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“Your Region’s
Newsletter Resource”

THE RUMMAGE BOX

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ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF AMERICA

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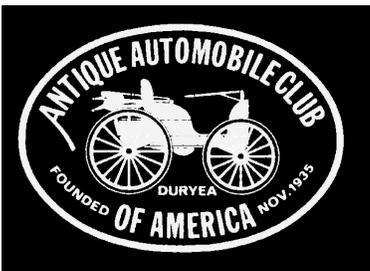
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Major literature sales events
combine to best serve Fall
Hershey faithful
By David Landow, VP - National HQ
and Library

The Society of Automotive Historians (SAH) and the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) have together enjoyed a long tradition of a mutually beneficial relationship. In fact, it was at the 1969 AACA Eastern Fall Meet in Hershey, during a meeting hosted by *Antique Automobile* magazine's then-editor William S. Jackson at AACA's former Governor Road headquarters, that SAH was formed. Annual Society gatherings at Hershey ensued, and by 1976, SAH added its presence to the Hershey swap meet field with its own vendor space, where the Society has been a continuous and supportive presence at Fall Hershey ever since.

SAH's diverse membership is an eclectic mix of professional and amateur historians, academic scholars, automotive journalists and publishers, museum and library professionals, educational and cultural institutions, collectors and restorers, and other interested automotive enthusiasts. The Society's 665 members reside in 25 countries, with 20% of its members residing outside the U.S. SAH members share the common pursuits of studying, researching, recording, and disseminating all aspects of automotive history.

From its "big top" tent at its Orange Field vendor space (OBB 16-19), since 2011, SAH has continually hosted its Authors' Book Signing during Fall Hershey. During the event's first year, seven authors offered their books for sale, enthusiastically discussing content and signing copies for everyone who wanted a personalized version. Last year, 16 authors were in attendance. This year, with 20-plus authors who have signed-on to offer some 60 different titles, turn-out is expected to reach an all-time high, exceeding the capacity of SAH's tent. However, AACA and SAH have joined forces to create more space.

This year, the SAH Authors' Book Signing will be held in conjunction with the AACA Library Yard Sale and the Buick Heritage Alliance (BHA) Literature Sale, all to be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at AACA's National Headquarters, each in separate tents. At the BHA Literature Sale, for the first time ever, the organization will sell its surplus duplicates of original General Motors and Buick literature. For the SAH, the new location and date for its Authors' Book Signing is in lieu of the event's traditional location at the SAH Orange Field tent and the traditional day-before-end of swap meet date.

Combining the location of all three events will best serve attendees by providing more offerings in the same place at the same time, but will also continue the usual opportunity to have interesting discussions with multiple authors about multiple titles and topics, to ask them lots of questions, and to obtain personalized copies of books for their library. Because space is limited for this popular event, authors must pre-arrange to participate. Any interested authors are urged to contact Helen V Hutchings without delay at (hvhent@juno.com).



2022 SAH Author's Book Signing photo by Rubén Verdés





Editor's Note By Matt Hinson *Rummage Box* Editor

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

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

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

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

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



AACA National - Hamilton, NY By John McCarthy Vice President - Endowments

Over the years we have been to many AACA Nationals and recently to Hamilton New York which is the first time we have been to this area. Hamilton is home to Colgate University and is forty miles southeast of Syracuse.

The AACA Rolling Antiquers Old Car Club Norwich Region hosted this National and had several events set up including a visit to the Northeast Classic Car Museum in Norwich, twenty miles south of Hamilton. This Museum opened in 1997 with one building and currently has five connected buildings totaling 89,000 sq. feet with 170 vehicles, 28 motorcycles and an assortment of other transportation items like aircraft engines. Most of the vehicles have been restored to show quality with a number of AACA First Junior and Senior badges, but some are in original condition. Most of the vehicles were donated by entrepreneur George Staley who came from the Norwich area and made his fortune in the aircraft parts business.

The Pre-war building houses a wide variety of vehicles with many orphan marques such as Knox, Graham, Hupmobile, Scripps-Booth, Duesenberg, seventeen Packards and a nice collection of electric and steam powered vehicles. The Post-war building also contains many orphan vehicles such as DeSoto, Studebaker, Hudson, Nash, Plymouth, Crosley, Kaiser and some muscle cars. The Franklin building contains the largest collection of Franklins (1902-1934) in the world, including the third and last Franklin built. Franklins were manufactured in Syracuse, New York. Another building contains vehicles manufactured in New York such as Maxwell, Playboy, O-WE-Go, Chase, luxury maker Pierce Arrow, and several other marques. The final building contains a large collection of foreign sports cars from the 1950's to 2000. Spread throughout the Museum are motorcycles and aircraft engines including a Wright 18-cylinder R-3350 Duplex-Cyclone that powered B-29's.

The staff at the Museum were excellent and very kind, and they provided a free motorized scooter that made my wife's navigation of the Museum pleasant. While there is no food sold in the Museum there was a very good lunch wagon just outside and then an area inside the front of the Museum to enjoy your meal. Just across the street is plenty of parking and the Wheels of Time Diecast Car Museum and store.

The Northeast Classic Car Museum is not to be missed.





Cruising And Playing The Radio

By Phillip Cole

Vice President - Publications

Maybe it was Chuck Berry who best described the joy of driving an automobile when he sang, "Cruising and playing the radio. With no particular place to go." At least since WWII, the radio has been an integral part of the freedom offered to us by the automobile. In the early 1990s I tried to describe "cruising and playing the radio" to a visiting English friend, but he couldn't comprehend it. It was Friday night. So, we walked the few blocks from my house to downtown Lincolnton, N.C. where there were hundreds of teenagers cruising in their cars. This prompted two questions from the Englishman: "What is the purpose of all this?" and "Why do they play their radios so loud?" When I tried to explain that it was a unique part of American culture thanks to "freedom of the road", he smiled and said, "Well, all these young people sure seem to be enjoying themselves!"

I grew up "cruising and playing the radio". The year I was born was when the 45 rpm record was introduced by RCA Victor. The year I learned to drive the 8-track player was becoming the big thing. I still have a box of 8-track tapes in the garage, but the player hanging under the dash is long gone.

Let's share some important events in our history of cruising and playing the radio:

--In the 1920s and 1930s in-car radios were being introduced. They were expensive, adding about 25% to the price of a Model A. The top song of 1930 was "Happy Days Are Here Again".

--In 1952, even though practically all stations were broadcasting in AM, the first in-car FM radio became available thanks to Blaupunkt. The top song was "Blue Tango".

--In 1963 vacuum tubes were replaced with transistors and car radios became "solid state". The top song was "Surfin' USA".

--In 1965 8-track players became available. Over the next several years 8-track players were added to many cars. The top song was "Wooly Bully".

--By 1969 cars added stereo to their sound system, where the tuner amplified two channels, not just one. The top song was "Sugar, Sugar".

--In 1970 companies like Alpine and Pioneer sought to solve our problem of the 8-track player eating up the tape with cassette tapes. With the advent of cassette tapes, we could now play "my music" thanks to a "Mix Tape". The top song was "Bridge Over Troubled Waters".

--By 1982 Bose offered the first Premium Stereo System teaming up with GM's Delco to offer it as an option in Oldsmobiles, Buicks, and Cadillacs. The top song was "Physical".

--By 1984 Sony introduced an in-dash CD player. The top song was "Careless Whisper".

Now, buttons and dials have been replaced by touch screens and Bluetooth. If you don't know what that is, ask your grandchildren. Then, take them on a cruise in your "old car". If it has a radio, let them turn it up loud...



AACA – It's a family affair!

By Vicki Bolton

Director at Large

If you are a member of AACA, then it is probably because you like old cars. You may even own one, or two or three because they seem to have a way of multiplying. But why do so many people go to the shows and continue to go to more shows? I believe that a big reason for that is seeing old friends and making new ones. But there is another very important aspect of AACA and that is family. Our events are more than just family friendly; family is the very backbone of AACA. This is very evident at the Nationals, the local shows, cruise-ins, and tours.

You will see husbands and wives working together as they get a car on the field and clean and prep it for judging. You can also see fathers and sons getting cars unloaded from the trailers and brothers tinkering on the car because for some reason it will not start to get it out the trailer. Of course, it started at home and ran fine when you put it in the trailer, but now it won't even turn over! There is nothing better than watching the joy on a kid's face when he comes forward at an awards banquet to pick up the trophy. The grin stretches from ear to ear!

You can see the entire family at a local show. We took our grandson to a local show in Mobile where they were having a fish fry. You would have thought that he had never eaten fried catfish. He said it was the best he had ever had. He wandered around looking at all the cars asking questions about all of them.

Tours are the perfect setting to invite the kids or grandkids. You not only get to spend quality time with them but take them to places that they probably have never seen before. And most importantly, they get to spend time in an old car! Because after all, the cars were meant to be driven and enjoyed.

We have taken numerous family members with us to a variety of places: a brother-in-law, a sister, grandson, granddaughter, parents and of course, our daughter. We took my parents with us to Hershey one year. I can remember Mother talking about how much she appreciated the fact that this was one hobby where family was always welcome.

Please, the next time you get ready to go to your car event, think about what family member you can take with you. You could take the grandchild who is always eager to go with grandparents, the parent who is now alone and would love to get out of the house, or the sibling who cannot get out by themselves anymore.

This hobby can bring a much-needed smile to someone's face or bring back a long-forgotten memory. Remember, It's a family affair!





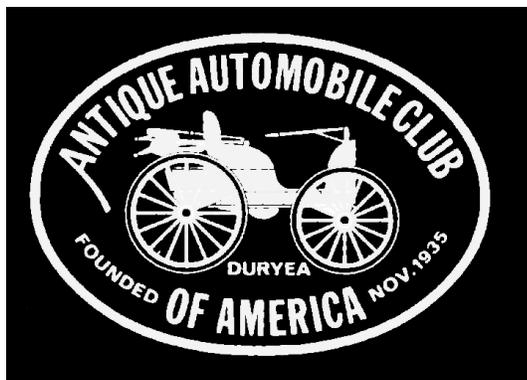
Looking Forward to a Short Weekend Getaway?

By Dave Bowman VP - Finance and Budget

Need to get away for a long weekend; just get away from everything? Attend one of the 8-10 AACA Nationals offered each year. You don't have to have a show car, because there is also the HPOF and DPC classes. Don't have an old car, no problem you can still attend. What is there to do if you don't have an AACA vehicle that you want to register for the event? There is plenty to do and you will meet many friends in the hobby along the way. Check out the National brochure for the activities that usually begin on Thursday and run through Saturday. These include visiting car museums, historical sites and tours on your own of points of local interest and of course the National on Saturday.

Imagine a prime rib dinner on a paddle wheel boat on the Mississippi River. It was there last week at the Grand National in Iowa. When was the last time you were in Iowa? In Auburn, IN, you could visit the Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Museum as well as the National Auto & Truck Museum. Gettysburg had so many historical sites to visit plus a cruise in at the hotel the night before the National. In Miami, we were treated to an aviation museum as well as wonderful Cuban food at the dinners. Have you ever seen the beauty of the Finger Lakes part of NY State? It's beautiful country just to drive in and wonderful local members there as well as in all the regions. You will meet some truly wonderful people. You will be surprised at the number of our members who attend most of the events and do not show a car. Some come only to judge or be part of the administrative crew, but others attend just to see the National and friends they have met at past Nationals.

Registration is required, but compare the cost to any other weekend getaway. Those other getaways generally won't build you new friendships that will last a lifetime like these events will.



Thank You! However...

By Dave Anspach
2023 AACA Secretary/Treasurer

It seems like in every issue of the Rummage Box in recent history I have spent time begging everyone to consider doing a National event. If the last few days are any indication, it seems to be working. Regions have stepped up and it appears that the show (National, meet, etc. depending on who you are talking to) schedule is starting to fill up for 2024. This is great news and THANK YOU for doing it! Who and where is still to be announced once the paperwork is done, but it is looking brighter on that front.

However, the battle has just begun. There are still a lot of vacant slots and we need EVERY Region and chapter to look at the possibility of doing an event. Surprisingly, there is still a vast need for TOURS in 2024. I think every Region and chapter does a local tour or two every year. Some do as many as 7 a year! Why not look at expanding one of your local tours into a National one? You will find that there isn't much more work in doing one versus your local and a lot of opportunities to meet new people.

While you are looking at it, there are a LOT of openings for 2025, 2026, and beyond. It is never too early to look at an event. And please, let's forget those "reasons" why your group can't do an event. "Not enough people" in my group... Groups as small as a half dozen have put together an event. Some have gotten aid from other nearby groups, some from National, and some have used the event to grow their membership locally.

"We are too old to do an event"... In the words of Col. Sherman Potter (from the TV show MASH) "HORSE HOCKEY". You are never too old to make a difference and motivate a group. At the National in Melbourne, Florida a couple of years back, the oldest member in the Region was 101 years old. He worked behind the scenes in planning leading up to the show and on show day, he drove around in a golf cart answering questions, passing out water, and generally being a good will ambassador. He even signed up a couple new members!!

"Our group is just too tired" is another one. There is nothing more energizing than DOING SOMETHING! Putting together a group to do an event stimulates the whole group. People find they are having fun with the hobby again instead of just eating dinner!

If you need someone from National to come and speak with your group, just say so. Contact your local Regions and Chapters Development VP or any board member to arrange someone to come and talk to them. It could be the motivation to push them over the top!

In short, it only takes one person to step up, be persistent, push the rest into getting started. A "spark plug" to fire the rest of the engine. Think about it... YOU might be the one!

