

# Spoke



# Folks

Antique Automobile Club of America  North Alabama Region



Frank Tatom - 1949 Pontiac Silver Streak



# President's Message

Jeff Slagle *President*

Greeting to everyone! It's hard to believe that July is just around the corner, marking the midpoint of this eventful year. As we prepare to welcome the new month, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable milestones and shared experiences we had in June.

First and foremost, let's celebrate an important milestone in automotive history. On June 28, 1953, the very first Corvette was assembled at a Chevrolet plant in Flint, Michigan. This iconic two-seater sports car went on to become an American legend, capturing the hearts of car enthusiasts worldwide. We pay homage to this momentous occasion and appreciate the impact it has had on shaping the automotive landscape.

As many of you know, Chuck and I recently attended "Car Camp" in McPherson, Kansas. It was an absolute delight to meet fellow automotive enthusiasts from across the country, and even our neighbors from Canada. The experience was nothing short of extraordinary as we connected with like-minded individuals who share our passion for vintage cars. Engaging in lively conversations filled with excitement and enthusiasm, we exchanged knowledge, stories, and experiences that deepened our appreciation for the automotive world. These interactions blossomed into lasting friendships, as our shared love for cars brought us together in a truly remarkable way.

Meanwhile, back at home, the month of June proved to be an exhilarating whirlwind of activities for NAR. From captivating displays to thrilling car shows and engaging cruise-ins, our calendar was packed with events that kept us on our toes. NAR participated in numerous displays, such as Madison Village independent and assisted living center, Harbor Chase Assisted Living, and Limestone Manor. There were also numerous car shows, cruise-ins, and cars and coffee events in which NAR participated. Some of these included the Cruise-In at Rock Family Worship Center for their Men's Conference, the 248th birthday celebration for the U.S. Army at Redstone Gateway, the Elkmont car show, Cars and Coffee in Taft, TN, a Cars and Coffee in Priceville, and lastly, the 1st Annual Harmon Scrap Metal show.

This past month, Nell Owen shared a remark that beautifully encapsulates the power of vintage cars in bringing people together. She mentioned how some of the residents, at the assisted living facilities, shared stories about their first cars, family cars from their childhood, and the cars they learned to drive in. Just like at "Car Camp", these anecdotes highlight how the shared interest in vintage cars transcends boundaries, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among individuals who appreciate the beauty, craftsmanship, and nostalgia these cars evoke.

In closing, I want to express my deep appreciation for your unwavering support and active involvement in the various events and activities that have made June such a memorable month for NAR. Your enthusiasm and dedication continue to inspire us all, and I look forward to the exciting times ahead as we continue our journey together.

Furthermore, I am thrilled to announce our upcoming quarterly NAR Dinner Meeting at 88 Buffet located at 6125 University Dr, Huntsville, AL on June 22nd. This fantastic Chinese buffet offers an array of mouthwatering options, including a hibachi grill, sushi bar, and selected American fare. A private room has been reserved for our gathering, and I'm looking forward to seeing each one of you there.

Wishing you all the best and happy motoring!

Jeff 

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[facebook.com/groups/naraaca](https://facebook.com/groups/naraaca)

## Spoke Folks

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

<b>President</b>	<b>Jeff Slagle</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Chuck Nickey</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Angie Henslee</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jim True</b>
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	<b>Wayne Scites</b>
	<b>Bob Ferenc</b>
	<b>Harry Trumbull</b>

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North Alabama Region



25 May 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

## Old Business

- Welcome, Pledge; Visitors introduced themselves & their cars
- Secretary minutes voted on and approved
- Club gear: Nametags, Shirts, Caps, Jackets, etc.
- Website: Vacant: Update; Host; Site ground
- Facebook report: going smoothly
- Online roster: <https://naraaca.ctrn.co/directory/index.php>

## New Business

- Dues need to be paid for the new year.
- \$20 NAR dues; \$45 AACA dues. Please pay if you haven't already
- Birthdays: 8
- Anniversaries: 5
- Sympathies: None

## Cars Bought and Sold

- Dave & Sandra Dunlap bought a 64 Thunderbird
- Peter Catanese 1966 MGB for sale; Bob Bentley several for sale; Ed Grund 1955 MGTF

## Member Project

- Chuck Nickey, Ed Hanish, Al Birks & Greg Stefanovic

## Club Activities Discussed for 2023

- Car Show Update; October 21, 2023. Location; Redstone Gateway (*Possibly*)
  - Dave Robertson; 2023 Show Chairman!
  - Judges and volunteers needed
  - Many events for the remainder of May and June. Get those beautiful cars out and enjoy!
  - Holy Spirit Church; June 24, 2023. Supports Haiti missions and orphanage
  - Memorial Day Picnic at Wayne & Kim Scites. May 29, 2023 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- 
- New Members; David & Sandra Dunlap 64 Thunderbird
  - Door prizes awarded
  - Refreshments provided by Jerry & Annette Carignan
  - Meeting adjourned

# NAR Club Information

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## Member Milestones

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### Birthdays

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

### Anniversaries

Jun 8      M.D. and Judy Smith / 62 years in 2023  
Jun 8      Benny and Sue Pugh  
Jun 19     Chuck and Lynn Nickey  
Jun 28     Gerald and Teri Moore / 37 Years in 2023



## NAR Monthly Meeting Refreshment

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22<sup>nd</sup> June      *Dinner Out*  
27<sup>th</sup> July  
24<sup>th</sup> August  
28<sup>th</sup> September      *Dinner Out*  
26<sup>th</sup> October  
16<sup>th</sup> November  
TBD December      *Christmas Party*



NAR encourages members to please signup to bring refreshments to our monthly meeting.

Please email Chuck Nickey, [cnickey55@att.net](mailto:cnickey55@att.net), for refreshment suggestions.

## In Remembrance of Chuck Knapp

Chuck, and his wife Jo who died in 2019, were active NAR members and always displayed their cars or had them in parades. Chuck was the NAR Vice-President in 2006 and 2007.

Services for Chuck Knapp will be held July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Receiving starts at 2:00 pm. Service starts at 3:00 pm.

Chuck's family is asking that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his honor to the First United Methodist Church organ donation fund.

Chuck loved to hear his church organ play. Jillian, the church organist, is going to be sending him off with a concert piece which he would have heard played on a trip to England in the near future.

Services are at: **First United Methodist Church**  
120 Greene St.  
Huntsville, Alabama 35801



*Chuck's 1957 Ford Thunderbird*



*2006 Totcky Award for Chuck's 1932 Chevrolet*



There hasn't been a NAR Memorial Day picnic where the weather was as nice as it was for 2023. Thanks to Wayne and Kim Scites for hosting our picnic this year. Everyone commented on how much they enjoyed their new location. This year NAR had about 65 folks who attended. What a great turnout along with great food. This year's picnic attracted several "distant" members along with some visitors, so it was well attended. Wayne said Bob Bentley had made the mailbox for him back in the '80s. Randall Doc Owen and Frank Tatom took photos.



## 2nd Annual Tiny Toes Car Show

Saturday, 3 June 2023

Larry Turner spotted Gerald and Teri Moore at the Elkmont, AL 2023 car show.



## 248th Army Birthday celebration

Saturday, 3 June 2023

NAR cars were present and accounted for at the 248th Army Birthday celebration at Redstone Gateway.



## Cars and Coffee in the Country

Saturday, 10 June 2023

Randall Doc Owen and Nell Owen drove to the Country Cars 'n Coffee event in Taft, TN. This event occurs every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday morning. Several NAR folks were in attendance, Gerald Moore and Teri, Gwyn Lynch Wright and Dale, and Benny Pugh. A good time and a good breakfast. Met some new car friends.



## Limestone Manor Display

Sunday, 11 June 2023

Although the weather folks had predicted early rainy weather, it held off long enough for Limestone Manor to host the NAR display. Residents enjoyed seeing the cars and petting Chuck and Lynn's puppy, Duncan. NAR attendees Chuck Nickey, Lynn Nickey, Gerald Moore and Teri, Harry Trumbull, Roger Mays, Randall Doc Owen and Nell Owen. Lots of family members were visiting and the cars were a good backdrop for family photos. Delois and the Limestone Manor staff did a great job hosting us with fresh popcorn, ice water, and sodas. Later, NAR enjoyed both hamburgers and hot dogs along, with chips and a moon pie. Thanks to all who made the display a special event for the residents.





Retirement is great. I'm sad for all you who still must work. NAR had a great display for the residents at Madison Village independent and assisted living center. The residents had lots of stories to tell of their first cars. The staff treated us very well and provided a great lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers, chips, drinks, and cookies. Sno-Cones for dessert provided by the Kona Ice food truck. Those from NAR who participated were Chuck Nickey, Harry Trumbull and Taz, Roger Mays, Dave Robertson, Annette Carignan, Jerry M. Carignan, Jim Gilbertson, Gerald Moore and Teri, Bob Ferenc and Laurie, Randall Doc Owen and Nell Owen.



## Harbor Chase Living Display

Friday, 16 June 2023

A big thank you to Amy and the Harbor Chase staff for hosting us. NAR members who participated were Frank Tatom, Roger Mays, Chuck Nickey, Bob and Linda Weidman, Dave Robertson, Gerald and Teri Moore, Jim Gilbertson and Debbie, John Fain and daughter Sarah, Randall Doc Owen and Nell Owen. Snacks were plentiful with watermelon, small sandwiches, and drinks. Another great day for old car lovers.



## Harmon Scrap Metal Car Show

Saturday, 17 June 2023

A few NAR members at the Harmon Scrap Metal Car Show. James Charette, Randall Doc Owen and Nell Owen, Harry Trumbull, Eddie and Kim Letson, Al and Ana Emmi, and Chris and Lori Hartman.



*Al Emmi - 2nd Place Classic Car Stock*

## A Weekend Jaunt in a 1921 Fire Engine

Bill Varnedoe

How'd you like to have an overheated engine, on a steep mountain curve, be slipping backwards because the brakes won't quite hold, then have the steering wheel come off in your hands!? It happened to me.

As most of you know, my old car is a 1921 American La France, 750 RPM Pumper. Now, up on Green Mountain where I live, the Green Mountain Volunteer Fire Department has a 1000 gallon tanker, equipped with a pump, but we use my old truck in a pinch or for publicity.

On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> the Fire Department was due to park my "type 75" at Haysland Square Shopping Center and sell J. C. tickets (for a portion of the "take"). Well and good. The trip to the shopping center was uneventful – but once there, I wanted to put it under the canopy out of the impending rain. The only ramp was at the end – so I drove it from the end ramp to the center on the sidewalk; no problem, but many stares.

The day passed with much rain, and the usual ooh's and ah's, the men kicking at the solid tires, etc. We sold tickets and the firemen were happy – then I had the job of driving it away. Except now, the downpour of the year was in progress.

Things started "well". The battery was weak, I had to hand crank it. Next I drove along the parkway to the Farley Fire Station to leave it there overnight (with the kind permission of Chief Allen). Ever drive anything in a pouring rain without even a windshield? The firemen of the 1920's must have been a rugged lot! I ducked my head down and peeped from under the brim of my fire helmet; it was all I could do to keep enough of the rain out of my eyes so I could see.

Sunday was cloudy, but no rain, so I tackled the job of driving it up Green Mountain.

If you're not familiar with the Green Mountain road, you should drive up once. I suppose San Francisco may hold the record for steep hills, but Green Mountain hold all local records. One climbs 1000 feet in about 1 ¼ miles, but mostly in two steep grades with lesser grades between.

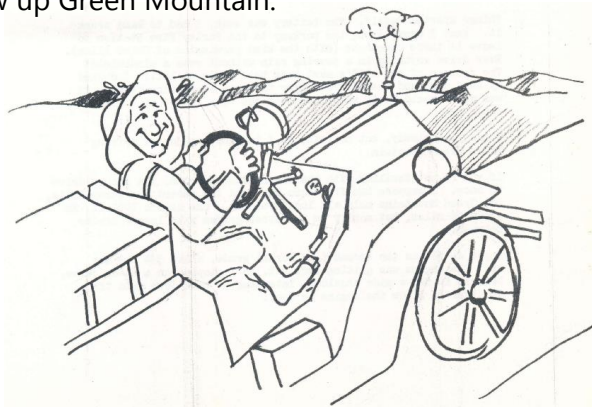
I got as far as the second (and worse) grade, about ¾ the way up. The engine was getting very hot, so I stopped on a steep curve, because it had a wide shoulder, intending to back down onto the shoulder to allow the engine to cool.

Back, I did. In fact I discovered I couldn't hold the 4 ton monster with both emergency and foot brakes – it kept creeping backwards. I strained and pushed – pushed so hard, pulling upward against the steering wheel, that that jewel suddenly pulled loose! There I was, loosing ground backwards on a steep mountain curve and with a disconnected steering wheel in my hands!

Fortunately, the wooden wheel had just had the screws pulled out, so I grabbed the spokes and could still steer, which I did, onto the shoulder. There, the rougher ground let me win the braking contest. My wife, following in another car quickly blocked the wheels and saved the day, my old truck and me.

Now a fire engine carries water, or at least this one does. Further, there is a system to allow fire pump water to bleed thru the cooling system while pumping to keep the engine cool when it is working, but not moving. Thus, it was easy to put some cool water into the radiator via the bleed valve, cooling the engine down from the steep climb. The steering wheel was temporarily wired back on, and in 10 minutes I was home. The damage to the wheel was vary minor and the old 1921 is ready for another adventure, except next time I won't try to stop on the steepest hill in the country.

I'll still sell it for \$1200.00. I need something I can tow up Green Mountain.



## The Secret City Tour

We recently returned from the AACA's 2023 Southeastern Divisional Tour of "The Secret City" in Oak Ridge, TN. We had a great time. This was a 3-day tour hosted by the East Tennessee Region, May 1-3, with about 82 tour vehicles in attendance. We took our 1975 Corvette for a nice ride through the countryside.

The Secret City was a remote rural area with scattered farms at the outbreak of WW II. The US government was looking for a remote area with certain criteria available to use in the secret development of the atomic bomb and it was here. Land was acquired and quickly built into a highly guarded area for research and development. The race was on with the Germans to develop the atom bomb. The interesting thing was that over 78,000 people lived and worked there by wars end. No one knew what each other did there and no one talked about it. All was secret. It did not exist on any maps and mail was marked no such address and returned. This was truly a secret city. The name of Oak Ridge was given to it after the war. We travelled to several nicely preserved buildings that were turned into museums. Each had its own story that it played as part of the "Manhattan Project."

The TVA also made its mark in this area beginning with a series of dams built on the Tennessee River to provide hydroelectric power to the area. The town of Norris and the Norris Dam was the first built in 1936. One of our many tour stops was Norris. There were eventually 32 dams built and they make for some beautiful lakes and overlooks on our journey through the hills. Other stops along the way were the Appalachia Museum that covered most all of the early hillbilly life, the Great Smokey Mountains Heritage Museum, Appalachian Bear Rescue. Another special place was the Brushy Mountain Tennessee State Penitentiary where James Earl Ray was imprisoned. He and five others escaped for 54 hours but were caught and returned. The prison is not in use anymore but opens for tours. We had a great lunch in the mess hall and pondered over Tennessee Moonshine in the gift shop. There was much more that we enjoyed on the tour such as an ice cream social and a car display in the park.

The Region did a great job in hosting. The thrill was being out on the road, fellowshipping with others, and going to places we had never been in our antique cars! Many in our club have never participated in an antique auto tour. Sign up and join the fun! I did twenty years ago and have enjoyed every bit of it.



*Aerial view of the Y-12 facility in 1947*



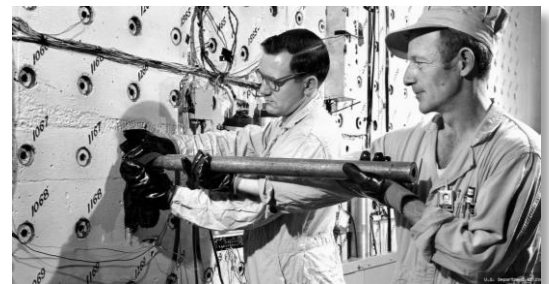
*Y-1852 "Little Boy" atomic bomb*



*A calutron used for uranium refining*



*Young women often as Y-12 calutron operators*



*Loading uranium into the X-10 graphite reactor*

# 2023 Calendar of Events

For event detail see: <http://www.naraaca.org/calendar.html>

## June 2023 / Continued

- 22 **AACA NAR Meeting** / Dinner Out / 88 Buffet / 6125 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35806 / 6:00 p.m.
- 24 **16th Annual Car Show/Swap Meet** / Monte Sano State Park Picnic Area, Huntsville, AL / Benefits Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit / Entry Fee:: \$20 - Includes park fee / 8:00 a.m. to noon / Awards at 1:00 p.m. / Contact: Brian Bailey (256) 509-4785
- 24 **7th Annual June Fest** / Milton Frank Stadium, 2801 15th Ave., Huntsville. AL / Noon to 9:00 p.m. / Entry Fee: \$10 / General Admission \$25 / Contact: (256) 990-2606
- 24 **36th Helen Keller Festival Car Show** / Shoals Car & Truck Club / Downtown Tuscumbia, AL / Register 8:00 a.m. to Noon / \$20 Entry Fee / Awards at 2:00 p.m. / \$1700 in Cash plus other prizes / Contact: billygriffith100@gmail.com
- 24 **Wheels at Wolverine** / 4th Sunday every month / 2430 Point Mallard Dr., Decatur, AL / 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## July 2023

- 1 **Cars & Coffee** / MidCity / 5909 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35806 / 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 15 **Horse Power Therapy Cars and Coffee** / Stovehouse / 3414 Governors Dr, Huntsville, AL 35805 / 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 22 **W. C. Handy Festival Car Show** / Wilson Park Florence, AL / 8:00 a.m. to Noon / Information: Ronnie James (256) 381-3536 or Terry Mashburn (256) 366-0564
- 27 **AACA NAR Meeting** / 1806 University Dr, Huntsville, AL / 7:00 p.m.

## August 2023

- 5 **Cars & Coffee** / MidCity / 5909 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35806 / 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 19 **Horse Power Therapy Cars and Coffee** / Stovehouse / 3414 Governors Dr, Huntsville, AL 35805 / 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 24 **AACA NAR Meeting** / 1806 University Dr, Huntsville, AL / 7:00 p.m.
- 26 **14th Annual Shoals Area Mustang & All Ford Show & Shine** / McFarland Park Florence, AL

# 2023 Calendar of Events

For event detail see: <http://www.naraaca.org/calendar.html>

## September 2023

- 2 **Cars & Coffee** / MidCity / 5909 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35806 / 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 16 **Horse Power Therapy Cars and Coffee** / Stovehouse / 3414 Governors Dr, Huntsville, AL 35805 / 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 28 **AACA NAR Meeting** / Dinner Out / 6:00 p.m.

## October 2023

- 7 **Cars & Coffee** / MidCity / 5909 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35806 / 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 21 **NAR Annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show** / Location TBD
- 21 **Horse Power Therapy Cars and Coffee** / Stovehouse / 3414 Governors Dr, Huntsville, AL 35805 / 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 26 **AACA NAR Meeting** / 1806 University Dr, Huntsville, AL / 7:00 p.m.

## November 2023

- 4 **Cars & Coffee** / MidCity / 5909 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35806 / 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 18 **Horse Power Therapy Cars and Coffee** / Stovehouse / 3414 Governors Dr, Huntsville, AL 35805 / 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 16 **AACA NAR Meeting** / 1806 University Dr, Huntsville, AL / 7:00 p.m.

## December 2023

- 2 **Cars & Coffee** / MidCity / 5909 University Dr, Huntsville, AL 35806 / 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- 16 **Horse Power Therapy Cars and Coffee** / Stovehouse / 3414 Governors Dr, Huntsville, AL 35805 / 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- TBD **AACA NAR Meeting** / Christmas Party

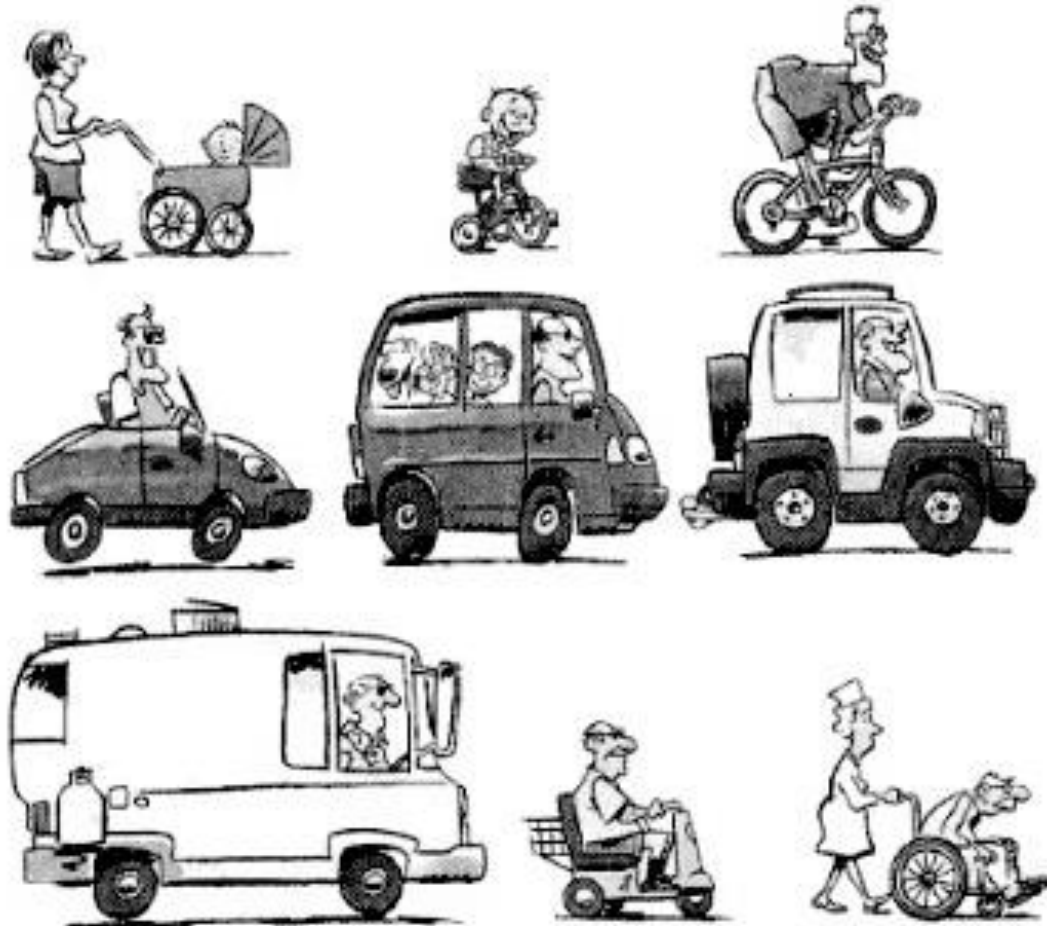
# AACA 2023 National Calendar

*Please verify prior to making plans to attend any event listed.*

<https://aaca.org/events/category/aaca-national-calendar/>

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| June 25-28      | Eastern Divisional Tour / Denver, PA               |
| July 16-22      | Founders Tour / Ontario, Canada                    |
| July 26-29      | Special Eastern Summer Nationals / Norwich, NY     |
| August 10-12    | Grand Nationals / Bettendorf, IA                   |
| August 16-19    | Vintage Tour / Aroostook County, Maine             |
| September 25-29 | Western Divisional Tour / California Central Coast |
| October 3-6     | Eastern Fall Nationals / Hershey, PA               |
| October 22-27   | Revival AAA Glidden Tour (VMCCA) / Thomasville, GA |

## The Wheels of Life



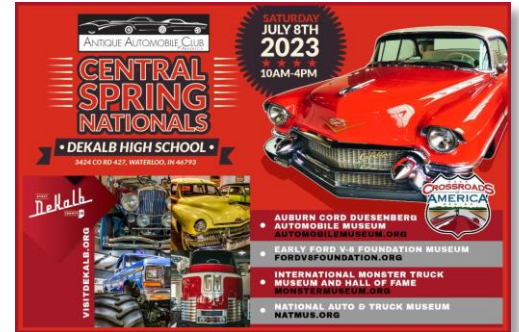
# 2023 Central Spring Nationals

5-8 July 2023

## Waterloo (Auburn), Indiana

Registration is closing fast and must be received by 30 June 2023.

[Click here](#) to print your online registration form.



# 2023 Special Spring Nationals

26-29 July 2023

## Hamilton, New York

Registration is closing fast and must be received by 17 July 2023.

Hotel rooms still available at:

**The Hotel One75 in Hamilton**

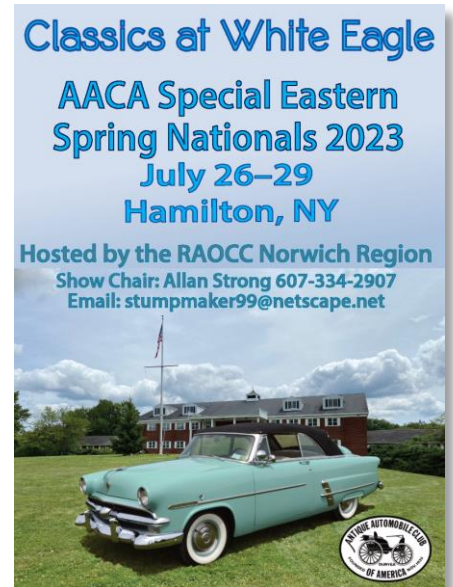
(315) 824-4400 - Mention "AACCA - Classics at the White Eagle"

**Vernon Downs**

(877) 888-3766 - Mention "AACCA - Classics at the White Eagle"

Rates at both hotels are \$149/night + tax

[Click here](#) to print your online registration form.







# 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 Jim True, 16651 E. Limestone Rd., Harvest, AL 35749

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](http://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 <http://naraaca.org>