

# Spoke Folks



Antique Automobile Club of America  North Alabama Region



Merry Christmas 2025!



Volume 62  Edition 12

December 2025

# President's Message

Jeff Slagle *President*

As we close out 2025, I'm writing my final message as President of the North Alabama Region. After four years in this role, I've had the opportunity to reflect on how far this club has come and how proud I am of what we've accomplished together.

When I took office, we were in the later stages of the COVID pandemic. The club, like many organizations, was scattered. Attendance had dropped, activities had slowed, and many members were just beginning to reconnect. My mission from day one was simple but important: bring the club back together. Restore participation, rebuild momentum, and help NAR feel like a family again.

Looking at where we are today, I believe we've achieved that mission. We've strengthened participation, supported local events, and enjoyed a renewed sense of friendship at meetings, tours, and displays. Most importantly, we brought back the fellowship that makes this club so special.

I also want to say something very clearly: I could never have done this job alone.

In those early post-COVID years especially, your help, kindness, and patience were what kept the club going. The support from officers, board members, and every member who stepped in, whether by volunteering, offering feedback, or simply showing up, made all the difference.

I would be remiss if I didn't express my sincere gratitude to Nell Owen, our former President, whose friendship and encouragement have meant a tremendous amount to me. Her guidance and steady perspective helped me through many moments, and I will always be grateful for her support.

As I transition into the role of Immediate Past President, I am confident that our incoming leaders, President Bob Ferenc and Vice President Ana Maria Clare-Emmi, will carry the club forward with energy, dedication, and a vision for continued growth.

To Chuck, Angie, Dave, Tom, Jim, Wayne, Ana, and Bob: thank you for your commitment, teamwork, and support. To every member of this club: thank you for trusting me with this role, and for the honor of serving as your President for the last four years.

I look forward to supporting the club from the Board and enjoying everything NAR has ahead.

I hope to see everyone at the Christmas Party on December 6 as we celebrate a great year and welcome our new officers.

Thank you for four incredible years. Here's to a strong 2026.

Jeff 

## Spoke Folks Content

President's Message	2
Meeting Minutes	3-4
NAR Club Information	5-11
NAR 2025 Berry Award	12
NAR 2025 Totcky Award	13
NAR Article	14-15
AACA Article	16
AACA National Calendar	17
Membership Application	18



[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>	Bob Ferenc
<b>Vice-President</b>	Ana Maria Clare-Emmi
<b>Secretary</b>	Joel Mason
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Robertson
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Tom Beam
<b>Webmaster</b>	Dave Dunlap
<b>Board of Directors</b>	Wayne Scites Johnathan Doumar Chuck Nickey Jeff Slagle

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Meeting called to order on 23 October 2025 at 6:33 p.m.

## Old Business

- Welcome, Pledge; Visitors introduced themselves & their cars. Billy James visitor
- Secretary minutes to be published in Spoke Folks
- 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

- Gentle reminder that dues need to be paid:
  - \$20 NAR dues
  - \$45 AACA dues
  - Please pay if you haven't already
- Illnesses:
  - Eddie Letson leg infection
  - Harold Caneer recovering
  - Carol Grieco recovering from ankle surgery
  - Frank Tatum rehab for hip replacement
- Sympathies:
  - Jeff Slagle prayers for the recent loss of his mother
- Cars bought and sold:
  - Ana Clare-Emmi sold 55 Chevy truck
  - For Sale; 1957 Star Chief see Jerry Carignan
  - For Sale; 1972 Checker see Harold Caneer
  - For Sale; 1955 Crown Victoria see Larry Turner
- Member Projects:
  - Harold Caneer - Willys Truck
  - Ed Hanish
  - Greg Stefanovic - 1928 Studebaker
- 2025 Car Show Report
  - October 25 at Wicks Family Field/ Joe Davis Stadium
  - All preparations for the event are complete
  - Sponsors - 11 Gold, 11 Platinum, 3 Title, 18 Ads
  - Online registration is open- 30 vehicles registered as of 21 Oct
  - Press release #3 published
  - Need volunteers, Judges and clean-up crew
  - Set up starts at 6:30 a.m., Volunteers arrive at 7:30 a.m., Show field opens at 8:30 a.m., Show starts at 9:00 a.m., Registration closes at 11:00 a.m.
  - Show field is located in the south parking lot
  - Trailer parking available if needed
  - Hornbuckle will be set up
  - Judging starts at 9:00 a.m. or after judges meeting, completed by 12:00 p.m.
  - Door prizes will be awarded

- November board elections are coming up. President: Open; Vice President: Open; Secretary: Open; Treasurer: Dave Robertson; Newsletter: Tom Beam; Webmaster: Dave Dunlap; Board of Directors: Ana, Wayne, Bob, Jim, Jonathan, Joel. Step out of your comfort zone and volunteer to head up one of these positions.
- Upcoming; November 11 Veterans Day parade; November 18: Horsepower Cars & Coffee; December 6: NAR Christmas Party at the Holiday Inn at Midcity
- Snacks provided by Claire Catanese & Ron & Martha Dion
- Door prizes were awarded
- Presentation tonight; Wayne Scites on the Glidden Tour
- Meeting Adjourned

# NAR Club Information

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## Member Milestones

### November Birthdays

- 1 Joe Marchelites
- 7 Ana Maria Clare-Emmi
- 8 Ron Dion / **83 in 2025**
- 8 Teri Moore
- 11 Jim Mullins / **96 in 2025**
- 15 Dena Robertson

### November Anniversaries

- 4 Roger and Konnie Mays

### December Birthdays

- 2 Angie True
- 3 Susan Stefanovic
- 6 M. D. Smith
- 7 Susan Wachtel
- 10 Chuck Nickey
- 13 Bob Weidman
- 14 Julia King / **85 in 2025**
- 23 Robert Scites
- 25 Carol Grieco
- 29 Linda Haney

### December Anniversaries

- 27 Ron and Martha Dion / **56 in 2025**

## NAR 2026 Officers and Board of Directors (BOD)

President	Bob Ferenc
Vice President	Ana Maria Clare-Emmi
Secretary	Joel Mason
Treasurer	Dave Robertson
Newsletter	Tom Beam
Webmaster	Dave Dunlap
Board of Directors	Wayne Scites Johnathon Doumar Chuck Nickey Jeff Slagle

## NAR Monthly Meeting Refreshments

20<sup>th</sup> November  
6<sup>th</sup> December

*Drinks: Dave & Natalie Hoha / Snacks: Al & AnaClare Emmi  
**Christmas Party / Holiday Inn / 5903 University Dr, Huntsville, AL***

# NAR Club Information

## Christmas Trivia Questions

Alabama was the first U.S. state to declare Christmas a legal holiday in 1836, with Louisiana and Arkansas following in 1838, before Christmas became a federal holiday in 1870.

### Key Details

**First State:** Alabama (1836).  
**Followed By:** Louisiana and Arkansas (1838).  
**Federal Holiday:** President Ulysses S. Grant signed a bill in 1870.

- Which popular Christmas beverage is also called “milk punch?”
- What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?
- Where was baby Jesus born?
- What is the real-life department store the movie Miracle on 34th Street is based on?
- What are the two most popular names for Santa Claus?
- Elvis isn’t going to have a white Christmas, he’s going to have a....
- What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree?
- In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born?
- In the movie, It’s A Wonderful Life, what happened every time a bell rang?
- What words follow “Silent Night” in the song?
- In Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol, what was the first name of Scrooge?
- Which country did eggnog come from?
- Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on?
- What did Frosty the Snowman do when a magic hat was placed on his head?
- Which branch of the military runs “Toys for Tots”?
- Which Christmas song was recorded by Jose Feliciano in 1970?
- Around 1.3 billion of these are sent each year in the United States during Christmas.
- What do children get from Santa if they’re on the “Naughty List”?
- What is the name of Rudolph the red nosed reindeer’s girlfriend?
- Which Christmas song contains the lyric “Everyone dancing merrily in the new old-fashioned way?”
- What are you supposed to do when you find yourself under the mistletoe?
- Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
- In the song “Winter Wonderland,” what do we call the snowman?
- According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the eighth day of Christmas?
- Whose eyes are all aglow in “The Christmas Song?”
- How many gifts in total were given in “The Twelve Days of Christmas” song?
- Which fairy tale were the first gingerbread houses inspired by?
- In the movie A Christmas Story, name the neighbors whose dog ate the Christmas turkey?
- Which Christmas ballet premiered in 1892?
- In the classic song, “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” what type of pudding is mentioned?
- How many pounds does the average person gain at Christmastime?
- This hot-spiced cider is a popular Yuletide tradition. What is it?
- What’s the German name for the English song, “O Christmas Tree”?
- Who played the role of George Bailey in the classic film, It’s a Wonderful Life?

# NAR Club Information

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## Christmas Trivia Answers

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- Eggnog
- Join in any reindeer games
- In Bethlehem
- Macy's
- Kris Kringle and Saint Nick
- Blue Christmas
- An angel
- Turkey (originally Patara, a city in the ancient Asia Minor)
- An angel got his wings
- Holy night
- Ebenezer
- England
- The Christian bishop St. Nicholas
- He began to dance around
- The Marines
- "Feliz Navidad"
- Christmas cards
- A lump of coal
- Clarice
- "Rocking Around The Christmas Tree"
- Kiss
- Germany
- Parson Brown
- Eight maids a-milking
- Tiny tots
- 364
- Hansel and Gretel
- The Bumpuses
- "The Nutcracker"
- Figgy pudding
- One to two pounds
- Wassail
- "O Tannenbaum"
- Jimmy Stewart

# NAR Club Information

## An Introduction to the **NEW** NAR Online Member Directory



The NAR Online Club Directory is available for viewing on multiple devices, your personal computers, smart phones or tablets. The directory is password protected and only available to NAR club members.

For login assistance please contact Jim True at [j.true@mchsi.com](mailto:j.true@mchsi.com).

### Accessing using your personal computer (PC)

Enter [app.onlinememberdirectory.com](http://app.onlinememberdirectory.com) in your PC web browser.



### Sign In

1. Enter your email.

2. Click **Sign In**.



### Sign in

Sign in with your phone number or email

Phone Number or Email

1.

2.

Sign in

Don't have an account? Sign up with [Phone](#) or [Email](#)

### User Details

1. Click **Forgot Password**.

2. Click **Send verification code**.



### User Details

Email Address

j.true@mchsi.com



### User Details

Password

Password

2.

Send verification code

1.

[Forgot your password?](#)

Continue

Continue

## User Details

3. Your code will be emailed.

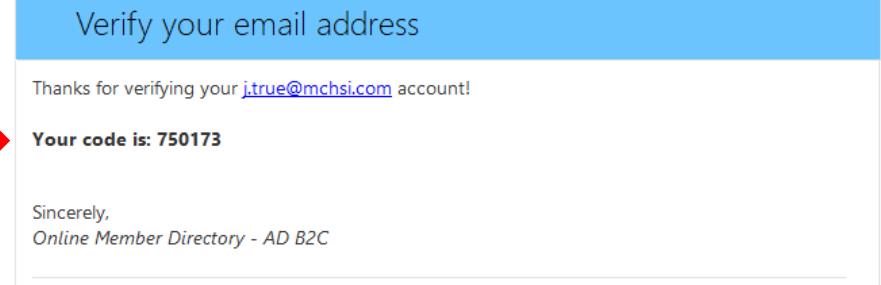
### Online Member Directory - AD B2C account email verification code

Microsoft on behalf of Online Member Directory - AD B2C [msonlineservicesteam@microsoftonline.com]

[Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.](#)

Sent: Sat 11/15/2025 7:36 AM

To: j.true@mchsi.com



## User Details

4. Enter code in the open box.

5. Click **Verify code**.

6. Click **Continue**.

Online Member DIRECTORY

User Details

Verification code has been sent to your inbox. Please copy it to the input box below.

j.true@mchsi.com \*

750173 \*

Change e-mail

Verify code Send new code

Continue

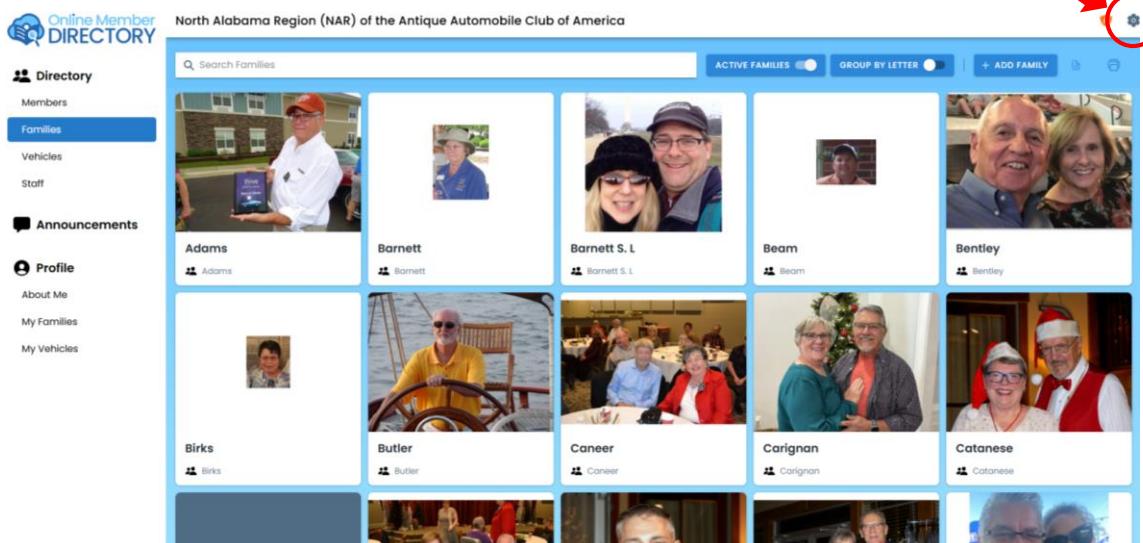
E-mail address verified. You can now continue.

j.true@mchsi.com \*

Continue

## Reset Password

1. Click **Settings** icon.



## Create a New Account

Enter [app.onlinememberdirectory.com](http://app.onlinememberdirectory.com) in your PC web browser.

**1. Click** Don't have an account, sign up by **email**.

**2. Enter** your email address.

**3. Click** Send verification code.

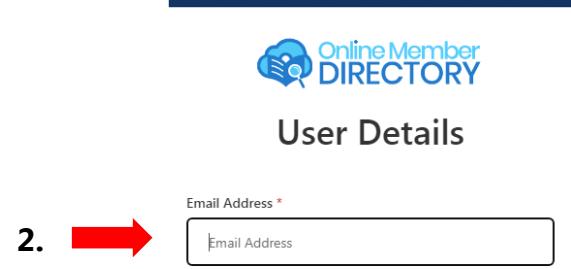
**4. Enter** your verification code.

**5. Click** Verify code.

The system will automatically try to match your new account with your existing membership using your name and email.

If it matches, you will be all set!

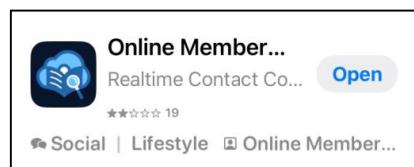
If you receive an error, Contact Jim True at [j.true@mchsi.com](mailto:j.true@mchsi.com) or call (256) 431-0510.



## How to download the mobile app onto a Smartphone and Tablet

Using the mobile app search for **Online Member Directory**.

We hope you use, learn from, and enjoy the NAR online club directory!



# NAR Events

## 2025 Christmas Party

6 December 2025

What a truly wonderful Christmas Party 2025! We've successfully concluded another outstanding year! We extend our deepest gratitude to Jeff, the 2025 board members, and all the volunteers for their incredible work and dedication. Thanks to the support of every single member, our club is exactly where it needs to be. We are all proud of this shared success. NAR looks forward with excitement to 2026 as it promises to be a remarkable year. Fasten your seatbelts for the journey ahead!



## NAR 2025 Berry Award / Laurie Ferenc

- 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.

## NAR 2025 Totcky Award / Harold Caneer

- Exceptional Vehicle Improvement
- Dedication to Enhancement
- Exemplary Craftsmanship



## Celebrating the Cars of the Movie A Christmas Story

The cars of A Christmas Story are a thing. The 1983 movie, written by Jean Shepherd, quietly features a number of classic automobiles of the late 1930s and early 1940s. These vehicles are celebrated by car enthusiasts every year, as a matter of Christmas tradition. The funny thing is that cars really have little to do with the story – except for the fact that Ralphie's old man is an "Oldsmobile Man". Of course, Ralphie was based on Jean Shepherd himself. So what we see in A Christmas Story is just an extension of Jean Shepherd, his old man, and the cars of his youth.



### ~ Jean Shepherd and Cars ~

A Christmas Story was the work of Jean Shepherd, an American humorist, writer and radio and television personality of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While most famous in Christmas circles for his classic film A Christmas Story, Shepherd spent decades in media entertaining and writing about topics of Americana. Most do not realize that Jean Shepherd was also a car freak. He owned MGs, Porsches, and Morgans, even a Goggomobil. He was an announcer at sports car rallies and a monthly columnist in Car and Driver magazine. So while A Christmas Story was never about cars there are subtle references to classic vehicles that car enthusiasts celebrate every Christmas.

### ~ Oh Fuuuuuudge ~

Shepherd narrates A Christmas Story with many brilliant and comedic expressions such as when he says "Some men are Baptist, others Catholic; my father was an Oldsmobile man." That is backed up by the few scenes in the movie where the family heads out in their 1938 Oldsmobile Touring Sedan. The car used in the movie is frequently on display at A Christmas Story House & Museum in Cleveland. The blue four-door sedan shows up during the "Ohhhh fuuuuuudge" fiasco when Ralphie's helping his dad change a flat tire on the car. You can also see the family's primary mode of transportation parked outside their house and at the Chinese restaurant.

The model originally cost an affordable \$900 MSRP and offered enough fuel efficiency, power, and size to function as a family vehicle. Its six-cylinder engine and rear-wheel drive gave it enough muscle to transport a family and their Christmas tree. 140,000 models were produced, and the one used in the movie was donated by a local Cleveland car collector. The car, along with the home's furnace, was frequently a source for the Old Man's profanity. That profanity was also authentic in the sense that the 1938 Oldsmobile featured technology that was primitive compared to our day. "That hot damn Olds has froze up again! That son of a bitch would freeze up in the middle of summer on the equator!" Antifreeze then was methanol, and cooling systems were not sealed, so it would quickly evaporate. We use ethylene glycol today, which is much less volatile. These details – and many others – fill the Christmastime pages of car collector and enthusiast websites every December.

## ~ More than Just Oldsmobile ~

Other classics appear in the movie in the background and those details are missed by most of us. But not by car enthusiasts. For example, when Ralphie takes on Scut Farkus he walks through a rusted out Ford Model A. When Flick sticks his tongue to the flagpole all the car nuts notice two things: the police car is a 1948 Chevy Stylemaster and the firetruck is a 1938 Ford. What most of these car websites and fans are pointing out is the same charm that captures the rest of us when we watch *A Christmas Story*.



For me personally it is one Christmas movie I can recall actually seeing for the first time in a movie theater. My Dad took our family to it as part of a Christmas vacation. It is THE one movie where I can recall Dad laughing hysterically at. That was not something he would ever do in public. But my Dad was a child of the 1940s.

Everything – from the kitchen appliances to, yes, the cars – was a gleeful throwback for him. Dad was the kid who wanted the BB gun for Christmas. He could completely relate. And so can the rest of us – even if we cannot specifically identify the cars used in the background.

## Automotive Genealogy

My wife and a paternal second cousin are interested in genealogy. The cousin has built family trees for our Smith family, my mother's Butler family and Barb's family—the latter 2 being no relation to her at all but she loves doing it. I enjoy looking at other research but don't have time to do it myself. This has no bearing on cars but got me thinking another thought "I wonder what happened to an old car I looked at one time"

While sitting at a stop light recently, I remembered a really nice black 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air 4 door that would have made a great HPOF car. It used to be parked at that intersection. I wondered what had ever happened to the car. It probably would have been mine except the dealer was so nasty I refused to deal with him. That got me to thinking also about a very nice 1955 Chevrolet we looked at one time that also disappeared probably never to be seen again. It can be interesting tracing our cars 'roots' and with state motor vehicle agencies being more and more restrictive in the information they let out it has become more and more difficult to research a car's history.

Some things are just meant to be however, I have a 1959 Impala 4 door hardtop which from the owner's manual I knew had come from the town where my son Nathan and I had both attended high school. At the local town fall festival I took the car and left a sign on it asking that if anyone knew the original owner, to please contact me, as I would like to know the car's history. No one responded. The next year we took the completely stock 1959 Chevrolet to a Good Guys event. Before I even got parked, a couple of guys walked up and started asking questions about the car, including "Was the a/c in it when you got it? Is it a 348 engine and was it in it when you got it?" After the questions were answered he said, "my Dad had one just like it." I responded "I know the original owner's name" and told him what it was. He then responded "That's my Dad's car. I was really upset when I found out he had sold it. I've tried to trace it and the county sheriff friend told me he couldn't tell me where it was even if he ran the records." I found out there had been very little time between when his dad sold it and when I bought it from another party.

Another of my cars a 1942 Ford I bought in 1976 from its original owner. I offered it on loan to that county's museum for the winter which they readily accepted to put it outside their WWII POW display in the museum. As we were delivering the car to the museum, one of the local museum workers asked. "Did this car come from a little old lady who lived by the tennis court?" I said "yes." He responded "I never thought I'd see this car again." I have owned the car for 41 years, and he remembered the car. It made my day.

A friend and his Dad restored a Model T Ford, which the dad then took to California when he retired. My friend got to wondering about the car and was hoping to get it back. He was able to trace the car and when he found it, it was in a used car lot in California. He bought it and brought it back to Nebraska where he now enjoys it. A lot of memories are tied up in it.

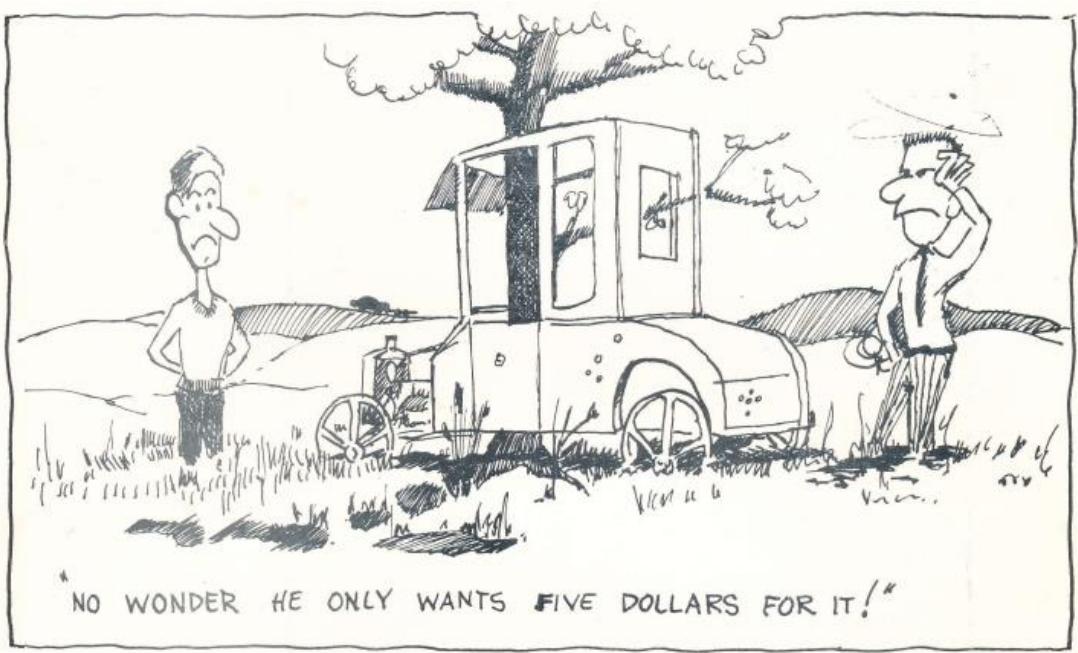
Another friend wanted a car like he and his wife had had when they got married. A 1964 Ford Galaxie 500 2 door hardtop. He bought a similar car to restore, then was rummaging around a salvage yard about 50 miles from his home and on top of a stack of cars headed for the crusher was a 1964 Galaxie 500. It was HIS car! His bought it and his restoration project suddenly changed.

Some look for early cars and have tried to trace them down from old car magazines, including ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE. Some searches do not have happy endings. Another friend has searched and searched for the 1967 Caprice coupe that he bought new—To no avail whatever happened to it will probably be as big a mystery as the two that got away from our family: a 1941 Pontiac, and a 1958 Apache Pickup. All that I have are photos. So, on cold winters nights or too Hot summer days, see if you can research where your car has been or where one of your previous ones is now- it's interesting.

# AACA National Calendar

## Upcoming AACA 2026 National Calendar

February 5-7	Annual Convention – Chantilly, VA
March 19-21	Special Nationals – Puerto Rico
March 26-28	Winter Nationals – Cartersville, GA
April (TBD)	Spring Nationals – Charlotte, NC & Las Vegas, NV
August 19-22	Annual Grand Nationals/Zenith Awards – Allentown, PA
October 6-9	Eastern Fall Nationals – Hershey, PA





## 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](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 <https://nar-aaca.org>