

Spoke



Folks

Antique Automobile Club of America  North Alabama Region



Merry Christmas 2023



President's Message

Jeff Slagle *President*

Season's greetings, NAR members!

I hope each of you are in good spirits as we approach the festive season.

December has once again brought us together for the annual Christmas party, and I'm thrilled to share some highlights from the memorable evening.

The Christmas gathering saw an impressive turnout with around 50 attendees, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere. The venue was beautifully decorated, and the food was simply delightful. Adding to the festivities, we were treated to the wonderful musical talents that had many of us singing along and enjoying the holiday spirit which added a special touch to the celebration.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the recipients of this year's prestigious awards. The Berry Award, recognizing outstanding service to the club, was bestowed upon Gerald Moore for his dedicated contributions throughout the year. Additionally, the Totcky Award, celebrating the most improved vehicle, was presented to David Hoha, acknowledging his commitment to enhancing his '57 Simplex.

Let's take a moment to congratulate our award winners and acknowledge their noteworthy achievements. Gerald, your service to the club has not gone unnoticed, and David, your dedication to improving your motorcycle has earned you this well-deserved honor.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all who attended and played a vital role in making our Christmas party a resounding success. Your presence significantly enhanced the event, creating a special atmosphere of friendship and joy. I also want to reach out to those members who were unable to join us, whether due to various medical reasons or other commitments. We recognize and understand that life's demands can sometimes keep us apart, and our thoughts and best wishes extend to all members who were not able to attend for various reasons.

Looking ahead to 2024, I am excited about the opportunities and events that await us. I want to remind those who haven't yet paid their 2023 dues to kindly send a \$20 check made out to NAR to Jim True at 16651 East Limestone Road, Harvest, AL 35749.

As we close out this year, I want to express my gratitude for your unwavering support, your enthusiastic participation in our events, and your resilience in overcoming challenges.

Both Drea and I, wish each you all a joyous holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones.

Warm regards, Jeff 

Spoke Folks Content

President's Message	2
NAR Club Information	3-7
ACI Article	8-9
AACA Rummage Box	10
Membership Application	11



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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

Birthdays

2 nd	December	Angie True
3 rd	December	Susan Stefanovic
6 th	December	M.D. Smith
10 th	December	Chuck Nickey
13 th	December	Bob Weidman
14 th	December	Julia King / 83 in 2023
15 th	December	Joann Lennox
23 rd	December	Robert Scites
25 th	December	Carol Grieco
29 th	December	Linda Haney

Anniversaries

27th December Ron and Martha Dion / 54 in 2023



Spoke Folks 2023 Master Editor Award

On December 4, 2023 the AACA Publications Committee announced recognition of Tom Beam as a recipient of the 2023 AACA Master Editor Award. These awards are given out to recognize Tom's service to AACA and the North Alabama Region. This award will be presented at the National Awards Banquet held in Chantilly, VA on Saturday, February 10, 2024.



Member Health Report

Laurie Ferenc has been in Athens Hospital with a virus and Afib.

Great Christmas dinner with NAR members at the Holiday Inn. The food was delicious and the service was great. Jeff presented certificates to the officers for 2023 and presented the Berry and Totcky Awards. The Berry award was presented in absentia to Gerald Moore for service to the club this year. The Totcky Award was presented to David Hoha for restoring the Simplex motorcycle once owned by late club member Charlie Baucom. We missed those who could not be there but enjoyed visiting with those that were there including Gene and Julia King.



Certificate of Appreciation / Dave Robertson



Certificate of Appreciation / Angie Henslee

Certificate of Appreciation / Jim True



Certificate of Appreciation / Claire Catanese



Certificate of Appreciation / Chuck Nickey



2023 NAR Berry Award / Gerald Moore

- Given by the North Alabama Region (NAR) of the Antique Automobile Club of America.
- Awarded to the NAR member who has been of the most service to the club throughout the year.
- Recognizes individuals for their significant contributions to the club's activities and objectives.



Resilience and Determination:

- Overcame challenges such as illness and adverse weather conditions with unwavering determination.

Unyielding Commitment:

- Demonstrated a commitment to the club's activities by persevering through obstacles and challenges.

Exemplary Representation:

- Represented the community in an outstanding manner, showcasing dedication and loyalty to the club.

Community Ambassador:

- Acted as a positive ambassador for the NAR, embodying the spirit of the club despite any personal or external challenges.

2023 NAR Totcky Award / David Hoha

- Exceptional Vehicle Improvement
- Dedication to Enhancement
- Exemplary Craftsmanship



David Hoha / 1957 Simplex



Probably our last car event of this year. Saw several NAR members at Stovehouse Cars and Coffee this morning. There was a very cold breeze blowing across the lot this morning but some interesting cars. Someone said MoPars had taken over this morning. There were two '68 Chargers (Randall Doc Owen's and James Charette's) a '67 Charger (Rick Greenwalt's) as well as a newer one (J Hall's), plus Harry Trumbull's '72 Plymouth and Al Emmi's 69 Roadrunner. So glad to see friends once again.



Best Practices for Classic Car Storage

American Collectors Insurance / 2023

In a perfect world, classic car storage means that we would all have a “Garaj Mahal” to keep our favorite collector cars close at hand. But that’s not the case for a lot of automotive enthusiasts, many of whom are actively searching for classic car storage ideas. We put together some “do’s and don’ts” for you to consider when you’re making a plan to store your classic car.

Choosing the Right Place to Store Your Classic Car

If your local public storage provider has garages that fit your classic car, it’s probably not the worst idea to store with them, right? Unfortunately, there are a lot of risks that come along with using a traditional storage location for your classic car.

To begin you’ll want to read the fine print of the contract before you even consider storing with a general-purpose facility. Many storage providers have a maximum permitted value for everything you have in the unit – and that value is sometimes as low as \$5,000. Storing a vehicle with a value over the maximum can cause you hassles ranging from difficulties with a damage claim to an outright breach-of-contract situation where you might have to come get your car on very short notice.

But even once you’ve verified that you’re clear to store your classic car at a public facility, your worries are far from over. Who provides the lock, and how secure are those locks? How is access to the facility handled? Unless your needs are unusual, you should strongly consider a facility that limits access to the daylight hours. It’s also worth discussing general security procedures. Is the facility verified empty at the end of every day, or is it possible for someone to spend all night drilling out your locks and figuring out how to steal your car?

You should also be aware that your insurance company will need to be notified of your storage location – and don’t be surprised if they adjust your rate accordingly. Even the best general storage facilities are not as secure as the average home. Failing to do this can lead to some tough conversations with your insurer if your classic car is stolen or vandalized.

It is also important to consider the storage unit itself. How well-secured is it from access via the units around it? Is there a camera facing the unit – and will the storage provider give you the footage if something happens? As strange as it sounds, many general storage facilities won’t share any video footage, even if you filed a police report.

While it’s unpleasant to have roaches and other bugs in your storage unit, they’re not nearly as bad as mice. Rodents can make havoc of classic-car wiring. One trick to try: Try leaving a spare wiring harness on the ground for a few weeks, then evaluate it. If something’s been chewing on it, you can expect more of that to happen. It never hurts to put out a few mouse traps and check them periodically. If you see one mouse, assume there are fifty more where he came from.

Given all the hassles and uncertainties discussed above, it’s no surprise that many collectors choose a storage provider specifically tailored to classic or collector cars. You can expect much better security, cleanliness, and attention to detail at these facilities – but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t do a bit of due diligence before dropping your car off for the winter.

You should also get a sense of how and when your car will be evaluated for damage, and what happens if you discover damage that may have been done by the storage facility. This can turn into “he-said, she-said” in a hurry. Full camera coverage in the storage unit can go a long way towards answering these kinds of questions. Last but not least, you should be aware of the services that are offered – and are not offered – by your storage provider, ranging from detailing to winterization and small repair tasks. Will your garage keep air in your tires? If not, how easy will it be for you to do it locally?

The Alternative: Additional Storage of Your Own

If you have the space, zoning, and ability to put up your own storage space on your property, you’ll be surprised how quickly it “pays for itself” compared to dedicated classic-car storage. There are multiple providers of high-quality steel storage buildings that can be put up (carefully) by two people. If your municipality prevents a steel shed, you can look at the numerous prefab wooden buildings options out there. In either case the cost not be extravagant. In fact, you are likely to find that the cost of putting in a concrete floor exceeds the cost of the building. You would want to do that if you can afford it, for reasons we’ll discuss in a little bit.

Continued on next page.

Preparing Classic Car for Storage

In most cases, you should start with a thorough detail job, inside and out, paying particular attention to leather and vinyl surfaces. Confirm that the oil is in outstanding condition, as this can be a cause of internal corrosion if it's not. Fill the fuel tank and add a stabilizing agent. Overinflate the tires by a few psi. If your tires are subject to flat-spotting, consider the use of "tire cradles" to help keep them round. And you'll want at least one chock for the vehicle, so you can leave the parking brake off.

Putting a cover on a car that is already in storage seems like overkill, but it's not. Indoor storage spaces are notorious for dirt and dust, some of which can be actively corrosive to your car's finish. There's also a chance of animal damage to the paint.

If your storage unit does not have a hard concrete floor, you should strongly consider putting a polyurethane tarp beneath your vehicle. This will help prevent moisture from coming out of the ground and rusting the underside, suspension, and fuel tank of your car.

Faced with all these tasks, some classic-car collectors decide to go all the way to a "car bubble." It's not a bad idea; a high-quality classic car bubble can go a long way towards preventing the vast majority of storage-related issues. And they are filtered so dust, insects, and animals don't get in along with the air.

Car bubbles aren't the answer for everyone. To begin with, you'll need continuous 110v power to the fan. And most bubbles won't deter a mouse or rat from chewing its way into your classic car. Nor are the fans immortal, so if you have no plans to see your car at all for year, you might want to think about another method.

Other "prep steps" that are worth considering: disconnecting or (better yet) removing the battery, covering the tailpipe and air intake, and taking the stereo head unit home with you. It almost goes without saying that you shouldn't use your classic car to store other valuables!

Should You Start Your Classic Car Periodically?

The answer to this question is tougher than most people think. If you're storing a two-year-old Honda, then yes – start it and run it for twenty minutes as often as you can. A car from the brass era, or a rare racer? Then it gets complicated.

Most experts agree that your "cycle" should go something like this:

- Start the car and let all fluids reach operating temperature
- Operate the HVAC in all settings for a while, if applicable
- Operate the transmission and move the car slightly to prevent flat-spotting
- Confirm that the battery is charging properly
- Shut down and seal the car back up

That being said, there are a lot of delicate classic cars for which the above routine will do nothing but add wear. Imagine you have a vintage race car that can run 30 hours between engine rebuilds. Do you want to burn 3 hours of that every winter? The majority of classic cars from the Fifties and forward, however, do benefit from being run periodically.

What Else Should I Consider?

If you've been thoughtful about the above issues, and you understand your car reasonably well, there is no reason you can't enjoy years of trouble-free storage. When in doubt, however, you should consult an expert. In particular, you shouldn't just try to "get home" at the end of your storage season if your car isn't running well. Have it towed to your service garage. Everyone knows the story of the car that "ran when parked", and it usually ends with serious mechanical damage. There's only so much you can diagnose and repair in a storage unit.

One last thing: if you're going to sell your classic car out of storage, it's never a bad idea to fire it up and meet potential buyers somewhere else. It will give your a car a chance to get some exercise, and it can prevent giving potential thieves a leg up.

Storing a classic car isn't always easy, and there are plenty of pitfalls – but a lot of owners say that the joy they get from taking their car out of storage periodically is like buying it all over again. Which isn't a bad feeling at all!

AACA Museum

In just 20 years, our AACA Museum in Hershey has become a first class venue for all forms of automotive historical displays and just plain fabulous vehicles. This notoriety throughout the hobby has only been possible through the generosity of our AACA family and its Regions and Chapters. A dedicated staff and passionate volunteers make each visit there an unforgettable experience.

Annual anniversary celebrations are great, but the Museum Board of Directors needs your support to move the Museum forward, towards the next twenty years and beyond. Our individual support and the continued support of our Regions and Chapters has never been more important than it is now.

Here are just a few suggestions for individuals and Regions and Chapters to insure the Museum's continued success:

1. Host your next function at the Museum. Catering is available.
2. Participate in the Adopt-A-Car program.
3. Buy a commemorative engraved brick. Bricks are located at the main Museum entrance.
4. Become an AACA Museum supporting member. Several levels are available and benefits vary with the membership level chosen.
5. Join the exclusive 161 Club, the highest level of support. Visits to private collections are a part of this program.
6. Donate an artifact or vehicle to the Museum.
7. Include the AACA Museum in your estate planning.

Information on any of these donation possibilities is available by contacting the Museum at (717) 566-7100. The AACA Museum is a 501c3 charitable entity and all donations are tax deductible, limited by the extent of the law.

Twenty years of providing a service to our hobby is a momentous occasion. Let's keep that momentum going for the next twenty years by becoming involved today! Visit the Museum at AACAMuseum.org, or better yet, plan a trip in person or organize a bus trip for your Region or Chapter.

YouTube AACA clips

Get to know the AACA Museum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHBWYocqGmQ>

The AACA Library & Reserch Center Collection

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7RA2nXH02Q>

Introduction - AACA Museum Virtual Tour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by93aNUyQo>

A Walk Through the Hershey AACA Museum April, 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzP3OvXhBwU>

Exploring the AACA Bus Annex

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIInoMVpOI0A>



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 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>