

Spoke Folks

Antique Automobile Club of America  *North Alabama Region*



Randall and Nell Owen's 1954 Kaiser Manhattan



President's Message

Jeff Slagle *President*

On June 4, 1896, Henry Ford took his first ride in the Quadricycle, a four-wheeled contraption that looked more like a motorized lawn chair than a car. But that bumpy little drive down the streets of Detroit changed everything. It was the spark that ignited our hobby and a reminder that from humble beginnings come great things. That same spirit is alive and well in NAR.

Now let's talk about June. It's been hot. It's been humid. And still, this club doesn't miss a beat.

We wrapped up the month with a strong turnout at the Madison Blvd Walmart Car and Bike Show, with proceeds going to Children's Hospital, proof that horsepower can do a lot of good.

Before that, we participated in the Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit Car Show on Monte Sano, beautiful views, cooler temps up top, and a great crowd for a great cause.

Dave Robertson brought home a big win with the Original Owner Award at POCI Nationals, a well-earned nod to decades of loyalty and preservation. Way to go, Dave!

On Friday the 13th, we pulled off a trifecta, displays at three retirement communities. No bad luck, just good company and lots of smiles.

We had a strong presence at the 20th Annual Charity Car Show hosted by Bass Pro Shops at Cabela's, always a solid show and a fun way to kick off the month.

And right before the calendar turned, we joined the Elite Car Club Car Show on May 31st, soaking in the sunshine and showing off some sharp rides.

In the middle of all this, Chuck and I hit the road for Kansas and attended "Car Camp", the McPherson College Summer Institute. It's a hands-on, engine-turning, paint-spraying, knowledge-sharing experience unlike any other. We spent the week learning restoration techniques, connecting with students and professionals, and soaking in the future of the antique car world. Safe to say, we came back inspired and full of ideas.

This club continues to amaze me. Whether it's 95 degrees in the shade or a jam-packed weekend, you show up. You represent. You build community. That's what NAR is all about.

So keep your coolant topped off and your spirits high, July's coming in hot. Let's keep driving the past into the future, one great event at a time.

Best Regards,
Jeff 

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facebook.com/groups/naraaca

Spoke Folks

Monthly Newsletter of the North Alabama Region
Antique Automobile Club of America

President	Jeff Slagle
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	Jim True

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North Alabama Region



Meeting called to order on 22 May 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business

- Welcome, Pledge; Visitors introduced themselves & their cars.
- Secretary minutes voted on and approved
- Treasurer's report: presented, voted on and approved
- Club gear: nametags, new colors for shirts, caps, jackets
- Website: Need to post pictures and calendar events
- Facebook report: any issues?
- Online roster: <https://naraaca.ctrn.co/directory/index.php>

New Business

- Proposed time change from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.
- Illnesses and Prayers; Claire Catanese - broken wrist; Marena McClure - stomach paralysis
- Sympathies:
 - None
- Cars bought: Robbie Henslee 1966 Corvette 327, 4 speed; Jim True 1936 Packard 120 Business Coupe
- Cars for sale: Terry Johnson 1972 Newport Royal 43K miles at purchase from MECUM asking \$13,000
- Cars sold:
 - None
- Member Projects:
 - Harold Caneer - Checker
 - Ed Hanish - From New York to Arkansas to Florida
 - Chuck Nickey - Mustang progressing
 - Greg Stefanovic - 1928 Studebaker / 3D Print
- 2025 Car Show Report:
 - Wicks Field at Joe Davis stadium is officially secured.
 - Virtual meeting held with Craig Boureaux from Polaris and Polaris Homecoming Committee.
 - Polaris is excited and moving forward with their event planning.
 - Each group manages its own show, but coordination will be needed for traffic flow in and out of the show fields.
 - Show trophies are on order. Target completion date is May 31.
 - Sponsors, ad sales & program coordinator is Jim True
 - Chief Judge is Bob Ferenc
 - Vehicle class coordinator is Wayne Scites & Mike Grieco
 - Merchandise is Laurie Ferenc
 - Show Classes Updated. Based on 2023 turnout; some classes combined or removed, 4 new classes added for 2001 to present vehicles.
 - Show field layout complete; North Lot (NAR); 321 spaces: West Lot (Polaris); 188 spaces: East Lot (Spectators) 362 spaces
 - Flyer V3 Finalized; pending QR code once PayPal pre-registration is approved.
 - Sponsors; cover costs, supports NAR, Builds visibility, Member perks, Shared effort
- Upcoming Local NAR, AACA and Other Car Activities:
 - May 24, Point Mallard, Pack the Park, Eurobrit , Cullman County relay for life
 - May 26, Memorial Day picnic
 - June 7, five events in the area
 - June 14, eight events in the area
 - June 21, five events in the area
 - Multiple cruise-ins
- Snacks provided by Dave Robertson & Natalie Doumar
- Door prizes were awarded
- Tonight's program, presentation on maintaining paint and detailing
- Meeting Adjourned

NAR Club Information

Member Milestones

June Birthdays

6 Mike O'Halloran
8 Carolyn Miller
10 Bob Vaughan
17 Terry Johnson
19 Marcia Snellen

June Anniversaries

4 Dan and Susan Wachtel / 14 in 2025
8 M.D. and Judy Smith / 64 in 2025
11 Dave and Fran Baswell
19 Chuck and Lynn Nickey / 49 in 2025
28 Gerald and Teri Moore / 39 in 2025

July Birthdays

1 Al Emmi
3 Kelly Entz
4 Benny Pugh
9 Jim Stutts
10 John Richard
13 Joe Stegmaier
15 Sue Pugh
17 Eddie Letson
18 Konnie Mays
19 Nancy Cooper
21 Angie Henslee
23 Gerald Moore
23 Debi Trumbull
31 Jules Haynes
31 Frank Tatom

July Anniversaries

11 David and Carolyn Miller
11 Keith and Debbie Kizer / 34 in 2025
16 Robert and Hanna Scites / 9 in 2025
28 Doug and Nancy Cooper / 40 in 2025



NAR Monthly Meeting Refreshments

26 th June	City Café / 2003 Drake Ave., Huntsville, AL
24 th July	<i>Drinks:</i> Bob Vaughn / <i>Snacks:</i> Ed Lawrence
28 th August	<i>Drinks:</i> Dave Dunlap / <i>Snacks:</i> Kelly Entz
25 th September	88 Buffet / 6125 University Dr., Huntsville, AL
23 rd October	<i>Drinks:</i> Claire Catanese / <i>Snacks:</i> Ron Dion
20 th November	<i>Drinks:</i> Dave & Natalie Hoha / <i>Snacks:</i> Al & AnaClare Emmi
6 th December	Christmas Party / Holiday Inn / 5903 University Dr, Huntsville, AL

Ernest Tyrrell (Terry) Owen was born in Kissimmee, Florida on December 30, 1933 and passed from this life at his home on June 3, 2025 at the age of 91 years old.

Mr. Owen graduated with the last class of Orlando Senior High School in 1952 before the school became a Junior High. He played French horn in Navy Bands during his four-year military service.

He earned a music degree at Stetson University and taught Instrumental and Choral music in Florida schools until 1989. During his teaching years, he also served as Choir Director at several churches and sang with the Camerata and Encore Opera Choruses. As a member of the Florida Vocal Association (FVA) he was a district judge for FVA Choruses. In 1987 he was honored to be the director of the All-State Junior High Chorus at the MENC Convention in Tampa, Florida. In 2015 he was inducted into the FVA Hall of Fame.

Having lived in Florida his entire life and considering himself a "Florida boy", in December 2005 he and his mother moved to Alabama to be nearer his brother and sister-in-law. He joined First Baptist Church of Athens and directed the Jubilation Singers (Senior Adults Choir) for many years. He not only enjoyed music, but also boating (having taken numerous trips on Florida Boat-a-cades and enjoying Mississippi River Boat Cruises) as well as driving his antique cars to local car shows.

Mr. Owen is survived by his brother Randall H. "Doc" Owen (Nell) of Madison. He was preceded in death by his father Albert Tyrrell Owen and his mother Freddie May Owen.

Services were held at Spry Funeral Home, Athens, Alabama on Monday, June 9 with Dr. Edwin Jenkins officiating. His body will be interred in the family plot at Rose Hill Cemetery in Kissimmee, Florida.

Memorials may be made to The Gideons International, P.O. Box 140800, Nashville, Tennessee 37214-0800 (or online at <https://www.gideons.org/>) or to your favorite charity.



Mr. Larry Dewayne Turner was born on February 17, 1949 in Athens, Alabama. He departed this life on May 27, 2025.

Services were held at Spry Funeral Home Chapel with Jonathan Reeder officiating, burial was at Roselawn Cemetery.

Larry graduated from East Limestone High School in 1967 at the top of his class. He completed his studies in engineering at UAH. He was retired from NASA where he worked with the space program for over 30 years. He was a faithful member of Corinth/Jones Road Church of Christ where he attended all of his life.

He is preceded in death by his father, Leroy Turner, and his mother, Rebecca Turner.

Many of NAR will remember Larry Turner as the Chief Judge at our 2015 Annual Car Show. He had been fighting a battle with cancer.



*Larry handing a trophy plaque to member
Doug Cooper in 2015*

At the June 2025 POCI Nationals, Dave Robertson was awarded the Original Owner Award for his 1979 Pontiac Firebird.



Congratulations!



NAR member Johnathan Doumar had the privilege of helping a gentleman whose 1937 Buick was falling off the tow trailer. Johnathan was able to help him winched the car back up safely onto the trailer. The upcoming NAR fall car show information was shared with him. Hopefully he will bring the 1937 Buick to the show.



Al Emmi, Harry Trumbull, Ana Maria Clare-Emmi and a couple of friends attended the Fun day/Getting to know Eagles Car and Truck Show. Even though the day was beautiful, there were not many cars. It was actually a handful. Al won #2 in best of 5 and our friend Mark Thompson won #1. Best of Show was awarded to our friend Jay Jarrell with his beautiful '68 Camaro. Congratulations to the winners!



NAR had a good presence at Bob Jones yesterday. There were many more cars than they have had in the past. NAR members Jim True, Jerry Carignan, Bob and Laurie Ferenc, Bob and Linda Weidman, Kim and Eddie Letson, and Randy and Nell Owen there. It was great to be with NAR friends.



We had a blast! It was a beautiful day. Nell Dockery Owen and Randall Doc Owen, Harry Trumbull, Al Emmi, Robbie Henslee, Claire Cantanese attended as well as our friend Mark Thompson and yours truly Ana Maria Clare-Emmi. The Miller Brothers welcomed us as always. They had great hot dogs and lots of Cash Door Prizes. Guess who won the grand prize? Harry Trumbull of course!

The Millers always host a good time and Randy was glad the meal today was hotdogs. There were many toppings, chili, cheese, relish, slaw, aa well as chips and drink for \$5. Yum. Yes, as usual Harry won the grand prize, but Robbie Henslee also won a door prize. Nice temps and great shade with friends.



We are very grateful on this Memorial Day, celebrating those who died serving their country, so we have the liberties we all enjoy. So happy to share it with NAR friends and others this year, and so many years in the past.

Our first NAR annual picnic was in 2003 at Sharon Johnston Park. Bob Hill's children enjoyed fishing, while the adults grilled over the open flame. NAR initially began having a picnic to enjoy the left overs from our annual car show, since in the early days we provided car show refreshments for sale as an event money maker. That was before the city require NAR to have a \$400 food permit to cook food for the show.

But enough reminiscing. Let us all thank Wayne and Kim Scites for opening their home to the club. What a great setting for our annual picnic. The food was delish as always. Yes, NAR does have some good cooks, plus Ole' Dad's BBQ is always good.

With the large turnout of family, friends, and past NAR member it was another great club event.



It was a great day for NAR members! We attended the Cabela's car show! There were about 130 vehicles entered in the show. There were loads of corvettes of course! But as always, NAR took home a lot of sponsor's choice awards. Harry Trumbull, Robbie Henslee and Angie Clark Henslee, Dave Dunlap and Sandy Dunlap, Jerry M. Carignan, and John Gentilcore. Some NAR members won door prizes. We had tons of fun, and it was great seeing everyone!



Despite being Friday the 13th, NAR had a good showing for the displays that were planned for the three retirement homes and for the most part, the rain held off. Fortunately, Madison Village provided a take-out lunch.

Thanks to all attendees from NAR, Al Emmi, Harry Trumbull, Ed Hanish, Roger Mays, John Gentilcore, Chuck Nickey and Lynn Nickey and Duncan, Jim True, Randall Doc Owen, and Nell Dockery Owen.

At Madison at the Range one of the residents had built various cars and other models out of Legos and his work was on display. It was another day with good friends.



The weather and other factors kept the numbers down and we only had two Hudsons today but our Midsouth HET meet was enjoyable. They came from as far as 177 miles away in Tennessee. In the pictures you will notice familiar NAR AACA faces, Nell, Doug and Nancy Cooper, and Frank Tatom.



Another great day with NAR friends. Thankfully we went to the HCRU show on the mountain where the shade, trees, and elevation kept it a bit cooler. Saw lots of friends including NAR members Jim and Debbie Gilbertson, Mike O'Halloran, Harry Trumbull, Robbie Henslee and Angie Clark Henslee, Dave Dunlap and Sandy Dunlap, Eddie Letson and Kim Patrick Letson, Linda N Bob Weidman, Dave and Fran Baswell, Randall Doc Owen and yours truly Nell Dockery Owen.

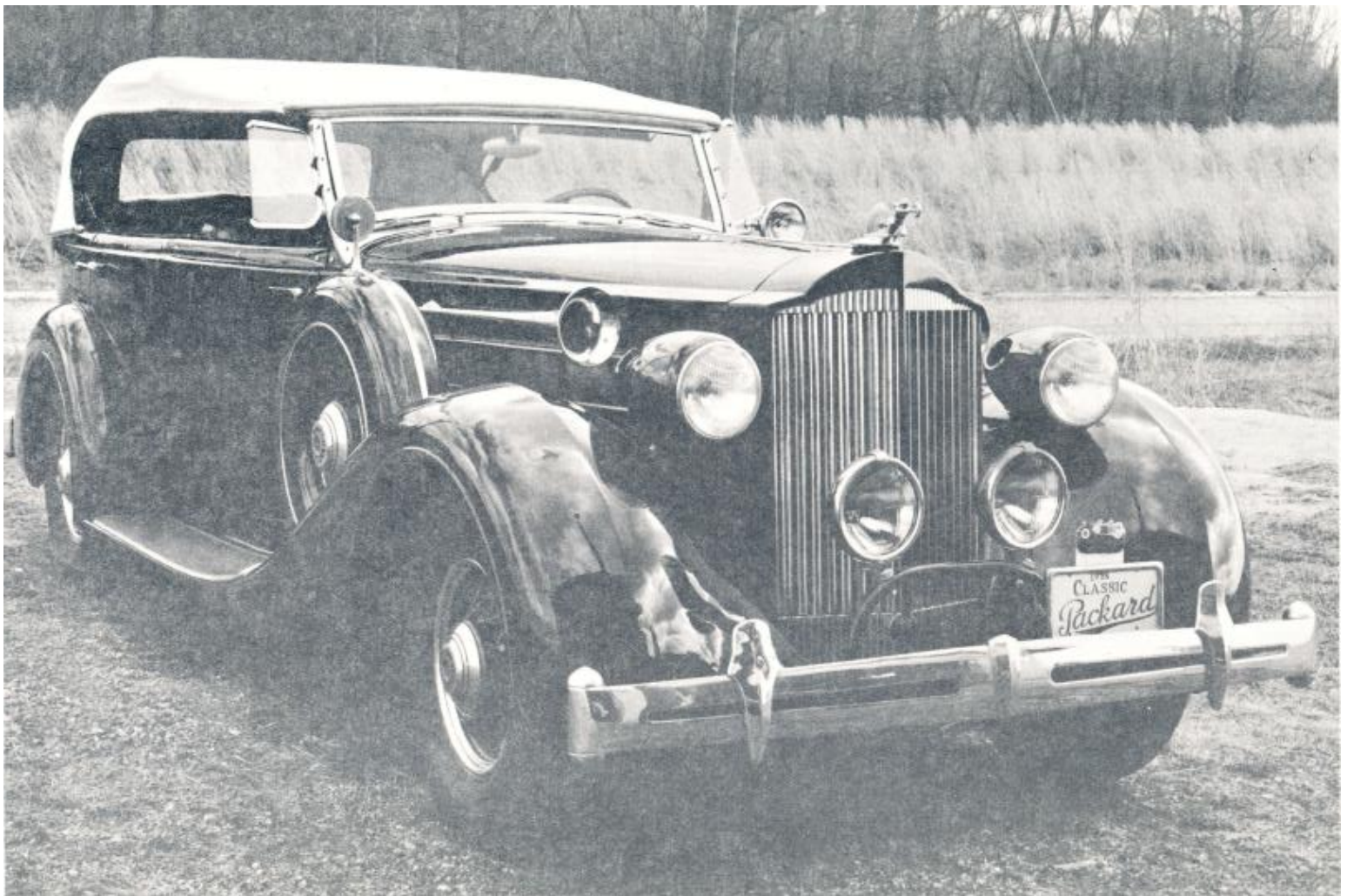


NAR members showed up and showed out for the Wal-Mart car show benefitting the Children's Miracle Network. Robbie Henslee and his great team of Associates put on a good show once again. The rain held off till the end which was good. Robbie drove his Corvette convertible, Angie Clark Henslee drove the Trans Am, Jerry M. Carignan and Annette Carignan drove their beautiful '57 Pontiac which won Best of Show, Al Emmi drove his Roadrunner which won a trophy, Jim True drove his T-Bird and won the 50/50 drawing which he told them to give to the cause, Sandy Dunlap and Dave Dunlap drove their Mustang convertibles, Harry Trumbull drove his Plymouth, Ed Edward Lawrence and Laurie drove their Mustang, Frank Tatom came but his car didn't make it, Roger Mays drove the Packard, Chuck Nickey and Lynn Nickey came with Duncan in their Mustang convertible, Randall Doc Owen and yours truly Nell Dockery Owen drove their Kaiser Manhattan. It was another great day out with NAR friends. We can't wait to get together for the next event.



The feature car this issue belongs to Floyd M. "Rusty" Parker of Florence, Alabama, Rusty's Packard, pictured below, won the Totcky Trophy for the best restored car in the North Alabama Region for 1970 and won a National first prize at the 1970 Pensacola AACA National Meet.

The car is a 1935 Packard Dietrich Phaeton Standard 8 on a 135" wheelbase. The car was purchased from the estate of the late Jerry Gage a millionaire from Tupelo, Mississippi. Jerry got the car while living in Phoenix, Arizona from his friend Bill Harrah. It sounds like an Errol Flynn story, but club members in Mississippi say the car actually did belong to Bill Harrah of Reno fame. The car had only 27,100 miles when purchased and was an easy restoration. Leonard Brown did the paint after the car was stripped and in prime. The car was driven to Cowan in January completely stripped except for motor, radiator and cowl. After painting, the car and pieces were brought home and the painted pieces were placed in the living room for the duration. Bert Morelock did the striping after the car was again assembled. Approximately \$3000.00 was spent, on materials for restoration. An interesting feature is the set of dual Buell air horns on the outside of the hood. These horns were installed when the car was originally equipped as authenticated by the Packard expert, Bob Turnquist. Jean and I feel that the car may not be the best 1935 classic restoration in the U.S., but are sure that when purchased it was the best preserved Packard to be found anywhere.



Cruising And Playing The Radio

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.

2025 Calendar of Events

For event detail see: nar-aaca.org/shows.php

June

- 26 NAR / AACA Club Dinner / City Café Diner / 2003 Drake Ave SW / Huntsville, AL / 6:00 pm
- 28 38th Annual Helen Keller Festival Car & Truck Show / Tuscumbia, AL / 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

July

- 2 First Wednesday Car Meet / Village of Providence / Huntsville, AL / 5:00 pm
- 5 MidCity Cars & Coffee / Huntsville, AL / 8:00 am
- 8 Charity Classic Cruise-In / Tullahoma, TN / 5:00 pm
- 12 Priceville Cars & Coffee / Morgan County Veterans Memorial / Decatur, AL / 8:00 am
- 12 2nd Saturday Cars & Coffee / Old Towne Café / Ardmore, TN / 8:00 am
- 19 HPT Cars & Coffee / Stovehouse / Huntsville, AL / 7:30 am
- 19 3rd Saturday Cruise-In Rick's BBQ / Rick's Barbecue / Ardmore, TN / 5:00 pm
- 20 RCMC Sonic Cruise-In / Sonic Drive-In County Line Road / Madison, AL / 1:00 pm
- 24 NAR / AACA Meeting / SIGNAL Museum / 1806 University Drive / Huntsville, AL / 7:00 pm

August

- 2 MidCity Cars & Coffee / Huntsville, AL / 8:00 am
- 6 1st Wednesday Car Meet / Village of Providence / Huntsville, AL / 5:00 pm
- 9 Priceville Cars & Coffee / Morgan County Veterans Memorial / Decatur, AL / 8:00 am
- 9 2nd Saturday Cars & Coffee / Old Towne Café / Ardmore, AL / 8:00 am
- 12 Charity Classic Cruise-In / Tullahoma, TN / 5:00 pm
- 16 HPT Cars & Coffee / Stovehouse / Huntsville, AL / 7:30 am
- 16 3rd Saturday Cruise-In Rick's BBQ / Rick's Barbecue / Ardmore, TN / 5:00 pm
- 17 RCMC Sonic Cruise-In / Sonic Drive-In County Line Road / Madison, AL / 1:00 pm
- 28 NAR / AACA Meeting / SIGNAL Museum / 1806 University Drive / Huntsville, AL / 7:00 pm

September

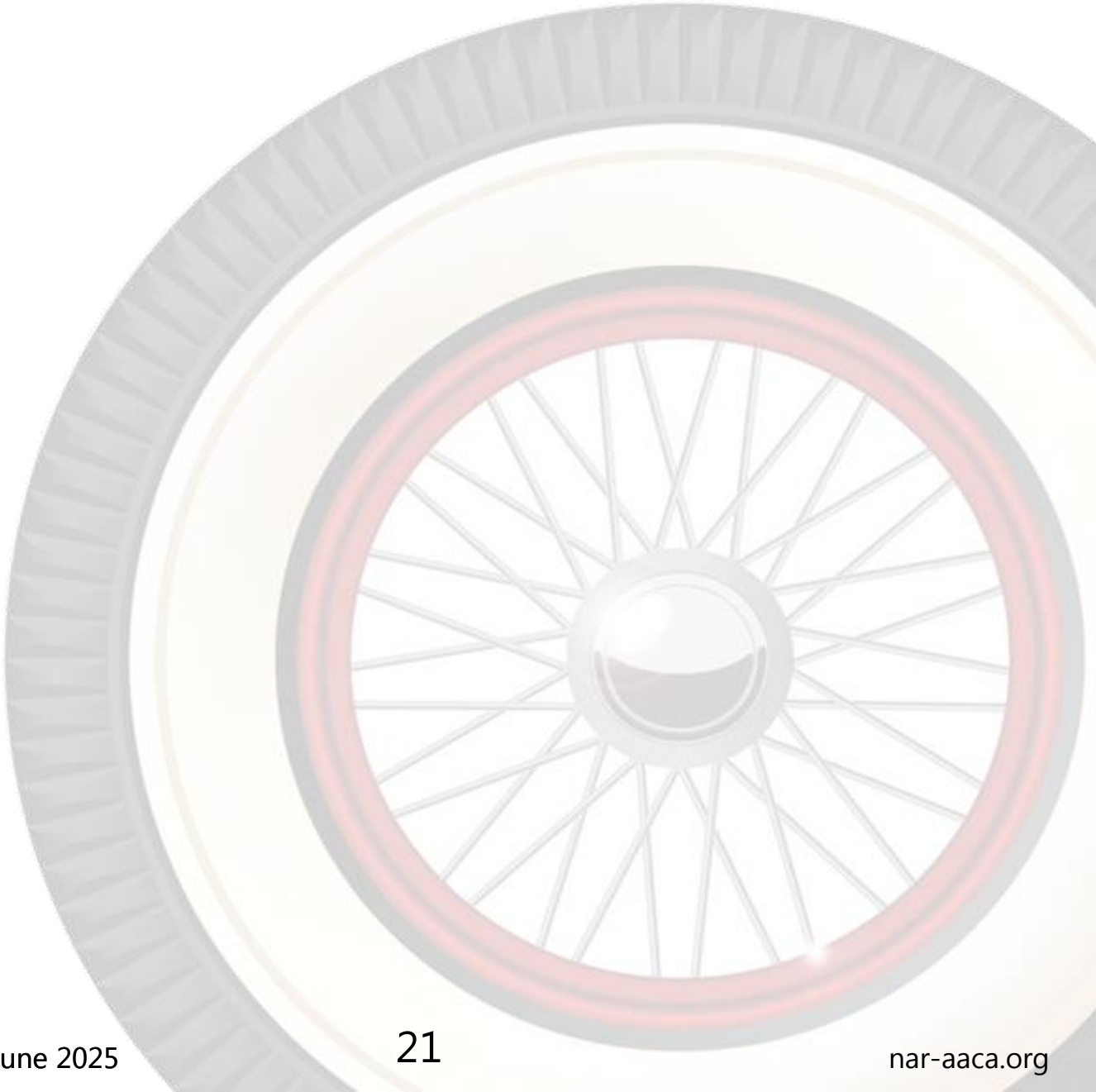
- 3 1st Wednesday Car Meet / Village of Providence / Huntsville, AL / 5:00 pm
- 6 MidCity Cars & Coffee / Huntsville, AL / 8:00 am
- 9 Charity Classic Cruise-In / Tullahoma, TN / 5:00 pm
- 13 Priceville Cars & Coffee / Morgan County Veterans Memorial / Decatur, AL / 8:00 am
- 13 2nd Saturday Cars & Coffee / Old Towne Café / Ardmore, AL / 8:00 am
- 20 HPT Cars & Coffee / Stovehouse / Huntsville, AL / 7:30 am
- 20 3rd Saturday Cruise-In Rick's BBQ / Rick's Barbecue / Ardmore, TN / 5:00 pm
- 21 RCMC Sonic Cruise-In / Sonic Drive-In County Line Road / Madison, AL / 1:00 pm
- 25 NAR / AACA Meeting / 88 Buffet / 6125 University Drive / Huntsville, AL / 7:00 pm

2025 Calendar of Events

For event detail see: nar-aaca.org/shows.php

October

- 1 1st Wednesday Car Meet / Village of Providence / Huntsville, AL / 5:00 pm
- 4 MidCity Cars & Coffee / Huntsville, AL / 8:00 am
- 11 Priceville Cars & Coffee / Morgan County Veterans Memorial / Decatur, AL / 8:00 am
- 11 2nd Saturday Cars & Coffee / Old Towne Café / Ardmore, AL / 8:00 am
- 14 Charity Classic Cruise-In / Tullahoma, TN / 5:00 pm
- 18 HPT Cars & Coffee / Stovehouse / Huntsville, AL / 7:30 am
- 18 3rd Saturday Cruise-In Rick's BBQ / Rick's Barbecue / Ardmore, TN / 5:00 pm
- 19 RCMC Sonic Cruise-In / Sonic Drive-In County Line Road / Madison, AL / 1:00 pm
- 23 NAR / AACA Meeting / SIGNAL Museum / 1806 University Drive / Huntsville, AL / 7:00 pm



AACA National Calendar

Upcoming AACA 2025 National Calendar

July 2-5	Central Springs Nationals – Auburn, IN
July 24-26	Grand Nationals / Zenith – Dayton, OH
September 7-12	Revival AAA Glidden Tour® – Owensboro, KY
September 18-20	Southeastern Fall Nationals – Corydon, IN
October 7-10	Eastern Fall Meet – Hershey, PA
October 22-25	Central Fall Nationals – Galveston, TX



"Now, aren't you glad I had you wear your rubbers?"

*Jeffrey Monahan
July 16, 1960*





The North Alabama Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America



Membership Application / Renewal

Local dues are \$20 per year (Including monthly newsletter). Please bring this application to a meeting or mail it and a check made out to NAR to:

North Alabama Region - AACA
c/o Dave Robertson, 3503 Rolphmire Lane, Madison, AL 35757

Name/Spouse's Name _____

Child(ren)'s Name(s) _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip Code _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email Address _____

Birthday / Anniversary (Optional) _____

Member Sponsor (Optional) _____

AACA Number _____

Membership in the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) is required. If you are not currently an AACA member, please let us know and we will send you a membership application or go to www.aaca.org to apply online. Dues are \$45/year or \$700/life including bi-monthly newsletter. Student membership is \$12/year.

Signature _____

Antique Vehicles Owned (Optional)

Year	Make	Model	Body Style
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

For more information about the club contact the President, Jeff Slagle (256) 679-9775
or visit the club website at <https://nar-aaca.org>