

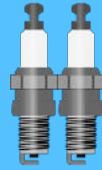


NUTS, BOLTS & SPARKPLUGS

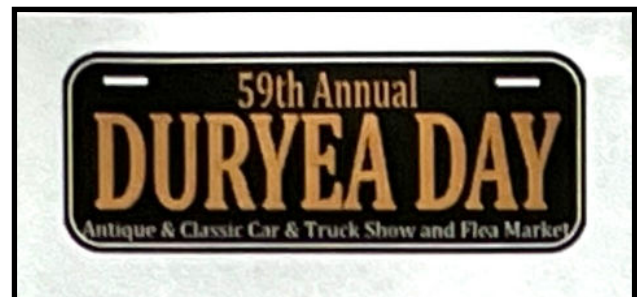
The newsletter of the Pottstown Region AACA

AACA's LIVE WIRE REGION

ESTABLISHED IN 1952



JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Hobby Night
- Flyers for upcoming events
- Battle of the Car Clubs
- Sponsor letter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bob Dare

Hello Friends,

I hope your windshield wipers are working well. In case you didn't notice it has been raining more than I like. The weatherman is promising that better weather is coming. If you can believe him.

I would like to thank all the members that shared what they like to collect at our Hobby Night. Just remember that when you are collecting good stuff you have to be careful about the amount you are collecting because the only difference between a collector and a hoarder is that the collector has display shelves. Also, we appreciated the great craftsmanship displayed in the beautifully made items by our ladies.

Notice that the membership is growing ----we now have 97 members. I hope all 97 decide to come to our Picnic at Hickory Park on 8/23/25. It will be catered again this year by C.D. Catering. See the flyer with all details in this newsletter. Good food, good friends and good times.

Stay safe and see you soon,

Bob Dare



2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
GET EVENT INFO AND FLYERS ON THE CLUB WEBSITE
<https://pottstown.aaca.com/>

If you have any suggestions for club activities, please contact Tom Wright.

August 14 - Meeting for Duryea Day at Boyertown Museum at 1:30PM. This will be our final meeting before the show.

August 23 - Club picnic at Hickory Park pavilion 3. Picnic will be catered by CD's Place and everyone encouraged to bring a dessert. Please **RSVP by August 1st** to Cliff and Mary Wilson 610-948-5922 or wilsondad2@msn.com (see flyer in this newsletter)

August 29 - Park set up and walk through for Duryea Day Car & Truck Show. Please come out to help us by 9AM

August 30 - 59th Annual Duryea Day Car & Truck Show Flyer included in this newsletter or on our website. Please come out and support our club.

November 29- Black Friday Junk Yard Tour - more info to follow

December 14- Club Christmas party at Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. More details to follow.

Upcoming AACA Events

**July 2-5 – Central Spring Nationals –
Auburn, IN**

**July 24-26 – Grand Nationals / Zenith –
Dayton, OH**

**August 12-15 – Eastern Divisional Tour –
Northern Maine**

**September 7-12 – Revival AAA Glidden
Tour® (Pre-1943) – Owensboro, KY**

**October 7-10, 2025 – Eastern Fall Meet –
Hershey, PA**

**October 18-22, 2025 – Central Divisional
Tour – San Antonio to Gonzales, TX**

**October 23-25, 2025 – Central Fall
Nationals – Galveston, TX**



My 1955 Bel Air Chevrolet

by Bob Strunk

My first car in high school in the 60's was a 1955 Chevy two door sedan. I only had it a brief time as the engine gave out and I had to junk it. After a time, I found a



1955 four-door Chevy that was in good condition, so I bought it. I drove my 55 faithfully to school and work until I entered the Army in 1969.



During my time in the Army stationed in Alaska, my '55 Chevy' remained at home. Consequently, I purchased a 1957 Chevrolet for personal transportation and to chauffeur my fellow Army buddies around Alaska. After being discharged from the



Army I sold my 57 but kept my 55. Now that I was home, I wanted a new car, so I purchased a 1971 Chevrolet Chevelle SS.



It is evident that I hold a strong preference for Chevrolet vehicles.

As the years rolled on, I continued to drive both my Chevy's.

In September 1973, my father told me about a coworker who was selling a 283-engine. At the time, I considered replacing my 265-engine in my 55 with this engine, so I expressed interest in the offer. Subsequently, I purchased the engine for \$40, and the seller provided an option to acquire a junked 1955 Chevrolet for an additional \$5. Upon inspection of the vehicle behind his house, I was surprised to find it was a Bel Air hardtop, which was something I had always desired. Despite its poor condition, I decided to proceed with the purchase. The seller included the power glide transmission as part of the deal.

Having recently married in June; I lacked adequate storage space for an additional vehicle. My father generously offered to store it at his residence. After transporting

(CONTINUED)

the vehicle home, I conducted a thorough inspection and discovered that the car's body was remarkably solid. I then decided to install the engine and transmission to make it operable.

Acquiring the 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air hardtop presented both challenges and opportunities. The vehicle was more than just another car; it represented a project with significant potential for development. Eventually, I sold my 55 Chevy four-door and kept the 55 Bel Air hardtop, which served as my dependable work vehicle for many years. Of course, I still had my 71 Chevelle as well.

Throughout the 70's and 80's I undertook the task of refurbishing the 55 and began participating in car shows.

Initially, I turned it into a Hot Rod, modifying the engine and painting it a variety of times over the years before restoring it to its original condition.



(CONTINUED)

When I started the next restoration in the late 80's, I put in a 265 engine, kept the power glide transmission, and installed an original interior.



1987



Back to Original

Because I now had it back to its original condition, I was able to attend the annual Hershey Car show and once received a 2nd Junior award. Also, as an original I could display my 55 at Das Awkscht Fescht.



One of my showings at Das Awkscht Fescht

As the world entered the 21st century, I embarked on the restoration of my 55, transforming it into a Resto Mod. The project involved installing a 350 engine, upgrading the transmission to a four-speed, and completing the final paintwork in medium blue and pearl white, thereby maintaining the original blue and white aesthetic.



21st Century Restoration Project



After completing this project, I took part in various national events in states including Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Jersey, and Delaware, as well as hundreds of local shows. My 55 received multiple awards at both national and local levels.

(CONTINUED)

Louisville, Ky 2018



Dover Raceway 2024



In 2013, I had the remarkable opportunity to participate in the Dunkin' Donuts Thanksgiving Day Parade, which took place in front of the notable Philadelphia Art Museum. My vehicle was prominently displayed as a dance troupe performed a routine inspired by "Grease" in its vicinity.



2013 Dunkin' Donuts Thanksgiving Day Parade

Throughout the years, the car transitioned from being merely a mode of transportation or a project to becoming a treasured artifact of my personal history. It encapsulated memories of extensive journeys, meticulous maintenance sessions in the garage, and numerous discussions with fellow car enthusiasts at car events. The transformation of the 1955 Bel Air paralleled my life journey, continually evolving while preserving its essence. Today, as I observe the polished chrome, the meticulously restored interior, and the craftsmanship evident in every detail, I acknowledge that it is more than just an automobile—it stands as a testament to passion, perseverance, and the enduring narratives that enrich life.

In summary, my journey commenced 52 years ago with a modest investment of \$45.00 in my 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air Hardtop.

AMERICA ON WHEELS - BATTLE OF THE CAR CLUBS

by Tom Wright

Over a year ago I was asked, as the current president of the Keystone Chapter of POCl, to consider participating in a new venture at the museum in Allentown, PA, known as America On Wheels.

I met a gentleman a few years ago at one of the chapter's car shows. He said he enjoyed attending our shows, and he wanted to discuss a contest of sorts between our Pontiac Club and three other car clubs. I said we would be interested in hearing more details. He said he would be in touch with me with additional information. He also went on to mention that he was still working out the details of the "contest" and selling it to the museum.

Rich Greene turned out to be the museum's representative and is now a good friend. In the summer of 2024 at GM on Display, Rich said they worked out all the details and were ready to move forward. He shared the details with me and asked if we would be ready to go in October. The contest would consist of 4 clubs-- Keystone Chapter, Thunderbird Club, Mopar's, and finally the Wheels of Time Hotrod Club.



Each club would be given a space for three cars of their choice and a display theme developed by each club's imagination. The visitors to the museum would be given a ballot as well as club information and then they would vote on their favorite exhibit. At the end of the exhibit (October 15th through April 15th 2025) a count of votes would decide the club winner.

I then proceeded to pick three vehicles from our club members. The owners were asked to give up their cars for six months, but free storage for the winter months in a warm facility made it easy to get a strong willingness to participate....who doesn't like free storage?

The three participants agreed on our theme-- The History of Pontiac.

The history is hard to explain with only three cars, but I think we did pretty good with Jim & Elka Martin's 1926 Pontiac (more on Jim's car in a future newsletter) which was the first Pontiac model year. Tim & Karen Britton entered their 1959 Bonneville introducing iconic first year "Wide Track" and "Tri-Power".



(CONTINUED)



Finally, my own 2004-05 Bonneville, which ended 48 years of Bonneville production and some believe started the demise of our beloved Pontiac.

We peppered the display with a few historic posters supplied from the collection of our own club member Bill McIntosh, highlighting Pontiac's World War II participation. Again, hard to put 80 years of history into three examples.

At the end of the six months, the participants were invited to a luncheon at the museum in thanks for their contribution and participation and to present the fan favorite winner as judged by museum visitors' votes. Unfortunately, the Pontiac display was not the winner. That honor went to the Thunderbird Club who had three classic examples of the highly popular T-birds. Well deserved a fine exhibit.

Our club, Keystone State, did very well, but more importantly we got some great visibility for our chapter, met some other car collector clubs, and very importantly started a long time relationship and friendship with the museum America on Wheels.

I think the three of us who participated, along with so many of our club members that attended the exhibit, felt it was an experience no one would ever forget. Enjoy the pictures of the exhibit and a certificate from the museum thanking Keystone for participating in the inaugural event "Battle of the Car Clubs."



RSVP BY AUGUST 1ST

POTTSTOWN REGION AACA PICNIC
HICKORY PARK
2140 BIG ROAD, GILBERTSVILLE, PA 19525
PAVILION #3 (same as last year)

COME AND JOIN US FOR THE FOOD & FUN!

WHEN: August 23, 2025---11:00 am to 3:00 pm

COST: "FREE" FOR CLUB MEMBERS AGAIN THIS YEAR!

\$20 for guests

Cliff and Mary Wilson will coordinate the picnic again this year and CD'S PLACE will again cater our picnic food --- hot dogs, hamburgers, B-B-Q Chicken, salad, a veggie and/ fruit tray, with water, iced tea, and sodas to drink.

Members are invited to bring desserts or munchies to share.

Plus, we will also take this opportunity to review data/ procedures for the Duryea Day Show.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY AUGUST 1, 2025...

Email Cliff Wilson at wilsondad2@msn.com or call at 610 948-5922

GUESTS ARE \$20 and checks should be made payable to the Pottstown Region AACA.
Mail the reservation form below with your check to: Mary Wilson, 318 Washington Street,
Royersford, Pa 19468

MEMBER NAMES - (no charge): _____

GUEST NAMES -\$20 each _____

TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING _____

HAVE YOU REGISTERED?



Now Includes

- ✓ Horseless Carriage Club of America
- ✓ KooKoo The Cartoon Magician
- ✓ Boyertown Alumni Marching Unit
- ✓ Food Vendors
- ✓ Participation Gifts
- ✓ 8 Specialty Trophies
- ✓ Top 30 Trophies

Boyertown Community Park, 419 South Madison Street, Boyertown, PA
Saturday, August 30 from 9 am – 3 pm

REGISTRATION

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Address _____
 City, State, ZIP _____ Email _____

| Year | Make | Model | | |
|------|------|-------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Automobile | <input type="checkbox"/> Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Automobile | <input type="checkbox"/> Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle |

| | Before 8/22 | After 8/22 | Quantity | Total |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHOW VEHICLE registration | each \$12 | \$20 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHOW VEHICLE registration (pre-1920) | each \$0 | \$0 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAR CORRAL registration | each \$15 | \$20 | | |
| **Please use Car Corral to sell vehicle—no "FOR SALE" signs in Flea Market or Show Field** | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLEA MARKET registration 6 am setup | per space \$15 | \$20 | | |

All Checks Payable/Mail to:

BMHV

85 South Walnut St

Boyertown, PA 19512-1462

85 S Walnut St • Boyertown, PA 19512 • (610) 367-2090 • mail@boyertownmuseum.org www.BoyertownMuseum.org • Facebook.com/Boyertown.Museum

In July in Automotive History

- **July 3, 1886:** Karl Benz, a German engineer, is credited with inventing the automobile.
- **July 21, 1904:** Louis Rigolly became the first person to drive a car over 100 mph.
- **July 27, 1888:** An electric tricycle was demonstrated by Philip Pratt.
- **July 24, 1910:** Alfa Romeo was founded in Milan, Italy.
- **July 30, 1898:** The first printed automobile advertisement appeared in Scientific American, featuring the Winton Motor Car Company.
- **July 11, 1916:** The Federal Road Act was enacted, helping to build better roads.
- **July 16, 1935:** Oklahoma City introduced the parking meter.
- **July 23, 1903:** Ford sold its first car, the Model A, to a Chicago dentist, Dr. Ernest Pfenning.
- **July 30, 1953:** The Chevrolet Corvette is unveiled.

FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I hope everyone is enjoying the newsletter. I would love to get some stories from **everyone** to include in our newsletter. I want to thank Bob Strunk for starting this off with his story about his 1955 Chevy. Your story can be about your cars, about any automobilia you collect, any historical story of interest to the hobby, etc. If you find it interesting, so will others. I hope to hear from everyone. You can contact me at britton231@comcast.net or 267-374-2799.

The deadline for the next newsletter is September 20th.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @ POTTSTOWN REGION AACA

POTTSTOWN REGION HOBBY NIGHT

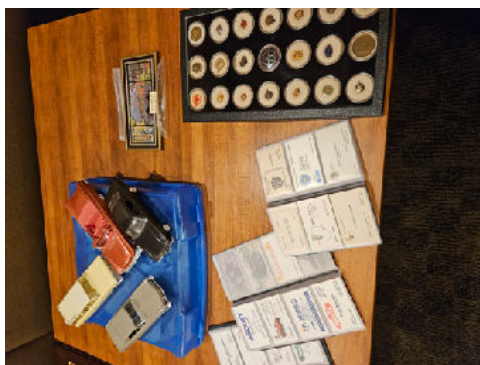
By Sandy Kemp

Our annual Hobby Night is always an interesting, entertaining evening. John McCarthy, our host, began by sharing his “For Display Only” Packard memorabilia. He told the story of how he acquired the 2 plaques that are presented to dealers that are given as awards. He also spoke about the 200 Gold Packards that had been produced for the company’s 50th Anniversary.



Craft entries were from Mary Wilson and Barb Melnyk. Barb shared several completed knitting projects. One of those being a baby blanket and tiny pink hat that she had been working on at one of our meetings. She has donated many of these items over the years. She also displayed a cape she had made for herself. Her entry was awarded first place. Mary Wilson was awarded second place for several of her beautiful handmade quilted items.

In the Hobby category, there were 3 entries. Bob Dare, who always entertains us with a new collection each year, had a large display of cap guns. He received third place for his hobby. Jim Xander shared an Adult Lego build he had recently completed. The “Apartment from Seinfeld” was quite intricate. Jim received second place for his hobby. Sandy Kemp received first place for her newly acquired hobby of 7 years, organizing the eclectic items of her late husband Frank. He had many collected items from years of searching through auto flea markets, Hershey being his favorite. She shared a collection of folders filled with many



business cards some of auto dealers and salesman from over the years. There was also a collection of lapel pins, mostly GM, that Frank had assembled in a display case. She shared a few of his older promotional cars from his onetime 200+ collection. And, finally, a mirrored calendar from 1952 from Spaar Pontiac, an old dealership that had been located in Palm, where his Dad had one time worked as a mechanic.

It was, as always, an enjoyable evening reminiscing about things from our past. Looking forward to a larger turnout next year.

More Pictures from "Hobby Night"



Pictures from GM on Display at Macungie on June 1st



photos by Cliff Wilson and Tim Britton

CLUB BUSINESS

Officers 2025

President Robert H. Dare 610-948-9350 bdarecars@aol.com
Vice President Cliff Wilson 610-948-5922 wilsondad2@msn.com
Asst Vice President(Jan-Apr) Gary Faircloth 215-920-3921 phrogghill@gmail.com
Secretary Pat Strunk 610-367-8252 P1125b@gmail.com
Treasurer Tom Wright 484-624-2198 tommyjw22@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Bob Strunk 610-367-8252 rlstrunk55@aol.com
John McCarthy 610-689-0713 packardmotors@aol.com
Frank Gormley 610-287-6842 franmar38@yahoo.com
Jim Xander 610-864-0022 jx5576@yahoo.com
Joe Frattone 215-778-9804 jfrattone@comcast.net

2025 Committees

Newsletter Karen Britton 267-374-2799 britton231@comcast.net
Facebook - Pat Strunk 610-367-8252 p1125b@gmail.com
Membership & Website Pat Strunk 610-367-8252 p1125b@gmail.com
Duryea Day Car Show Tom Wright 484-624-2198 tommyjw22@yahoo.com
Property Keith Hunsberger 610-987-0293 khunsberger@dejazzd.com
Activities Tom Wright 484-624-2198 tommyjw22@yahoo.com
Sunshine Sandy Kemp 610-367-6664 sandrakemp5480@gmail.com
Audit John McCarthy 610-689-0713 packardmotors@aol.com

CLUB MEETINGS

Our club meetings are generally the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Pizza Como in Pennsburg. Dinner is at 6:00PM and the meeting starts at 7:00PM. Remember we don't have our monthly meetings in July and August.

MONTHLY MEETING NOTES

The Monthly Meeting notes are emailed by our Secretary, Pat Strunk. If you do not have email and would like a physical paper copy, please leave a message on my cell phone and I will see that you get a copy. Karen Britton 267-374-2799

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

All articles for the newsletter will be due by the 20th of the month prior to publication, Publication will be quarterly.

Pottstown Region Sunshine

By Sandy Kemp

If you know of a member who is hospitalized, unwell, or has passed away, please reach out to me. I can be reached at 610.780.5480 (you can also text this number) or sandrakemp5480@gmail.com. This will help us offer our condolences and support to our members.



SPONSORS

If you know anyone who would like to help support our club, please contact them and ask if they would consider placing a business card ad for \$25.00 for 2025. Since this is so late in the season we are extending the sponsorship to include 2026 as well. If you would like a copy of the letter on the following page to take to your local business, you can print this page or contact me at 267-374-2799 or email at britton231@comcast.net. Thanks!



Pottstown Region AACA.
Karen Britton- newsletter editor
2191 County Line Rd.
East Greenville PA 18041
267-374-2799
britton231@comcast.net

January 1, 2025

The Pottstown Region, AACA just celebrated our 73rd anniversary. We are one of the oldest AACA regions in existence. As AACA was started in the early years to get together to share their love affair with old automobiles and as in the early years, it still remains a hobby and the focus remains fun. AACA is America's Premier resource for the collectible vehicle community. Our region is currently 97 members strong.

We have exciting news! We're looking for sponsors to help fund our newsletter. And in return for sponsorship, we're offering multiple advertising opportunities throughout the 2025 and 2026 season.

Would you consider sponsoring our club and donating \$25.00 to help us to meet our goal?

We're so grateful for what our sponsors just like you have helped us accomplish over the years. From funding our get togethers to helping with our newsletters and so much more, we're immensely thankful to our past, present, and future sponsors.

To demonstrate our gratitude, the Pottstown Region, AACA would like to offer you a business card ad in our quarterly newsletters for 2025 and 2026 since we are so late in this season, all for the same price. in recognition of your gift.

We hope you're able to contribute and thank you for the consideration.

To make a contribution, simply include your gift with this letter and business card and mail to Pottstown Region AACA, 2191 County Line Rd, East Greenville PA 18041 or hand deliver to our representative.

Many thanks in advance for your sponsorship! Go Pottstown Region AACA!!

Sincerely,

Bob Dare, President

P. S. We'd like to invite you to our car show this year on August 30th - Duryea Day at Boyertown Community Park, 419 South Madison Street, Boyertown, PA



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Pottstown Region AACA

Karen Britton

2191 County Line Rd

East Greenville PA 18041



NU^TS B^OLTS & SPARK^PUGS

*The Newsletter of the
Pottstown Region AACA
July-August-Sept 2025*

AACA's LIVE WIRE REGION
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