



# Mudflap



News and Activities from the Tidewater Region— Antique Automobile Club of America

Volume 72, Issue 5

May 2026

## Meet Alan Swenson

### One of TRAACA's True Unsung Heros!



Over the years I've personally known Alan and his wife Laurel, I've learned one important thing - if you ask for some help, they will be there if possible. Alan works quietly behind the scenes, or even sometimes before an event. He's been known to venture out late at night putting up swap meet signs, for example. But – there is much more to learn about. His fascination with antique cars leans slightly "British" but his stable includes a fantastic International Scout. Alan tells the story best -

In 1998 I let my oldest son, Alan, pick out a car for us to restore and to be ready by the time he got his license. Alan was 14 going on 15 at the time.

Looking through the *Virginian Pilot* classifieds, he found a 1962 International Scout. We were off to Norfolk to see it. It had recently been flat-towed from Las Vegas, was not running, had been brush-painted, and had plenty of dents.

However there was no rust - so we bought it!

Flash forward two years and it was finished. We drove it to the 2000 Charlotte Auto-fair and competed in the IH Scout and Light-truck regionals, earning the Best Scout award

My current Scout is also a 1962, bought on eBay in 2003 from the original owner in Albuquerque, NM. This Scout was running and rust free. Now father and son both had 1962 Scouts!

I did a mechanical restoration but kept the Scout original. This Scout earned its HPOF at the special 2015 AACA National Meet in Virginia Beach. I received great advice from Neil Sugermeyer on a few items that were not correct for 1962. I corrected those items in short-order.

As years went by, the original paint was wearing thin and some surface rust was showing through. I made the decision that, if I was going to repaint it, I might as well restore it.



There were a few extra holes to weld up and I replaced the dented rocker panels with new ones. This was a frame-on restoration, and even-



found that car for him in New York being offered for sale by its original owner. There are a couple of MGBs also in the Swenson collection.

rything that could be removed, was removed before paint. Paint was done by Kyle Goldberg at Axiom Restoration in Virginia Beach. The bench-seat upholstery was done by Youngs in Norfolk and I did the reassembly. Now I was able to enter the scout in AACA class judging. The Scout earned a First Junior at Hershey in 2024 and a senior in Charlotte in 2025.

Alan and Laurel have been members of AACA and TRAACA for over 19 years now and thank Richard Hall for introducing them to the National and local clubs. Antique cars were in their background long before then however. Alan's first "old" car was actually a 1960 Morris Minor be bought when just 14 years old for \$75.



Brad Bowling, editor of *Vintage Truck Magazine* saw the scout at the AACA National in Charlotte and arranged for a photo shoot in Great Bridge. The *Vintage Truck Magazine* featured my Scout in the March/April 2026 issue.



*Al receiving a Senior Original award from AACA President Vicki Bolton at Charlotte this year*

Also sharing garage space with the International Scout is a super 1958 Morris Minor 1000 that received a Senior Original award at the recent Charlotte AACA Nationals. Alan's Brother-in-Law



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Good day fellow TRAACA members and welcome to this month's President remarks.

Another month is in the books for TRAACA. We had an extremely successful ODMA meet on May 1st and 2nd. THANKS to all who helped with preplanning, executing and working the event. This was a total TEAM effort that really went off without a hitch, with the exception of the weather. Congratulations to all of the winners.

If you are doing any national or local car shows, please make sure you are getting your results to

Skip so he can put your scores in his spreadsheet for the awards at the end of the year.

On June 12th , the Club will be attending the rodeo at the Khedive Shrine on Woodlake Drive. If you have never attended a rodeo, this is quite an event. Look for future activities to happen or if you want to plan an activity, please let any Board Member know.

Until next month's edition, please consider attending an event or one of our monthly dinner meetings.

Remember that there is no dinner meeting in May. The next dinner meeting is on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend and stay safe.

Harry Park

TRAACA President

(757) 274-5426

## Board Meeting Minutes

08 Apr 26, Y-Not Pizza, Virginia Beach

6:28 meeting called to order. President's Remarks: Harry called to order and thanked everyone for coming.

Vice President's Remarks: Not present

Treasurer Report: Chris addressed questions in regards to report balances being from month to month. Noted that Quicken balance matches bank balance. After discussion the board will revisit next month. If balances do not match then will dive deeper into issue.

Secretary Report: Jerry noted that the report was emailed out to board for review & feedback. No feedback provided, Board accepted as written. Previous months approved minutes were sent to Terry for *The MudFlap*.

Committee: Activities: Harry went over upcoming activities, April 19 Virginia Tattoo, April trip to False Cape Park for Back Lot Tour.

ODMA Meet, May 1& 2, Real Life Church: April 17- on site walk through, Small group did walk through at church for setup of events. Registrations are coming in, registration cut off is April 17.

Old Business: Donation to Nansemond Suffolk Academy: Donation was sent to NSA for hosting Annual Swap Meet, Chris noted check has cleared.

New Business: Update on club's logo design: Mike is out, so will revisit next month. Working on QR code design: QR Code is done, Rick will have sample Business Cards for review next month at Board Meeting.

Final Comments / Adjournment: No dinner meeting in May.

Next Board Meeting - Thursday, May 14 at Y-Not Pizza, Virginia Beach

7:30 Motion to adjourn meeting made and accepted.



## Ferry Plantation Tour

Please join the Tidewater Region AACA on Saturday, July 18, 9:45 AM, at Ferry Plantation, 4136 Cheswick Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

We have a scheduled 10:00 AM tour. Tickets are \$10.00 each and the Club must pay in advance. Therefore RSVPs and payments must be received by July 3 - no exceptions. The tour will last from 60 to 90 minutes.

From their website, Ferry Plantation House (considered one of the most haunted locations in VA), is a brick house in the neighborhood of Old Donation Farm in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The site dates back to 1642 when Savill Gaskin started the second ferry service in Hampton Roads to carry passengers on the Lynnhaven River to the nearby county courthouse and to visit plantations along the waterway. A cannon was used to signal the ferry, which had 11 total stops along the river. The first ferry service was started nearby by Adam Thoroughgood.

Following the tour we will have lunch at Dockside Restaurant, 3311 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 - again RSVPs are required.

RSVP by July 3 to Carol Milligan. She can be contacted at [carowaynmilligan@cox.net](mailto:carowaynmilligan@cox.net) or 757-404-7937.

### MAY

**30 - Cruise-In for Veterans** - 9 AM to 2 PM. \$20 per vehicle. (1006 Halstead Blvd. Elizabeth City NC) (Sponsored by Perry Auto Group, Currituck Classics, and **TRAACA**)

### JUNE

**12 - TRAACA goes to the Rodeo!** Check the *Mudspeck* or [traaca.com](http://traaca.com) for details

**13 - Richmond Collector Car Show and Swap Meet**, 8 AM to 3 PM, St. Joseph's Villa, Richmond

**18 - TRAACA Dinner Meeting** - 6 PM (Must RSVP with Skip Patnode) - (Holiday Inn Convention Center, 5655 Greenwich Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23462)

Watch the *Mud Speck* electronic newsletter for full details.

For a complete list of local events, visit [www.ccchr.org](http://www.ccchr.org), the Car Club Council of Hampton Roads

## National AACA 2026 Event Calendar

### MAY

**28-30 Eastern Spring Nationals, Indiana PA**

### JUNE

**11-13 Southeastern Fall Nationals, Oak Ridge TN**

**15-19 Sentimental Tour, Mechanicsburg PA**

### JULY

**23-25 Central Spring Nationals, Green Bay WI**

### AUGUST

**5-8 Southeastern Divisional Tour, Flat Rock NC**

**19-22 Grand Nationals/Zenith Awards, Allentown PA**

### SEPTEMBER

**9-14 Founders Tour, Williamsburg VA**  
**20-26 Revival Glidden Tour (Pre 1943), Dover DE**

### OCTOBER

**6-9 Eastern Fall Nationals, Hershey PA**

**CRUISE-IN FOR VETERANS**  
SUPPORTING LOCAL VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE BUSINESSES THAT SERVE THEM.

**LOCATION:**  
1006 HALSTEAD BLVD  
ELIZABETH CITY, NC  
Across the street from Carolina Chrysler  
Jeep Dodge Ram

**Event Details**  
Date: Saturday May 30, 2026  
Time: 9:00 am-2:00 pm  
Registration: \$20 Per Vehicle  
Registration starts at 8:00am  
Spectators enter free

**WHAT TO EXPECT**  
FOOD TRUCKS LOCAL VENDORS FAMILY FRIENDLY

**Proudly Supported by:**  
Perry Auto Group, Currituck Classics,  
& Tidewater Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America

Bring your ride. Bring your family. Support our vets!

**First 60 registered participants receive a FREE dash plaque**

## From the Editors' Keyboards

Terry & Susan Bond

As summer heats up, so does our list of activities. Empty days on our calendar are getting hard to find. Somehow we've got to squeeze in some maintenance time on our cars. A little carb adjustment is needed on the MGB, but my coil issues on the Model T have been straightened out. Although rain prevented me from driving it to the Old Dominion Meet, I enjoyed the run up to the Real Life Christian Church to support their regular car show this past weekend. Susan got the MGB there, too. We were thrilled at the turnout from TRAACA supporting that event. Going to other shows representing our own club and AACA is key to exposing our hobby to the public. Our original cars were very popular. That's how clubs grow!

So, where are you going next? Be sure to take a few photos and write a paragraph or two sharing your adventures like Barry and Jerry did in their report from the Carlisle swap meet in this issue.

We'll see you on the road again soon.

Terry & Susan

### 2025 TRAACA Officers & Board

President - Harry Park  
harrypark@yahoo.com

Vice President - Mike Haag

Secretary - Jerry Adams

Treasurer - Chris Ciccone

Board - Wayne Milligan  
Board - Skip Patnode  
Board - Rick Seaman  
Board - Nick Smith

President Emeritus—Bill Treadwell

Visit us on the Internet at: [traaca.com](http://traaca.com)

THE MUDFLAP is the newsletter for the Tidewater Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America.

Editors: Terry and Susan Bond  
Reporters: Aubrey Austin, Rick Seaman,  
Bob & Dot Parrish  
Reporter and Photographer: Bob Stein

*Permission is granted to other AACA groups to reprint articles from this newsletter (except copyrighted material) if credit is given to the author & newsletter. Permission is NOT granted for Internet publishing without preapproval.*



## **Judges Needed!**

**Judges can register online at [members.aaca.org](https://members.aaca.org)**

### **Southeastern Fall Nationals**

Historic Oak Ridge, TN

June 11-13, 2026

**Deadline: May 22, 2026**

Location: A.K. Bissell Park, 1401 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37838

Judging School: June 12, 2-4 PM, Conference Center, A.K. Bissell Park

Judges' Breakfast: June 13, 8-9 AM, Conference Center, A.K. Bissell Park

Chief Judge: Rick Lay, 423-829-5340, [layco@bellsouth.net](mailto:layco@bellsouth.net)

### **Grand Nationals**

Allentown, PA

August 20-22, 2026

**Deadline: July 22, 2026**

Location:

The NB Center for American Automotive Heritage, 570 Union Blvd.

Allentown, PA 18109

Judging School:

August 21, 2-4 PM, Hyatt Suites, 621 Grange Rd, Allentown, PA 18106

Judges' Breakfast: August 22, 7:30 AM, Hyatt Suites, 621 Grange Rd,

Allentown, PA 18106

Chief Judge: Stan Kulikowski, 717-715-9744, [stan.kulikowski9@gmail.com](mailto:stan.kulikowski9@gmail.com)

If you are judging and would like to attend the free Open House on Friday, August 21, at The NB Center, call 717-534-1910 or email [pbuckley@aaca.org](mailto:pbuckley@aaca.org), with names attending

Notes:

Must be a 2026 AACA Member

Grand National Judges must have at least 10 field judging credits

## MEMORIAL DAY - LET US NEVER FORGET

Memorial Day, a federal holiday held the last Monday in May, is the nation's foremost annual day to mourn and honor its deceased service men and women.

Originally called Decoration Day, it was formalized by a "Memorial Day Order" issued by Grand Army of the Republic Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan in 1868. The first national Decoration Day celebration took place a few weeks after the GAR promulgated its G.O. 11, on May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery.



For many years following, individual Veteran's organizations, communities across the nation, and state governments formalized events in recognition of the sacrifices of our Veterans.

The Uniform Monday Holiday Act, legislation enacted in 1968 - effective in 1971 - designated Memorial Day a national holiday and moved it from May 30 to the last Monday in May.

# TRAACA MEMBER'S PAGE

## Welcome to our New Members!

James & Carol Hutton  
Richard & Lisa Padgett  
Max Wicker

## June

### Anniversaries

Barry & Mary Ellen Basnight  
James & Phillis Carnforth  
Dick & Holly Chipchak  
Al & Sharron Mercer  
Reggie & Cindi Nash  
Mark & Sue Strang  
Rad & Margie Tillett  
Matthew & Giselle Weinstein  
Dalton & Carroll Williford

## June

### Birthdays

Briant Capps  
Mary Ann Chapman  
Dick Chipchak  
Chris Ciccone  
Dan Ciccone  
John Clark  
Mary Beth Clark  
Bill Coburn  
Richard Cooper  
Valerie Dillahunt  
Roland Downing  
Connie England  
Daniel Etheridge  
Joe Formato  
Sam Kern  
Bette Lawrence  
Frank Linse  
Sherri McBride  
Toni McChesney  
Debbie Meadows  
Cathy Miller  
Reggie Nash  
Linda Prokuski  
Toni McChesney  
Bob Stein  
James Woodall



## May

### Birthdays

Allan Becker  
Sonny Butler  
James Carnforth  
Dickie Clifton  
Larry Cutright  
Jeanie Downing  
Charline Geib  
William Gross  
Mike Haag  
Julie Hobbs  
Josie Kinker  
Kit Lawrence  
Cindi Nash  
Tina Pack  
Dot Parrish  
Rhonda Russell  
Grace Sheleheda  
Alan Swenson

## May

### Anniversaries

Mike & Denise Haag  
Frank & Grace Sheleheda  
Boyd & Debra Swartz  
Alan & Laurel Swenson

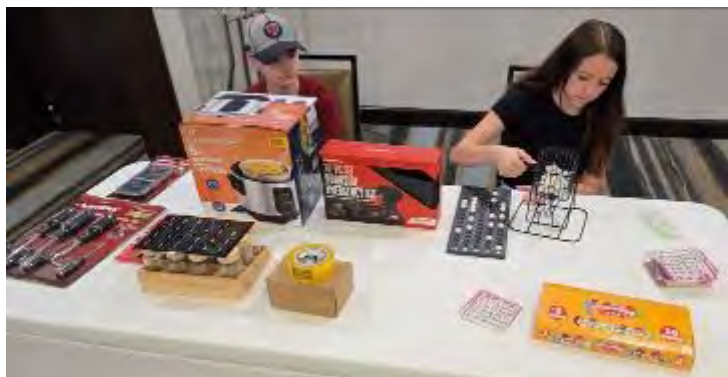
### Dinner Meeting Corner

Chief Contact: Skip Patnode

Members will be contacted via e-mail to obtain their RSVPs for the club's monthly dinner meeting. (Members without e-mail will be contacted by phone.) If you will be attending, please respond to Skip Patnode's e-mail by the requested date and let him know how many people will be coming. (There is no need to respond if you are not coming.) Skip will reply to you once he adds you to his attendance list. **It is critical that you respond** so we can let the hotel know how many people will be attending & they can prepare enough food. If you are not receiving Skip's e-mails or want to be taken off the list, please contact him at [skippatnode@cox.net](mailto:skippatnode@cox.net) or (757) 672-8495. Thank you for your cooperation!

# TRAACA Dinner Meeting April 16, 2026

## Bingo!



Our callers, Bo Bostjancic and Aubrey Austin



Micky McChesney



Phyllis Hund

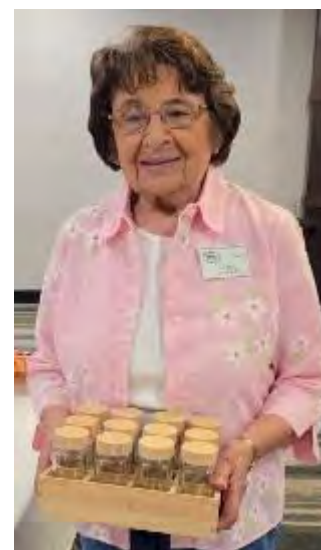
## Winners with their fabulous prizes



Bill Wilcox



Terry Bond and Marty Sugermeyer



Toni McChesney

## Tour of Back Bay Abandoned Vehicles By Bob Stein

Perfect weather and a very limited number of participants made for an unusual activity, with just five members touring the Back Bay False Cape Park to see vehicles that had been abandoned for decades. Although tour guide/driver Bruce Julian was often heard to say he wished we had come out twenty years ago, it was determined that it was way better to see the vehicles when they were truly 'gone', since nothing could be removed from the park anyway.

The group got to hear stories of the False Cape park as we rolled through the area in a 4-wheel-drive van, with Bruce telling us the history of the park, as well as tidbits from his more than 30 years working there. Coordinated by Tom Spina and John Murray, the group also included Scott Davies, Bob Stein, Alphonso Ludovici, and George Jamerson. Each stop became a guessing game, with the group trying to identify the year, make, and model from the twisted and sometimes almost rusted into oblivion remains.

Some were easy, such as a 1962 Corvair sedan, the 1966 Plymouth Valiant, or the 1957 Chevrolet. Others were not so easy, including a corkscrewed 1961 Ford Country Squire station wagon, a mostly buried 1966 Rambler American sedan, a 1950 Pontiac sedan (from Meekins Pontiac), and a former U.S. Navy ambulance that had probably been an M40 Dodge from WWII, but was literally flattened and so far gone all we could do is guess. Oddly, the early Corvair sedan had a perfect rear window and trim sticking up by its lonesome, with the roof and sides rusted away to nothing.

Luckily, there is a photo album of the old cars as they looked some twenty years ago. After reviewing some of the photos, we were all happy not to have seen the cars when they might have been saved. All of the vehicles are well past the point of restoring, so far gone that almost nothing was salvageable. They were driven until they stopped running, and with no road through the area at the time, were simply abandoned when the State bought the land. Some of the vehicles still sit where they were left, but the Park gathered up many of them using front loaders and consolidated the badly crushed remains in central locations.

Besides the vehicles, the group also saw three snakes and a rabbit (not the Volkswagen), but no one was bitten or lost, and three hours later we arrived back at the False Cape headquarters. From there the group went to Pungo Pizza for dinner, meeting up with Nick Smith and Mark Bischoff. It was definitely a different activity, and one that was enjoyed by all who participated.



# Virginia International Tattoo

**Bob Stein**



A large group of Tidewater Region folks took in the 2026 Virginia International Tattoo at Norfolk Scope, a huge musical military spectacle that brings together musicians, performers, and specialty teams from around the world. This year's event featured groups from the United Kingdom, France, Canada, South Korea, and of course, members of the United States military and college groups.

Organized by Chris Ciccone, attendees included Scott Davies and Holley Forrester, Bob and Dot

Parrish, Betty Waterfield, Harry Park, Aubrey Austin, Mickey and Tony McChesney, Chris and Dan Ciccone, Sandy Hall, Bob Stein, Mike and Denise Haag, and others.

Afterwards we had dinner at Baker's Crust in downtown Norfolk, where we were met by Richard Hall. Thanks to Chris Ciccone for the great activity!

## ODMA Meet

**Hosted by the TRAACA  
May 1/2, 2026**

**Bob Stein**

The 2026 Old Dominion Meet Association annual show was held May 2nd at the New Life Church in Chesapeake, VA. We had 64 pre-registered participants, but drizzle all-day kept the numbers down to 36 total.

Despite the rain, we had a good mix of vehicles  
*Friday night pizza party*

dating back more than 100 years to Sam Kern's 1925 Franklin.

Best of Show went to Max B. Wicker's beautiful 1965 Ford Mustang coupe, out for its first show!

Best Original Features went to Doug Grosz for his 1968 Oldsmobile 98 sedan, the Best Chrysler Award was given to Rick Seaman for his 1930 Plymouth, and Best Driver Participation (DPC) award went to Harry Park's 1953 Ford Customline sedan.

Overall results are below. Everyone got the award they were going for, a testament to the quality of vehicles participating!





*Senior cars*



*Senior cars*



*Preservation cars*



*Preservation cars*



*Photos by Bob Stein  
and Terry and Susan  
Bond*

*Drivers Participation cars*



*Junior cars*



*Junior cars*



*Junior cars*



*Junior cars*



*Original Features cars*

## OLD DOMINION MEET - 2026 Terry Bond

What if it rains? Well, we're gonna have a wet car show! "Rain or shine" means some falling water

doesn't matter. Yes, it rained, and of course it scared away a few vehicles, but the show went on as it must - and it was wonderful!

For background, the Old Dominion Meet Association was created as a non-governing body of AACA regions and chapters in Virginia in 1953. It has since gained full recognition as a non-geographical Region of the National AACA.

Tidewater Region has been a proud member and a driving force in the organization since its beginning. We are proud to have hosted many successful events - even in the rain this year.

Chaired by Harry Park and his team, some of the best cars in our area were on display at the Real-Life Christian Church on Centerville Turnpike in Chesapeake. Thanks to all the volunteers and participants, it was a great day. Even the rain stopped in the afternoon! The pictures tell the story.



Check in and parking



Judges at work



Jim Elliott, 20A,  
who also read the  
awards

**Awards!**



Wayne Milligan, 27H

**Judges  
Administration**



**Senior**



Scott Davies, 30A

Bill Grosz,  
19E



**Senior**



*John Wyatt, 21G*



*Barry Basnight, 25A*



*Chip Woolford, 25C*



*Aubrey Austin, 25D*



*Richard and Sandy Hall,  
25E*



*Bob Stein, 27A*

**Junior**



*Fred Cole, 27R*



*Fritz Platz, 27I*



*Jim Villers, 27D*



*Tim Hund, 30A*



*Dickie Clifton, 31*



*Max Wicker, 34A*



*Susan Bond, 25E*

**Preservation**



*Hilary Pavlidis, 27G*



*Ken Talley, 20E*



*Bill Coburn, Original*

**Original**



*Doug Grosz,  
Original*

**DPC**



*Rick Seaman, DPC*



*David Cook, DPC*



*Mike Haag, DPC*

**Best Original**



*Doug Grosz, 1968 Oldsmobile 98 Luxury  
Sedan*

**Best DPC**



*Harry Park,  
1953 Ford Customline*

**Best Chrysler**



*Rick Seaman, 1930 Plymouth 30U*

**Best in Show**



*Max Wicker, 1965 Mustang*



*Plaque presented to Real Life Church in thanks for hosting the ODMA meet*

**From Real Life Church**

Harry,

A brief note to let you know that Rick and I received totally positive feedback regarding the condition of Real Life Church when the staff arrived to prep for this morning's service. They literally couldn't tell that ODMA had been there. The only exception was my buddy who oversees the coffee service wondering who had cleaned up the kitchen so thoroughly and emptied that big trash can(!)

I also gave the plaque to Brett Coates and he was genuinely touched. Brett routinely steps out of the limelight, but he is the decision maker, business manager/minister who truly makes things happen in the church. When I gave him the plaque, he said, "I don't deserve this", and I responded, "yeah you do, because we know who said "yes" to us". He was visibly touched by ODMA's thoughtfulness.

Please pass my personal gratitude to your membership for being such fantastic guests and great people to spend time with. You folks are the best.

Sincere Regards,  
Jim Hutton

*Bingo!*



*Barbeque*



## 2026 Old Dominion Meet Association Results

Hughes, J R	1966 Volkswagen Type 1	04C	Senior
Kern, Samuel	1925 Franklin 11-A	19A	Preservation
Colonna, Keith	1956 Lincoln Mark 2	19E	Junior
Grosz, William	1947 Packard Custom Super Clipper 8	19E	Senior
Elliott, Jim	1931 Chevrolet Independence Series AE		
		20A	Senior
Talley, Ken	1939 Mercury	20E	Preservation
Wyatt, John	1930 Ford Victoria	21G	Senior
Basnight, Barry	1958 MGA	25A	Junior
Wooford, Chip	1963 Morris Minor Traveler	25C	Junior
Austin, Aubrey	1979 MGB	25D	Junior
Hall, Richard and Sandy	1973 MGB GT	25E	Junior
Bond, Susan	1974 MGB GT	25E	Preservation
Ludovici, Alfonso	1949 Mercury Eight Sport Sedan	26B	Senior
Stein, Robert	1954 Mercury Monterey	27A	Junior
Villers, Jim	1961 Mercedes-Benz 190 SL	27D	Junior
Kinker, Bob	1967 Imperial Crown Coupe	27G	Junior
Pavlidis, Hilary	1967 Mercury Cougar	27G	Preservation
Heath, Andrew and Tonya	1968 Chevrolet Chevelle	27H	Junior
Milligan, Wayne	1968 Ford LTD	27H	Senior
Platz, Fritz	1971 Chevrolet Kingswood	27I	Junior
Cole, Frederick	1989 Buick Reatta	27R	Junior
Fuhrman, Andy	1992 Buick Roadmaster	27S	Preservation
Hund, Tim	1956 Chevrolet Corvette	30A	Junior
Davies, Scott	1958 Chevrolet Corvette	30A	Senior
Clifton, Dickie	1957 Ford Thunderbird	31	Junior
Wicker, Max	1965 Ford Mustang	34A	Junior
Treadwell, Bill	1969 Chevrolet Camaro	34G	Preservation
Parrish, Bob	1969 Chevrolet Chevelle SS	36B	Senior
Park, Harry	1970 Chevrolet Chevelle SS	36G	Preservation
Park, Harry	1953 Ford Customline		DPC
Seaman, Rick	1930 Plymouth 30U		DPC
Haag, Michael	1979 MGB		DPC
Cook, David	1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme		DPC
Coburn, Bill	1985 Chevrolet Camaro		ORG
Grosz, Douglas	1968 Oldsmobile 98 Luxury Sedan		ORG

Best Original Feature	Grosz, Douglas	1968 Oldsmobile 98 Luxury Sedan
Best DPC	Park, Harry	1953 Ford Customline
Best Chrysler	Seaman, Rick	1930 Plymouth 30U
Best in Show	Wicker, Max	1965 Ford Mustang

# Charlotte Auto Fair and AACA Southeastern Spring Meet April 9-11, 2026

## Bob Stein

The Southern version of Hershey got a bit smaller again this year, both in overall size and in the number of TRAACA participants. Despite losing some sections of the vendors fields to parking, there were still large areas of empty spaces. The car show has moved indoors, split up in the Media Center area.

There were four participants from Tidewater Region this year - Jim and Donna Elliott got a First Junior for their 1931 Cadillac Model 370A, Keith Colonna got a First Junior for his freshly restored 1946 Lincoln Continental convertible, Casey and Mary Ellen Bostjancic received a Second Junior for their 1956 Chevrolet BelAir, and Alan Swenson had his all-original 1958 Morris Minor 1000 Convertible certified as an AACA Original.

The region was well-represented at the judge's breakfast: Bob and Dot Parrish, Tom and Tammy Cox, Bob Stein, Jim and Donna Elliott, and Terry and Susan Bond.

Bob Parrish was awarded his 250th judging credit and Terry Bond was awarded his 325th judging credit.

Also on hand for the event were Harry and Tammy Park, Aubrey Austin, Rick Seaman, and Tony and Leslie Scarpelli. The Scarpellis had their 1956 DeSoto Firedome at a DeSoto Club meet also being held at the track, and were parked next to one so identical that Leslie actually got in the wrong car at one point. Next year's event is expected to be a dual meet, with a Grand National followed by the regular AACA meet. (Pictures by Harry Park, Leslie Scarpelli, and Bob Stein)



*Jim Elliott*



*Keith Colonna*



*Casey  
Bostjancic*



*Al Swenson*





Terry Bond, 325 judging credits



Harry Park, Rick Seaman



Tom Cox



Tony and Leslie Scarpelli



## SPRING CARLISLE Adventure

by Barry Basnight and Jerry Adams

On April 22, 2026, the TRAACA 3 Amigos, Jerry Adams, Mike Rogers, and Barry Basnight, set out aboard the "Hurricane" for Carlisle, Pennsylvania in search of automotive parts and memorabilia.

The group traveled in the newly acquired Motorhome (The Hurricane properly named) for a shakedown cruise up Int. 64 and Int. 95, exiting the Interstate on Rt. 17. At Fredericksburg, we headed west, traveling the backroads towards the Shenandoah mountain region. At Winchester Va. we then traveled North on Int 81. Our first stop was in West Virginia for fuel and groceries. Next stop was Fricke's Campground outside gate 4 at the Carlisle Fairgrounds.

We set up camp in a new spot, shady and roomy, Miss Wanda and her daughter were most accommodating and very friendly. They have become friends.

This was Mike's first big swap meet, I think he was a bit overwhelmed, but he loved every minute of it and is now talking about going to Hershey with us. Jerry was having a great time showing Mike the ropes. I was slowing down the



Mike, Barry, Jerry

Amigos nursing a bad foot. I finally had to buy an electric scooter to get around, it later becoming a present for my wife Mary.

The weather made this one of the most pleasant swap meets ever, 80 degrees daytime and 45 degree nights until Friday afternoon at 3:30 when we had a short rain that made mud! We kept an eye on the rain heading into the night and the next morning, and so did the vendors. We estimated 40 percent packed up and left by Saturday morning and so did the TRAACA 3 Amigos. But before we left, we managed to find several treasures that would help repair several

of our antique vehicles and the Hurricane. We also found Garage decor and tools to help with our Mancaves back home.



Getting back to Saturday morning, we found it most interesting that the parking lots for those attending the swap meet were barely 20 percent full by 7:00 am. I seemed like most folks stayed home because of the forecast. The weatherman called for rain, but it never did. It just stayed overcast for most of the morning.

We headed home in the same direction that we traveled to get to Carlisle. By the time we got back to the Shenandoahs, the weather turned beautiful all the way home.

Mission accomplished! We found the quirks with the Hurricane, saw a lot of beautiful automobiles (drooled over a few) and had come up with a remedy for all of the little problems on the motorhome. I think between the 3 of us we could fix anything that went wrong but the most important thing I found was 3 friends having a great time.

The End — until next year!

(Editor's note: Can't wait for reports from Hershey to see what Mike thinks).



## LAS VEGAS AACA Nationals/ Grand National

**Terry Bond**

It sure sounds like a long way to go to look at neat cars, but the bonus for us was a chance to take a side trip and visit Susan's cousin Ed, who accompanies us to Hershey. Besides – we'd never been there before!

The Las Vegas Region of AACA is a thriving club with previous experience hosting events like this. But this one was different. They had requested to host a Grand National meet in the Western Division and AACA supported the idea to extend our reach further that direction.

The setting was ideal - Henderson is just South East of Las Vegas. It's close enough for any excitement you might be inclined to partake of yet offers the tranquility of the countryside.

The Hilton Lake Resort and Spa was once an elegant Ritz-Carlton property, complete with a casino. That part of the hotel was disestablished, though, when it became a Hilton property. Today it is a fabulous event center that hosts lavish weddings, conferences and, of course, Car Shows!



Thursday was a bus trip to the fabulous Maloof Collection, a private accumulation that featured several one-off cars including Tom Mix's car, a "Madame X" Cadillac and a one-of-a-kind Rolls Royce, and lots of other cars, movie posters and memorabilia, all in a series of garages



The awards banquet that evening was interesting – a special guest speaker, Peter Brock, kept everyone spellbound. At only 19 years old, Peter was the youngest designer ever hired by General Motors. In November 1957, at only 21 years old, he drew the sketch which GM VP Bill Mitchell picked to later become the Corvette Stingray. He also designed the Shelby components of the Shelby Mustang GT350, as well as the iconic Shelby Daytona Cobra coupes that won the 1965 FIA World GT Championship.



Dinner was delayed, but nobody seemed to mind.

The next day we were off to Boulder City to visit Ed and family. We had a great time relaxing and taking in the peaceful and beautiful scenery. It was cool enough that jackets were needed in the evenings. Our side visit to Hoover Dam was a bucket-list item now scratched off our list. But – we added a few more places to visit next time.



## STILL COLLECTING Point-of-Sale Display Items

By Terry Bond

To help you to decide what to buy to improve how your car looked, drove, rode, or ran, counter-tops in auto parts stores often had special product displays that let you twist a knob, press a button, or flick a switch to see the item in action. There are still novel cut-away samples to be found in auto parts stores, but they have been around a long time.

My own recreation of an early auto parts store has a number of them. Here are a few of my favorites-



rapid sparking across the points of the plug mounted on top. Just be careful what you touch!

This display for National Spark Plugs is all action! It's powered by a 6 volt dry-cell battery and has a Model T Ford ignition coil inside. Pressing a button flashes the light bulbs and activates the ignition coil resulting in

This demonstrator/display for Doering Spark Plugs is configured similarly to the National plug display tester. The addition of separate metal brackets enables a potential customer to place their own favorite brand of plug on top and fire both plugs to actually see which spark is brighter and more powerful.



The Doering plug has special "windows" in the top also, so you can see the spark jump a small air gap. The light bulbs flash and the coil inside buzzes loudly, creating an exciting display that surely helped sell a lot of plugs in their time.



Radd spark plugs offered a similar device to compare plugs. This one dispenses with the light-bulb part of the show so you can concentrate just on the plugs. Like the Doering display unit, the back of the cabinet opens up to reveal a stock of plugs

in any size you might need.

This display is for Apco Horn Buttons. Many early cars came equipped with manually operated horns that only made noise when you squeezed a rubber bulb. A vast improvement was the electrically operated horn. The button that activated them was often inconveniently placed, especially on Model T fords. It was mounted on the steering column itself. These popular aftermarket horn buttons replaced the center nut holding the steering wheel. It was much easier to use without taking your eyes off the road or fumbling to find it.



This is a full-sized steering wheel displayed on its own special stand. It is known as a 'Fat-Man' steering wheel. Pulling a lever under one of the arms releases a catch that enables the driver to swing the wheel up providing more space to slide in under it, or more easily (and gracefully) exit the car. They were used in cars that had little space for a "large" driver to slide in between the wheel and the seat cushion.



This special display stand for Solder Seal radiator repair compound has sample product containers mounted on it. This was a popular quick fix for leaking radiators that dates from the late teens.



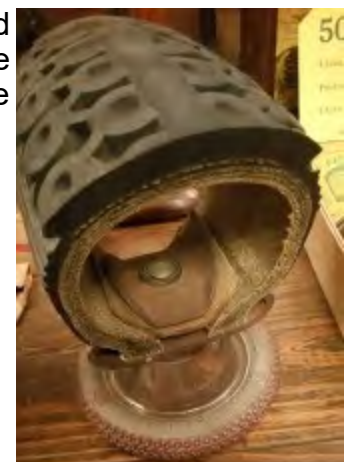
Speaking of horns - this outstandingly illustrated metal display for Klaxon Horns is a winner! There are places to actually mount three different horns on it. Six Volt batteries in back are connected to each horn. Pressing the buttons activates the horn of your choice so you can compare the sounds before making your decision on which one to purchase.



This cut-away tire section helped advertise the advantages of the Pennsylvania Cup Tire. Allegedly, the "suction cups" tread pattern helped keep you on the road by more effectively gripping the road. How it ac-

tually worked on dirt and gravel roads during the teens and twenties I've not figured out.

Another view of the Pennsylvania Rubber Cup Tire. Notice it's mounted on a glass stand that shows the tread pattern.



This special display for accessory choke springs actually includes a Model T Ford carburetor so you can see and actually feel how the spring operates.



The Model T Ford "distributor cap" was actually known as a timer as it was easily adjusted while driving. The timing



could actually be manually changed to improve performance on hills. These devices mounted on the front of the engine. The internal "rotor" was attached directly to the camshaft. Rotating the timer cover would adjust when a spark was sent to the spark plugs. This

one has the cover opened so you can actually turn the rotor by hand to see how smoothly it works and how well it was constructed. This was a popular brand among the hundreds of varieties that existed during the Model T Ford era.

From the "make it look better" category is this display for Effecto Automobile Finishes. Spokes of this Model T Ford wheel have been painted in different colors so you can actually see what the colors



look like. Of course these enamels now show the wear of a hundred years.



Cans of Effecto Auto Enamel.

And, my latest acquisition is this rare aftermarket accessory accelerator pedal for Model T Fords. It was a recent purchase at the Luray Pre-War Swap Meet.



The Model T Ford did not have a conventional accelerator pedal. Throttle was controlled by a steering-column mounted lever. This left both feet free to operate the three pedals on the floor of a Model T. (Note - driving lessons provided by prior arrangement). This rather complicated looking device mounts a floor pedal with linkage under the floor-board. Levers and rods activate the throttle control on the carburetor. Note: the Model T is driven from the left side of the car while the carburetor is mounted on the lower right side of the engine. I wonder how many of these were actually sold and installed on Model T Fords? Mine will remain on the counter in my old auto parts store where I feel it really belongs.

Happy collecting as always -

*Terry*