

Spoke Folks

Antique Automobile Club of America  North Alabama Region



*1971 Heart of Huntsville Mall Show
George Fore's 1938 Chevrolet and James Beaver's 1930 Durant Sedan*



President's Message

Bob Ferenc *President*

Greetings to all,

As we begin a new year under new leadership, you may notice a slightly different writing style in these messages. While styles may change, our shared purpose, values, and commitment to the North Alabama Region remain the same.

As we embark on a new year, I want to extend my warmest wishes for a happy and prosperous 2026.

This year also marks our **65th anniversary as a club**, first organized in 1961 as the Huntsville Antique Automobile Club. In 1962 the club submitted a petition for charter to the national AACA and was granted that petition on October, 12 1962 under the NAR name. In February 1963 the AACA charter was presented to the membership of the club. With those milestones in mind, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for everyone's dedication, hard work, and contributions. Your commitment and enthusiasm have been instrumental in our continued success, and I am truly grateful.

2025 was a tremendous year for NAR. We showed up in numbers at many events and we won awards, lots of awards. Our wide variety of cars and trucks continues to set us apart. And, of course, we can't forget those members who always seem to win the door prizes or the 50/50, some more often than others, we know who you are.

We supported cruises hosted by other clubs, and they returned that support to us. One of the highlights of the year was our cruises to retirement homes. Seeing the smiles on our seniors' faces and hearing their stories about cars they once owned, cars many of us now drive, was truly special.

Our **annual November car show** was a huge success, and we are already looking forward to making it even bigger and better this year. The parades, the Memorial Day picnic, thank you to the Scites for hosting, as always and our dinner meetings all drew great crowds and gave us time to connect as members and friends. Garage crawls, scenic cruises, and dinners out never disappoint.

Jeff's jokes... I'll leave it at that.

And our **Christmas party** was once again, a wonderful evening filled with great food, fellowship, music, prizes, awards and a visit from Santa.

2025 was a great year because of the strong foundation built by our past leadership, and for that, I offer my sincere thanks. **2026 promises to be another strong year**, and our officers and Board are committed to keeping NAR growing and thriving. Remember, this is your club. If you have ideas or suggestions for future events, please share them with me or any officer or Board member.

I look forward to seeing everyone on **January 22 at 6:30 p.m.** for the NAR Monthly Meeting at **Signals Museum**, 1806 University Dr. NW, Huntsville, AL 35801. Please plan to attend, as we will be proposing the club's direction for 2026 and we welcome everyone's participation.

"Life Is Too Short to Drive Boring Cars."

Bob 

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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

January Birthdays

4 Russell King
6 Keith Haney
16 David Hoha
25 John Adams
27 Peggy Richard
31 Natalie Hoha

January Anniversaries

9 Robbie and Angie Henslee / 39 in 2026
9 Jerry and Annette Carignan / 55 in 2026
9 Marcia Snellen/Danny Barger
13 Dave and Sandy Dunlap
23 Jeff and Drea Slagle

February Birthdays

2 Jeff Slagle
3 Doug Cooper
8 Ed Hanish
10 Cappy O'Halloran
14 David Miller
18 Harold Caneer / 86 in 2026
20 Dave Robertson
21 Hanna Scites
22 Michael Darnell
28 Kim Letson



NAR Monthly Meeting

Date Thursday, January 22, 2026
Time 6:30 PM
Location SIGNALS Museum of Information Explosion
1806 University Dr NW, Huntsville, AL 35801

NAR-AACA Website Addition / <https://nar-aaca.org>

Be sure and checkout the "NEW!" Archives addition to our NAR-AACA website. You can view great pictures and fun activities from previous NAR years.

Southeastern Fall Nationals

Date June 11-13, 2026
Location Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Events Tours of historical sites such as Manhattan Project landmarks and Brushy Mountain Prison

Why Didn't I Think of That? / January 1971 NAR Antiquarian News

With this issue we introduce this article which is being planned as a continuing series in the future issues. For the most part the articles will discuss simple tips and/or tricks that may be helpful in your restoration efforts or other projects.

Leading off with this issue is the "persuader". Surely you have had a need for a bigger hammer to make things "fit" or "come apart"; the problem being in how-to-do-without-nicking-the-parts. The answer-a lead hammer. The material required to make your own persuader are:

1. 5 pound blob of plumbers lead-cost \$1.50 to \$2.00 at most hardware stores (not available at Sears anymore).
2. 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch O.D. x 12 inches long shaft-whatever scrap you may have
3. 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch I.D. x 10 inch long hose-to fit on shaft snugly
4. Two 1/4 inch x 12 inches long bolts plus four 1/4 inch nuts
5. Beer can (or coke, soup, etc.)
6. About 18 gage wire-6 lengths at 6 inches each-copper is recommended
7. Propane torch and wife's stove
8. Vise grip pliers

Proceed as follows:

1. Drill two 1/4 inch diameter holes in the shaft-the first about 1/2 inch from the end and the second about 1 1/4 inches from the same end and 90° to that of the first.
2. With 2 nuts per bolt, center each bolt in the drilled holes and tighten. This will prevent the head from flying off during use.
3. Tie 1 wire at each end of the bolts (total 4 wires)
4. Position the beer can upright on stove.
5. Place shaft in the can. Hook each of the 4 wires, that are tied to the bolts, over the top edge of the can so that the shaft is held about 1/4 inch above the can bottom.
6. Loop and twist the two remaining wires around shaft and hook over top edge of can in a manner that will keep the shaft centered within the can.
7. Turn on the stove to high heat and start melting the lead blob into the can using the propane torch. Do not hold the blob too high above the can as this may cause splatter. In holding the blob with the pliers, avoid bumping the shaft for obvious reasons. After melting the blob, which may take 5-10 minutes, maintain the stove high heat and allow to air cool to room temperature. Water quenching could be dangerous if improperly applied and therefore not recommended-also, could cause erratic shrinkage such that the lead would rattle on the shaft. Note: while melting the blob, the seam in the can may spring a leak, tie a piece of aluminum foil (unwrinkled) over the seam with wire and hope.
8. When cool, tear off the can and trim wire, gloves should be worn for this step.
9. Place hose on shaft-the tighter the better-and you now have a persuader of about 2 1/2 inch O.D. and 2 1/4 to 2 1/2 inch long.

*** Spoke Folks Newsletter Editor** – If you have already created a "persuader", or have one in your tool collection which you have used on previous restoration projects, please bring it to the next NAR meeting for a show and tell.

Kamholtz Korner / The Rummage Box / <https://aaca.org/rummage-box>

The Rummage Box was created to provide extra content for your region and chapter newsletters. In addition to the important National AACA updates, we would like to showcase locally-written articles with a broader appeal. In particular, we ask you to share:

- ❁ "How to" articles written by you or your members that may be useful to new collector car owners. For example, how to ready a car for a judged show or how to prepare a car for storage.
- ❁ "How to" articles for owners who want to take a more hands-on interest in the mechanical workings of their cars. These articles could be make or model specific or more general in nature, and could be written for the novice or the expert.
- ❁ Renovation articles. Not only might these stories inspire members who are just beginning projects of their own, they often include mention of resources the owners used (good or bad) and may include lessons learned.
- ❁ "How to" articles about planning events, tours, meets and social activities. What you know and share may benefit another region or chapter.
- ❁ Articles featuring online resources, such as vendor or car club websites, YouTube videos, blogs, vlogs, discussion boards, or any other sites relevant to our hobby.

We would also welcome:

- ❁ "How to" articles for both new and seasoned editors. New editors might enjoy articles that detail best practices for creating the first issue, explore mailing/emailing options, and discuss the pros/cons of black & white vs. color printing. The seasoned editors might welcome articles that take them beyond the basics to new software options or an exploration of some of the lesser-used functionality of their current software.

AACA 2026 National Calendar

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

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

Feb 5-7	Annual Convention – Chantilly, VA
Mar 19-21	Special Nationals – Puerto Rico
Mar 26-28	Winter Nationals – Cartersville, GA
Apr 9-11	Southeastern Spring Nationals – Charlotte, NC
Apr 23-25	Annual Grand Nationals / Western Spring Nationals – Las Vegas, NV
May 28-30	Eastern Spring Nationals – Indiana, PA
Jun 11-13	Southeastern Fall Nationals – Oak Ridge, TN
Jun 15-19	Sentimental Tour – Mechanicsburg, PA
Jul 23-25	Central Spring Nationals – Green Bay, WI
Aug 5-8	Southeastern Divisional Tour – Flat Rock, NC
Aug 19-22	Annual Grand Nationals / Zenith Awards – Allentown, PA
Sept 9-14	Founders Tour (1932-2001) – Williamsburg, VA
Sept 20-26	Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre-1943) – Dover, DE
Oct 6-9	Eastern Fall Nationals – Hershey, PA

True Story

Did you ever loan your paint spray gun and have it returned as a squirt gun? Well after a 20 minute tirade and another 20 minute for my composure to return to normal I began to examine the gun and could only marvel at the way the gun had been expertly modified so it would send a solid stream of liquid about 20 feet (I unfortunately tried paint). It seems that my fellow members lawn, due to the spring like weather, had become infested with wild onions and he had been squirting them with mineral spirits. Rube strikes again,

1971 March-April Antique Aquarian News





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>