20, 2027, in Melbourne, FL!

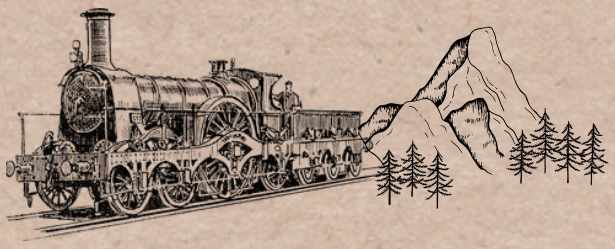


By Rick Lay

SEPTEMBER TRIP TO ETOWAH

The Volunteer Region assembled in Vonore on Saturday, September 12, to tour down Highway 411 to Etowah – cutting over towards Athens on Highway 30 to the McMinn County Airport – home of the Swift Museum Foundation and located on the grounds of the airport. Paula, our tour guide, greeted us as we arrived, and she was joined by a member of the International Swift Association, Jim Roberts from Knoxville, who has two Swift airplanes he keeps in Knoxville. The Swift was manufactured by the Globe Aircraft Company of Texas, and they were manufactured beginning in 1946 through 1948 and then by Temco until production ceased in 1951. All in all, about 1700 Swifts were produced. The club is very active today with members all over the world. Known at the time as the "sports car" of personal aircraft, they remain very popular with flyers today who wish to experience a taste of flying in the past. Like our own automobile hobby, there are those who want to restore them back to the way they left the factory, and there are those who want to "modify" them with modern conveniences and instrumentation.

After about two hours at the museum, we then caravanned towards Etowah a short distance on Highway 30 to the Midway Milkshake, where we enjoyed lunch together under the canopies. It was one of those "chamber of commerce" days and a great day to be out in your old car! Scott Cass, owner of Midway Milkshake… and a car collector himself, joined us and welcomed the club to the area. Afterwards, we caravaned into Etowah and the historic and restored Etowah L&N Depot. The depot is restored back to its 1905 look and the two levels are devoted to the history of L&N and the history of Etowah which came into being in 1905 when L&N moved their wooden boxcar repair shops there. The Volunteer group disbanded mid-afternoon amid the glorious sunshine as everyone headed back up the road to their homes after another great Volunteer Region monthly activity!





A Globe Swift Airplane

By Rob Del Moro

CRUISING THE CUMBERLAND GAP

On Saturday, October 17, 2026, the Volunteer Region set out to explore the famed Thunder Road route of years past. With scenic mountain views and historic sites, the drive celebrates the region's heritage, including its moonshining and stock-car racing roots. We met at 8:00 a.m. at Food City in Halls on a brisk, 53-degree morning. Everyone wore sweatshirts and light jackets, and Steve and Vicki Lamb provided extra warmth with fresh coffee and donuts.

At 8:30 a.m. sharp, Steve and Vicki led us toward the Cumberland Gap. We traveled north on Maynardville Highway, then turned off Route 33 in Union County and onto the original Thunder Road. As I drove, I wondered how many high-speed chases involving bootleggers had taken place along this road during the era of steep federal whiskey taxes, from the 1930s through the 1950s.

We rejoined Highway 33 and continued north to Tazewell, Tennessee, where we stopped at the restored historic Rose's Gulf Gas Station. What a treat! There, we met Keith and Debbie Bullen, who photographed each car beside the antique gas pump.

Keith and Debbie had everything well organized. A local Tazewell police officer unlocked the station's lobby for us and helped direct traffic as we headed north again.

As we entered Harrogate, Tennessee, we were surrounded by the beautiful Cumberland Mountains, which stretch along the borders of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia. At the base of the range, we entered an impressive tunnel carved through the mountains.

Before the tunnel opened, motorists crossed the range on Highway 25E, a route nicknamed "Massacre Mountain" because of its sharp curves, steep grades, and high rate of fatal accidents. Our own Roger Frazee frequently drove this road for work when his territory covered Kentucky and Tennessee.

After entering Kentucky, we took the first exit toward Pinnacle Overlook. A short hike from the parking area rewarded us with a breathtaking view of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia—a sight we would not soon forget.

Returning to Tennessee, we exited into Cumberland Gap and headed downtown. Although local roads were closed for the annual Airstream show, Keith and Debbie had arranged with the owner of Angelo's restaurant for us to park our classic cars diagonally in front of the restaurant.

The parked cars created a free classic-car show for Airstream owners and other visitors. Meanwhile, we enjoyed a catered barbecue lunch buffet from Angelo's.

It's never just a drive with the Volunteer Region; it's so much more.

By Rick Lay

THE PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARD

Remember in school... if you didn't miss a day, you got a perfect attendance award at the end of the school year? Well, AACA also has a Perfect Attendance Award for Judging. If you are an AACA judge, and you attend and judge at each of the Nationals during the year, you get a plaque mounted with all the dash plaques from each of the Nationals. This year, my (and Jordan's) engraved plate in the middle says: Perfect Attendance – 2026 AACA Nationals – Presented to Rick Lay (and Jordan Lay). It's the third year I have received one and Jordan's first year. In my 30 years of judging, I always wanted to achieve "Perfect Attendance," and I have been fortunate enough to finally make that happen – three times! The awards are given during Judges' Breakfast at Hershey. Sometimes there is a Nationals after Hershey – so you may wonder how you can get a perfect attendance award if you still have one more to attend.

Well... as Jim Elliott, VP of Judging, told me last year as I accepted the award, "You know this means you have to go there." He was kidding, of course... sort of. A "Perfect Attendance" judge has to be registered for the Nationals that follow Hershey and be registered to judge in order for AACA to generate the plaque – which is done at AACA Headquarters by our own Jon Curtis. Last year, the Nationals at Galveston, Texas, were two weeks after Hershey, so I was registered to go and did. In 2025, there were 14 of us who got Perfect Attendance Awards. This year, there were fewer of us honored because of the Special Nationals being in Puerto Rico at the first of the year. You may say, "Well... what did that cost you to get that plaque?" The short answer is: "I don't know, and I don't want to know!"



Jordan Lay receiving her Perfect Attendance Award



Rick Lay receiving his Perfect Attendance Award

ANOTHER BEST KEPT SECRET IN AACA

Did you know that on every AACA National Tour there are National Awards judges participating in the tour who are also judging and nominating vehicles for National Touring Awards? For most of us, apparently not! At the banquet for the 2026 Founders Tour, this question was asked, and in a room filled with over 100 people, only about twelve could answer, "Yes". Most of the twelve were AACA judges, board members, or National Award winners. This is another one of our 'best kept secrets" in AACA. Let's change that by getting the word out!

Just like vehicles shown on the field at AACA Nationals, vehicles on tours are also currently eligible for one of the five AACA National Awards for touring. They are:

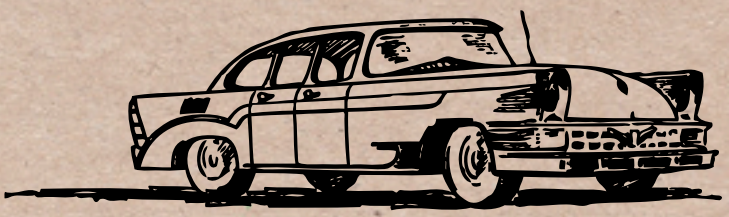
The Bert S. Harrington, Jr. Brighton Era Award for pre-1905 automobiles participating in a national tour.

The Edgar E. Rohr Memorial Award for a 1920 or older Buick (Junior or Senior) automobile driven 500 miles since restoration.

The Thomas McKean Tour Trophy for any antique automobile completing a National Tour with consideration given to age, authenticity, appearance, condition, and distance traveled to and from the tour.

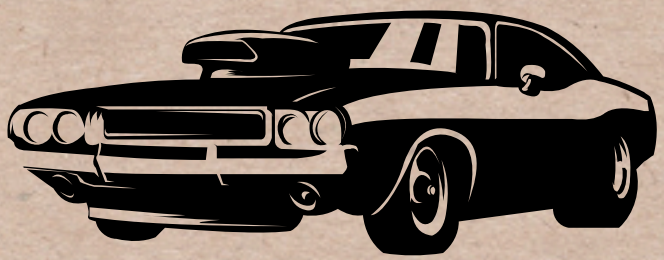
The Benny T. Bootle Memorial Award for an outstanding V8 Ford automobile completing a National Tour.

The Brass Era Touring Award for vehicles 1915 or earlier completing an AACA National Tour.



Of course, touring is the way the founders of AACA started out. Today, the exciting news is that touring is becoming even more popular! Your AACA National Board will be considering another National Award at their next meeting in Hershey, which will include touring. Also, there is another touring award in the early stages of discussion and refinement! Touring is fun! And it is a great way to truly enjoy what our vehicles were built for – DRIVING THEM! We have many touring opportunities available to members, including the **Founders Tour**, the **Sentimental Tour**, and the **Glidden Tour** (AACA sponsors the Glidden in even-numbered years and the VMCCA sponsors it in the odd-numbered years). These tours are usually five-day tours, but then there are the **Divisional Tours**, which are usually three-day tours. Then there are the specialty tours like the **Reliability Tour** for vehicles 1915 and earlier and the **Vintage Tour** for vehicles 1927 and earlier, plus regional sponsored tours like the popular **Buzzards' Breath Touring Region's** tours. Two of our AACA regions are working on specialty tours for off-road driving and cars from the muscle car era.

Keep your eyes on the AACA National Calendar of events published in Antique Automobile magazine and online at aaca.org for more information. Help us get the word out!



VOLUNTEER REGION AACA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SHONEY'S IN POWELL, TN
SEPTEMBER 6, 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, Excused Absence
Director: Keith Pierce, Excused Absence

GUESTS

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Officers, Board members and guests present as listed above.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous Board meeting on July 2, 2026 were presented previously to each Officer and Board Member. No changes or additions were recommended. Ben Curtis made a motion to accept these minutes as presented. Ken Lund seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.

NEW MEMBERS REPORT

Two new families were presented for membership to The Volunteer Region as follows:

Mike Tulloch
Dick Ziegler & Jane Herron

Volunteer Region now has a total of 71 families as members.

A motion was made by Ben Curtis to accept these as new members to The Volunteer Region. Tom Howard seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Ken Lund gave an update on recent and upcoming activities. The October tour to Daisy Town was a great success with 30 people attending.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

The next event will be September 12, 2026, hosted by Rick Lay, including a visit to the Swift Museum and L&N Railroad Museum.

The event for October will be the Cumberland Gap tour hosted by Keith & Debbie Bullen along with Steve & Vickie Lamb.

The event for November will be the Annual Business Meeting on November 8, 2026.

The event for December will be the Christmas Party at The Museum of Appalachia on Sunday, December 6, 2026.

NATIONAL MEET UPDATE

Rick Lay, Jan, Roger Frazee, and Tom Howard met to finalize the National Meet in Oak Ridge. All revenue from the event has been accounted for, and all costs that occurred during the event have been taken care of. The success of the meet was overwhelming. Several National AACA members attended the tour and were very impressed by the Volunteer Region, stating this should be an example for other clubs on how to prepare for a national meet.

TREASURER REPORT

Tom Howard presented the current financial report. A copy was given to each member present. After discussion, Ben Curtis made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Ken Lund seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried. A copy of the Treasurer's report is attached to the minutes.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Jordan Lay reports the latest edition of BEYOND THE LIMIT is ready for distribution next week. Social media is updated with all events.

WEBMASTER REPORT

Roger Frazee reports the website is up to date with all events.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Ben Curtis suggested printing flyers about The Volunteer Region to put in cars at other events to generate interest in our club and to welcome new members. Discussion was held. Ben Curtis put this in the form of a motion to print flyers about The Volunteer Region AACA club to share with car enthusiasts at other events, not to exceed $400. Ken Lund seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried. Roger Frazee and Jordan Lay will work together on putting this together.

RG Lewallen brought up the question as to whether The Volunteer Region needs a Standard Operating Procedure for the new region. This will be discussed further at a later date.

Discussion was held regarding money generated from The National Meet in Oak Ridge by The Volunteer Region.

NEW BUSINESS

After much discussion, it was suggested to put $2,098.81 into the general treasury for operating expenses. The remainder will be moved into a higher interest-bearing account. This was put in the form of a motion by Ben Curtis. The motion was seconded by Tom Howard. No further discussion. None opposed. The motion passed.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Discussion was held regarding the upcoming Christmas party if the club wanted to subsidize the cost of the party for members and guests. After discussion, Ken Lund made a motion to subsidize $20 for each member and guest attending. Jordan Lay seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.

NAME TAGS: Roger Frazee states the club has not ordered any new name tags since November, 2025. Roger has checked on prices and will continue to use the previous supplier of the name tags in the future. After discussion, it was decided the club will subsidize part of the cost of the name tags for new members. It was also decided to put this information on the new member application form if they choose to purchase a name tag. A motion was made by Ben Curtis that if members of the Volunteer Region purchase a name tag, the cost will be $10.00 and the club will subsidize the balance. Ken Lund seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.

FUTURE AACA NATIONAL MEET: Discussion of putting on another National Meet was held. It was decided that maybe in 3-5 years this is a possibility.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE: A list of the proposed officers and board members for 2027 is attached. These recommendations will be presented to Volunteer Region members by October 15, 2026. These recommendations and any others presented will be voted on at the November business meeting to be held on November 8, 2026.

PROPOSED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2027:

Ken Lund, President
Roger Frazee, Vice President
Tom Howard, Treasurer
Debbie Hixson, Secretary
RG Lewallen, Past President

BOARD MEMBERS:

Jordan Lay, expires end of 2027
Herb Thomas, expires end of 2027
Rob Delmoro, expires end of 2028
Scott Hill, expires end of 2028

2027 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS are Jordan Lay, Herb Thomas, Rob Delmoro, Scott Hill, and RG Lewallen.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, November 5, 2026, at Shoney's in Lenoir City.

ADJOURN

Ben Curtis made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:00 pm. Ken Lund seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
DEBBIE HIXSON, SECRETARY

2027 AACA NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2027 Annual Convention
February 4-6
King of Prussia, PA

2027 Winter Nationals
February 18-20
Melbourne, FL

2027 Annual Grand Nationals/Zenith/ Southeastern Spring Nationals
April 8-10
Charlotte, NC

2027 Eastern Spring Nationals
June 3-5
Fredericksburg, VA

2027 Founders Tour
June 6-11
Winchester, VA

2027 Central Spring Nationals
July 22-24
New Ulm, MN

2027 Central Fall Nationals
August 25-28
Crystal Lake, IL

2027 Special Fall Nationals
September 8-11
Vernon, NY

2027 AAA Glidden Tour
September 19-24
Branson, MO

2027 Eastern Fall Meet
October 5-8
Hershey, PA

2027 Eastern Divisional Tour
October 25-29
Swedesboro, NJ

For more information, visit aaca.org