

Spoke Folks

Antique Automobile Club of America  North Alabama Region



Eddie and Kim Letson's 1959 Chevrolet El Camino



President's Message

Jeff Slagle *President*

This month, I want to take a step back from talking about shows, trophies, and events to focus on something just as important - the NAR family.

We've had several members recently dealing with tough times - whether it's the loss of a loved one, loss of a friend, long hospital stays, or health challenges that weigh heavily on the heart. While we love to celebrate the joy of this hobby, it's moments like these that remind us how much more we are than just a car club. We're family.

Our cars may have engines, but it's our people that truly make this club run. It's the smiles at the monthly meetings, the helping hands at events, and the friendships that have grown stronger with every year. Cars may bring us together, but it's the compassion and friendship that keep us moving forward.

In times like these, I encourage each of us to look for small opportunities to lift one another up - whether it's a quick phone call, a card in the mail, or simply pulling someone aside at a meeting to ask how they're doing. Those simple acts of kindness can mean more than we realize.

This summer, our calendars are full of events, and we'll still be showing our cars and sharing our passion. But let's also take time for connection - with each other, with our families, and even with new folks who might be looking for a place to belong. Sometimes, just making someone feel welcome can leave a lasting impact.

To those who are struggling, know that you are not alone. And to everyone who keeps our club thriving, thank you. This is more than a group of car enthusiasts - it's a group of caring, generous people who make life richer for everyone around them.

At the end of the day, it's not the cars that make the memories - it's the people standing beside them.

Here's to staying cool, enjoying the road, and being there for each other.

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

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North Alabama Region



NAR Club Information

Member Milestones

July Birthdays

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

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



August Birthdays

5	Gene King / 87 in 2025
8	Ed Lawrence
13	Laurie Ferenc
15	Alex Haynes
17	Annette Carignan
26	Marena McClure
28	Jonathan Doumar
30	Judy Smith

August Anniversaries

5	Jim and Angie True / 47 in 2025
20	Mike and Carol Grieco / 31 in 2025
20	Eddie and Kim Letson / 42 in 2025
24	John and Darlene Kleyer / 45 in 2025

NAR Member Thoughts and Concerns

- Ani Kortekaas, Joe Stegmier's wife, had hip surgery and is now recovering at home.
- Kim Letson had emergency surgery twice over July 4th weekend after being diagnosed with compartment syndrome. She continues to recover at home.
- Jeff Slagle's mother is in the hospital and will be moving to rehab.

NAR Monthly Meeting Refreshments

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

It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of the passing of Maxine Patterson on July 6, 2025.

Many of you will remember Maxine as a warm and gracious presence at NAR events over the years. She and her husband, William "Pat" Patterson, were longtime members who shared a deep love of antique cars and the friendships built through this club. Maxine was always by Pat's side, whether riding in their beloved 1957 Chrysler or being at our meetings and shows.

I was fortunate to see Maxine and her daughter, Darlene, at one of our NAR displays this past October. She was so excited to see the cars and told me how much she still enjoys reading Spoke Folks. We even took a selfie together that day, a memory I'll always cherish.

Pat, who passed away several years ago, was honored in our club for his service as a Navy veteran and his passion for vintage automobiles. Together, he and Maxine shared 71 years of marriage, a life filled with family, travel, and countless shared memories.

I've attached two photos. One is from our NAR Christmas party, showing Maxine enjoying time with all of us. The other is the selfie I took with her the last time I saw her. Both pictures capture her warm smile and genuine enthusiasm for the friendships that meant so much to her. I hope these images help us all remember the joy she brought to our club.

Maxine's presence will be deeply missed, but she will always be remembered fondly as part of the NAR family. Please keep Darlene and the family in your thoughts during this difficult time.

With sympathy,

Jeff Slagle



July Car Events

Brooksdale at Jones Valley Display

Thank you to the NAR members who came out to support this event. Gerald and Teri Moore, Chuck and Lynn Nickey and Duncan, Joe Stegmaier, Phil Bentley, and Randall Doc Owen and Nell Dockery Owen. A good time was had by all on a WARM Sunday afternoon.



Tanner Baptist Church

NAR does it again. Out of the 75 or 80 cars at the Tanner Baptist Church car show today members won Best of Show and Best American vehicle. NAR members present were Jim True, Jerry M. Carignan, John and Ginny Karn Gentilcore, Chuck and Lynn Nickey and Duncan, Ken and Joy Riddle, Terry Johnson (Best of Show), Bob Ferenc and Laurie (Best American), Charles Coats, Eddie Letson and Kim Patrick Letson, Al Emmi, Harry Trumbull, Randall Doc Owen and Nell Dockery Owen and prospective member Ken Kalina.



Congressional Review Acts / Signed!

In July 2025, President Trump signed three pieces of legislation, H.J. Res 87, H.J. Res 88 and H.J. Res 89, which revoke waivers granted to the State of California, allowing it to set its own emissions standards. These resolutions were passed by the U.S. Congress in recent months and are a strong sign of the commitment by some in Washington D.C., to push back against the attack on the internal combustion engine.

Support for actions like this has been a key part of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation's (MRF) legislative agenda. During the recent Bikers Inside the Beltway event, MRF members spent time advocating for the passage of these bills in the U.S. Senate, where they had temporarily stalled after being passed by the U.S. House earlier in the year. Additionally, the MRF wishes to thank the thousands of you who answered recent online Calls to Action on this topic.

A process known as the Congressional Review Act was the mechanism by which these bills were passed. Because of the unique way they moved through Congress, opponents are already signaling their intent to file legal challenges. While this battle will now likely continue in the courts, it is nevertheless important to celebrate this victory for the survival of the internal combustion engine. The fight will go on... and the MRF will be here for that fight.

NAR member, David Hoha, sent this to AACA as they have a reason to be in this fight too. Every member of the NAR/AACA should be calling their US Senators and US Representatives to push these bills through to law. The Right to Repair and Modify our vehicles is being waged at a federal level. H.R 1556 / S. 1379 are the two bills that need support to maintain our right to repair and modify. We at the Motorcycle Riders Foundation have succeeded in getting the California Air Resources Board (CARB) shut down as the EPA is trying to force all electric vehicles by 2035.

MRF is still pushing H.R. 2165, H.R 2218 / S. 995, S.1072 to fully protect the Internal Combustion Engine. Also the issue with 15% Ethanol is still being fought through Consumer protection and Fuel Transparency. We are not against 15% although it will seriously harm all current combustion engines but we need to make sure that 10% Ethanol and NON-Ethanol fuels stay available. These are issues that affect AACA as well as everyone who has a combustion engine in some sort of vehicle.

*AL MRF State Rep, Assistant Director of MRF Membership
AL Dixie ABATE Representative
Patriot Guard Rider Member
Lifetime HOG Member, Redstone HOG Member
AACA/NAR Member*

Have a great day, God Bless
David "Pitbull" Hoha

Where's the Starter?

There have been many articles about where is the hidden gas filler, so what about starting the car? It's not just about where is the key fob.

Early cars, as we know, were crank started from the front of the engine. Set the timing, set the throttle or you will break your arm. So what came after that? I'm going to miss a few and get some years wrong, but stay with me.

In the 1930's, Chevrolet and others adopted a mechanical starter with a pedal above and to the right of the accelerator pedal to press and engage the starter gear and then the starter. A little difficult at times; left foot on the clutch, choke and throttle set, toe pushing the starter pedal while the heel of the right foot pumps the gas. Buick, on the other hand, chose an almost automatic starting system in 1936. With a switch on the carburetor, all you need to do was turn the ignition switch to on and press the accelerator pedal. Very convenient when you stall the car, as all you need to do is depress the clutch enough so it doesn't engage and the engine will restart. This was continued through 1960.

Starting a 1940's Studebaker with manual transmission, you press the clutch pedal to the floor and engage a button under the clutch to start it. If you own a 1954 Nash with automatic transmission, shift to Neutral and then pull the gearshift lever towards you and the car will start. On many other cars of the 1940's, it was turn the key to the "on" position and then find the starter button somewhere on the dash.

Last on the list is the 1957-58 Chrysler products with automatic transmission. These were the push button shifters, but you had to push the Neutral button in farther to actuate the starter.

Now that you know how to start it, where does the gas go?

2025 Calendar of Events

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

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

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
- 25 NAR Annual Car Show / Wicks Family Field / 3125 Dan Mincher Drive / Huntsville, AL / 8:30 am

AACA National Calendar

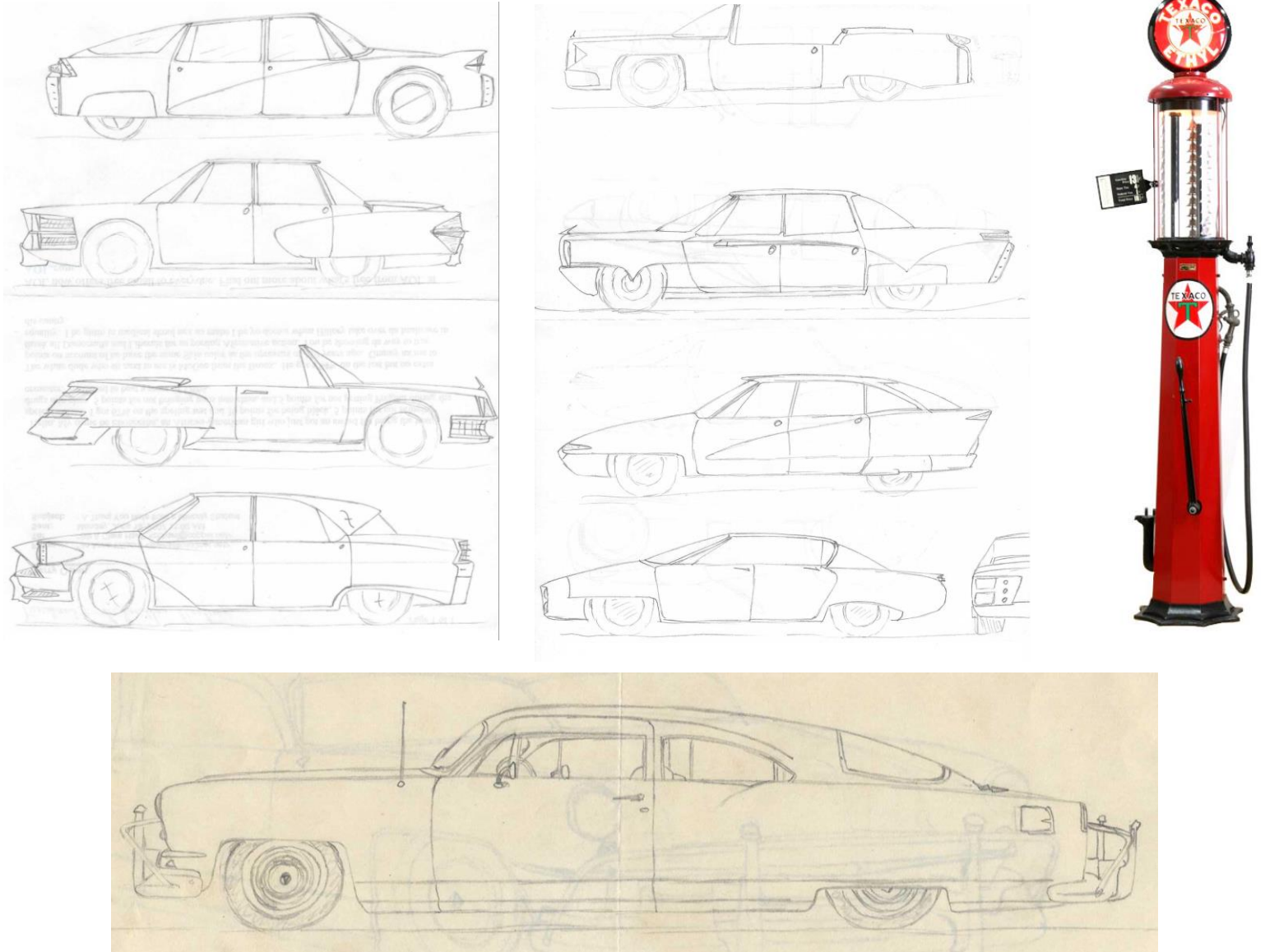
Upcoming AACA 2025 National Calendar

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



Here are some recently discovered free-hand sketches drawn by our friend Terry Owen, brother of Randy Owen, who recently passed away. Terry began drawing in his childhood and continued on through his stint in the US Navy and then later when he was a music teacher. A huge stash of Terry's sketches were found as his family was going through his things. These are just a few.



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>