

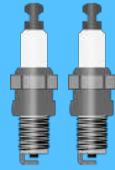


NUTS, BOLTS & SPARKPLUGS

The newsletter of the Pottstown Region AACA

AACA's LIVE WIRE REGION

ESTABLISHED IN 1952



OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Duryea Day
- Upcoming events
- Why Do We Join Car Clubs
- Motor City Museums



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, here is a short note from the "Pres".

First of all, I want to thank all the club members that helped at the Duryea Day Show! It went smoothly because all the teams worked together. And a special "thanks" to Tom Wright for coordinating it all! Yea Tom!

More good news....we have added several more new members. And AACA sent us the 4 "FREE" memberships for 2026. So spread the news and use these free memberships to encourage friends to become members when they qualify.

Remember we are always looking for new ideas for club activities and club tours to visit other people's collections. Make any suggestions to Tom Wright or me.

Remember the Club Christmas Party is scheduled for December 14th at the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. Pat Strunk has included a flyer in this newsletter. Make sure you submit your reservation!

See you after Hershey,

Bob Dare



Welcome New Members

**Michael Yarnall
Matthew Loizeaux
Francis Gross**

FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I hope everyone had a great 2025 car show season. Duryea Day as always is a lot of work but so much fun to see all the great vehicles and friends. My husband, Tim, helped park cars and I helped at registration, so we were deep in the craziness of the car show. Now that Duryea Day is over again for another year and Hershey is just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about the holidays and prepping our vehicles for winter. The car show season seems to get shorter each year, I hope you were able to get to your favorite car shows this past season. If you have a story about one of your adventures, I'd love to publish it! You can contact me, Karen Britton, at britton231@comcast.net or 267-374-2799.



The deadline for the next newsletter is December 20, 2025

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.

October 22 - Club meeting at the Pizza Como, Pennsburg, PA. This is a different date due to the Eastern Fall Meet at Hershey this month. Dinner at 6:00PM with a meeting to follow at 7:00PM

November 12 - Club meeting at the Pizza Como, Pennsburg, PA. Dinner at 6:00PM with a meeting to follow at 7:00PM

November 22 - Junk Yard Tour - Saturday at Stewart Criswell & Sons Salvage in Nottingham PA. RSVP Needed - More info on page 6.

December 14- Club Christmas party at Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. RSVP Needed - More info on page 7.

Upcoming AACA Events

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



Upcoming Local Events

October 3 - First Friday Cruise-In at the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles, located at 85 S Walnut St, Boyertown, PA. No registration is required. Free to participants and spectators.

November 8 - Diner Day 10AM at Boyertown Museum. Sit inside the beautifully preserved Fegely's Reading Diner and enjoy coffee and homemade pie. Coffee and pie are available for purchase at 1938 prices--that means a nickel for a cup of coffee and a quarter for a slice of pie! Can't beat those prices! Regular Contribution rates apply at door.



Opening Reception for *Better Built Bodies: A Century of Vehicle Craftsmanship*

September 25 @ 5:30 pm

Join us at the Museum for the unveiling of an exciting exhibition on September 25th from 5:30 -7:30 pm. Enjoy light refreshments and a special after-hours look at our newest exhibit, *Better Built Bodies: A Century of Vehicle Craftsmanship*, which is a retrospective of the Boyertown Auto Body Works. See artifacts from the BABW and its local clients, and enjoy a special tour from a former Body Works employee and Board President, Bob Dare.

\$10 for Members

\$15 for Non-Members

BAW Weekend

September 26 through September 28, 9:30 am

Join us at the Museum for special activities celebrating the historical significance of the Boyertown Auto Body Works (and our newest exhibit, *Better Built Bodies: A Century of Vehicle Craftsmanship!*). We'll have activities for your kids and will be unveiling our new coloring book, featuring the Museum's very own Boyertown Bear, Willet, on Friday, September 26, through Sunday, September 28, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm (daily). Saturday ONLY enjoy FREE entry to the Museum for you and your family, courtesy of the Classic Auto Mall. Blacksmithing demonstrations will also take place on Saturday. On Sunday, sit for a caricature drawn by Alan McBain (our coloring book illustrator), 11 am - 3 pm. Regular contribution rates apply on Friday and Sunday.

Junkyard Tour

The region will once again join the Pontiac Club to visit a junkyard in Nottingham, PA, in November.



We'll meet for breakfast at 8:30AM on **Saturday, November 22nd** at the Post House Family Restaurant at 2458 Baltimore Pike, E. Nottingham. The group is the Pontiac club. From there we will drive to Stewart Criswell & Sons Salvage right off of PA 272 at Roberts Rd. It opens at 9AM and parking is limited. Please meet us at the restaurant to minimize car congestion at yard.

We will need numbers ahead of time, please contact Tom Wright at 610-587-3468 or tommyjw22@yahoo.com



Annual Christmas Party

Our final activity for this year is our family Christmas party on Sunday, December 14, 2025

starting at 5:00 p.m. with happy hour and 5:30 with a buffet dinner at the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles on Walnut Street in Boyertown.

Members pay \$25, and the club pays for those who worked at Duryea Day.

Non-members pay \$45 per person.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining our chapter, this would be a great event to bring them along for a fun night of friendship surrounded by vehicles at the museum. If you have been to other Pottstown Region Christmas Parties you know this one will be a little different because of the location but what is better than a car club partying in a car museum?

Our meal will be catered by Big Phils. The details of the buffet will be shared at our October and November meeting at PC Pub. Dessert will be all the fixings for a sundae bar supplied by Peppermint Stick Candy Store!

We encourage all members and their families to come and enjoy the holiday season, a great meal, and even greater time with family and friends.

To attend, you must pre-register early so the museum and caterer has time to prepare. The reservation form is included in this newsletter. Please send your registration form and your payment (if owed) **no later than November 28, 2025.**

To register please send the form to Pat Strunk. Pat's contact info is: Address: 720 E. 8th St., Boyertown PA. 19512 Questions, please contact Pat at: email: p1125b@gmail.com or by phone: 610-367-8252.

Please respond by November 28, 2025



POTTSTOWN REGION AACA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 14, 2025

This year, the Annual Pottstown Region AACA Christmas Party will be held at a new location: **The Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles.**

5:00 pm – Social time, non alcoholic beverages and passed hors d'oeuvres

5:30 pm – Buffet dinner and Sundae Bar

Big Phil will offer a buffet-style meal and The Peppermint Stick Candy Store will provide a sundae bar.

The cost for club members is \$25.00; as in previous years, admission is complimentary for members who volunteered during Duryea Day. Guests are \$45.00 per person.

Further details regarding the event, including the evening's schedule and buffet menu, will be shared with club members at our October and November club meetings.

Reservations are required for this event. Reservations are due by November 28, 2025

Members Name _____

_____ # Members attending who worked 2025 Duryea Day Show _____ **FREE**

_____ # Members attending at \$25.00 per person \$ _____

_____ # Guests attending at \$45.00 per person \$ _____

_____ **TOTAL ATTENDING** **TOTAL DUE** \$ _____

Make check payable to Pottstown Region AACA //Mail to Pat Strunk, 720 E 8th St. Boyertown, PA 19512



Why Do We Join Car Clubs?

Fellow Members

We are in full swing of the car show season, my mind, starts to roam as I ponder why we like our car clubs. There are a few things I would like to revisit.

I ask myself why do we join car clubs and participate in car events? I want to list a few of my thoughts. They are certainly not all encompassing, as I'm sure I will miss some and you might have your own thoughts. Feel free to add to my points with some of your own. These points are in no particular order, but meant to reinforce your commitment to our AACA Pottstown Chapter or any car event you support.

- **FELLOWSHIP** - I believe the most important reason to belong is getting together with old friends, new friends and just good people to discuss cars, families, solving world problems, sharing jokes, stories, tall tales, and just plan fun conversation.
- **SHARING** - stories of past events & shows by sharing experiences and memories of people that made those events memorable. Getting out and sharing your car with fellow enthusiasts at shows, cruise-ins, conventions, or any reason to show off your vehicle(s) for others to see your style and car vision.
- **HELPING** - fellow car folks solve problems by highlighting issues with their own car(s) through educating members and giving a forum to share ideas and information.
- **CLUBS & EVENTS** - allow the enthusiast to keep up with industry news by learning what is going on in the hobby. Reading club newsletters, emails, web sites, Facebook and certainly magazines gives members access to current goings-on.
- **FOOD** - An important factor to joining a club or supporting an event is the reason to share good food. I have never been part of a club that food was not a big part of the day's events. We all like good food, from a burger to smorgasbord.

These are my thoughts on the important reasons to JOIN. As I stated earlier I'm sure there are others, so please feel free to add yours. Again, the FELLOWSHIP is central to clubs and events...the sense of belonging to a group that shares your likes and dreams.

A good example of club sharing, the (ATCA) Antique Truck Clubs Southeastern PA Chapter was asked to participate, along with three other car clubs, (AMC, Model A's and Buick) to exhibit some cool pick-up trucks and publicize our club at the

(continued)

America On Wheels Museum in Allentown Pa (5 North St). Our theme was "America's Love Affair for Small Trucks". Three members of ATCA gave up their small trucks to support a joint club exhibit going on this summer. If you get a chance, check out this exhibit and take time to enjoy all aspects of car clubbing.

Thanks for reading my random musings,

Tom Wright



October in Automotive History

- **October 1, 1902:** The Ohio Automobile Company was renamed the Packard Motor Car Company.
- **October 1, 1908:** The Ford Model T goes on sale
- **October 2, 1911:** Chevrolet was founded
- **October 7, 1913:** Ford implements the first moving assembly line
- **October 1938:** Volkswagen Beetle Production Starts
- **October 26, 1954:** The small-block Chevrolet engine, a staple in high-performance American cars, was introduced.
- **October 1958:** Three-Point Seat Belt Introduced
- **October 15, 1997:** Thrust SSC Breaks Sound Barrier

Motor City Museums

We recently took a fun summer road trip that brought us through the Detroit area of Michigan. As you may know, this area has a lot to offer car enthusiasts, so we decided to do some exploring. Our first stop was at the Pontiac Transportation Museum in Pontiac, Michigan, and the second stop was the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn, Michigan.

We were greeted at the Pontiac Transportation Museum by founder, friend and fellow Pontiac enthusiast, Tim Dye, who gave us a private tour. Upon entering the museum through the gift shop, we noticed the museum's unique collection, highlighting memorabilia and vehicles built in Pontiac, Michigan.



One of the cars that Tim highlighted was the very last Pontiac to come off the assembly line. The car was a white 2010 G6 with signatures from everyone who helped assemble the vehicle.

There was also a display representing assembly at Pontiac Plant 8. The display contained cars showcasing the first and last years of the plant's operation, a 1927 Pontiac 6 four-door sedan and a 1982 Grand Prix.

Although you may think of the brand Pontiac when you think of Pontiac, Michigan, there were many other makes produced in this Detroit suburb. Some examples on display in the museum were a 1914 Cartercar, a 1912 Landers electric car, a 1907 Rapid coach, a 1910 Reliance Truck, and a 1911 Grabowsky Power Wagon.

The museum has much to offer beyond vehicles. The Pontiac artifacts are beautifully displayed on the walls and in showcases. Our current member, Sandy Kemp, donated an early Oakland Pontiac dealer sign that is prominently displayed in the museum.

The museum is a work in progress with plans for many more vehicles and artifacts to be displayed in the future.

From the Pontiac Museum we drove the short distance to Dearborn, Michigan, the home of the Henry Ford American Innovation Museum. This was a much larger museum, showcasing not only

(continued)



historical vehicles, but also other interesting artifacts pertaining to American innovations. There were many exhibits ranging from America's early industrial period through recent decades. Displays we enjoyed included Presidential Vehicles, Driving America, Driven to Win: Racing in America, and Your Place in Time.

The Presidential Vehicle display contained 5 historically significant cars, most notably the car in which President Kennedy was assassinated. There were many other significant vehicles on display in this area of the museum as well, including two Duryea vehicles.

After exploring these vehicles, we checked out Driving America. This area had information on the rise of the interstate system and how it affected car travel throughout the country, including the emergence of hotels and fast food to support the needs of travelers. Prominently displayed in this area were two fully lit vintage neon signs. One was a Holiday Inn sign and the other was a McDonald's sign with the original mascot, Speedy.



In the Driven to Win: Racing America exhibit, multiple types of racing were represented. From Land Speed Record racing to Drag Racing to Indy Cars to modern day Nascar, there was a little something for everyone's racing interests. After checking out the displays, you could even try your hand at being a Nascar pit crew

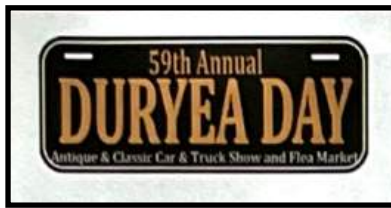
member or step into the simulator to experience driving a race car.



Lastly, we enjoyed the Your Place in Time exhibit, where you chronologically journeyed through the 20th century by decade. The early decades of the 1900's displayed items that came into existence to help modernize everyday living. Major events such as World War I and II were also depicted within these decades. Moving further through this exhibit, the main items shifted to pop culture, showing toys, magazines and music of each era, displayed according to when they first emerged.

We only had a few hours to explore the expansive collection at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, but could have easily spent a full day here. If you ever find yourself in the Detroit area, both museums are worth the time to explore.

Tim & Karen Britton



What is the definition of a perfect car event? The answer is the 59TH annual Duryea Day car show held on August 30, 2025 with a terrific display of approximately 600+ classic and antique cars, trucks, motorcycles with picture perfect weather, broad selection of flea market vendors, a large turnout of enthusiastic spectators and lots of food choices. The credit for the success of this show is directly related to the members of the Pottstown Region who pitched in to handle registrations, parking, manning the Region tent to process the necessary paperwork for registrants and answering questions they may have. Working hand in hand with the museum staff, the job gets done in an efficient manner. Over the years, many repeat registrants tell us that Duryea Day is their favorite car event and look forward to coming back. With that sentiment, as a group we must be doing something right. Next year with the 60TH annual show in sight, it will be something special.

submitted by
Cliff Wilson



More Pictures from Duryea Day



ONCE AGAIN, IT TOOK A CLUB

STORY BY: SANDY KEMP

WOW! What a spectacular day we had for the 59th Annual Duryea Day! Our amazing crew welcomed approximately 616 cars and trucks and sold 57 flea market spaces. A big Thank You to Chairman Tom Wright, the Museum staff, especially Dan Faut who coordinates the set up and tear down of the tents, tables, and chairs, and much more, and to Mark Landes who handles the security in the park. And then, there are all the volunteers from the Museum and our club who come together to make the day a success. We, also, can't forget the fine group of Cadets who are always so full of energy and are eager to help with whatever task they are assigned.

We welcomed several new members this year who jumped in to help at key areas. Many thanks to all who came out for Park Set Up on Friday and to those who were part of the Day of Show crew. These members are responsible for: car and truck registration, manning the club tent to collect registration forms and provide information, parking all the show cars and trucks and the cars that are for sale, and setting up and managing the flea market area. The job list is endless, but our crew of 39 Club members pulled it off again.

Thank You to all for coming together to make the show flow so effortlessly. Sure do hope to see everyone again in the park next year.

Pottstown Region Summer Picnic

On Saturday August 23rd the Pottstown Region gathered at Hickory Park pavilion. The weather was perfect for a summertime picnic. As we arrived we learned that Chris of CD Catering fell after preparing our food and was on his way to the hospital. We are all wishing the best for him. But all was not lost, his daughter arrived with the deliciously prepared food that was enjoyed by everyone. And then there was dessert... everything from cookies, to cupcakes, to puddings and breads. No one

walked away hungry! Cliff and Mary did a great job again, as always. Conversations, friendships and laughter was heard throughout the pavilion.



From a meeting of the Mopar Heritage Club

A PA State Senator, Katie Muth is planning to propose legislation in our state forcing vehicle owners to display a front license plate. With over 12 million vehicles registered in PA, the sheer expense of this would be crushing. And, likely passed to the vehicle owners. Muth has submitted a memo, suggesting that she will propose this legislation.

If plates are replaced, we may lose the ability to use our purple Antique or white Classic plates. How will vanity/personalized plates be handled? Will everyone get a new #? PA is one of 21 states that do not require a front plate. Those of us with antique vehicles realize that in some cases there is no way to affix a front plate.

I urge you to contact your local State Senator and ask them to ensure this never becomes law.

I called Pennsylvania Senators Katie MUTH, Jarrett COLEMAN and Pennsylvania Representative Craig STAAT's offices and told them that I understand the law enforcement side of this memo that proposes legislation. I objected to said memo because of the financial burden this would put on the citizens of the Commonwealth because the lack of availability of proper front license plate brackets for some of the more modern cars as they were not supplied to customers by the new car dealers.

Also, if you have an antique (purple with white characters) or a classic (white with purple character), Street Rod, etc. what would they replace those plates with the hideously ugly modern antique plates?



Who is that young man?



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.

Condolences to family and friends of member Ernie Derkas who passed away in August at the age of 100. Ernie flew 33 missions as a gunner in a B-24 during WW 2. He was a really nice person and will be missed.

Condolences to Tim & Karen Britton on the recent passing of Tim's mother, Jean Britton

Club Birthday Wishes

October

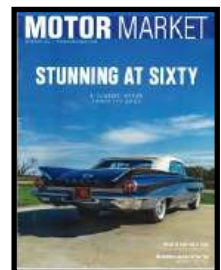
2nd -Peter J Heizmann
6th -Marjorie Schlosberg
8th -Frank Gormley
13th -Gary Schuck
16th -London R Hain
17th -William Pizzichil
19th -Karen Britton
20th -John A McCarthy
30th -Pierre G deMauriac

November

3rd -James Krombach
6th -Donna Stever
9th -Brian Fox
11th -Gail deMauriac
11th -Carmen D'Annunzio
14th -David Poley
19th -Carol Smith
25th -Patricia R Strunk

December

11th -Robert H Dare
20th -Arthur Istenes
21st -Barb Melnyk
31st -Katherine McCarthy
31st -Steven Stastny



How much would you spend for free tissues?



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Deborah Byerly-McFarlin
Event and Marketing Coordinator

484-300-1186
Deborah.PottstownCarousel@gmail.com

SPONSORS

We'd like to thank our new sponsor, The Carousel at Pottstown. Please don't forget to patronize our sponsors and 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

Pottstown Region AACA

Karen Britton

2191 County Line Rd

East Greenville PA 18041



NU S B LTS & SPARK UGS

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

AACA's LIVE WIRE REGION
ESTABLISHED IN 1952