

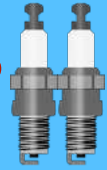


NUTS, BOLTS & SPARKPLUGS

The newsletter of the Pottstown Region AACA

AACA's LIVE WIRE REGION

ESTABLISHED IN 1952



APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

- My First Antique Car
- Upcoming events
- My 1927 Chevrolet
- Oh! The places I went in 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tom Wright

Hello Fellow Members

I want to reiterate that our chapter is on the move. We have started the year with really terrific meetings at Pizza Como with many new members. In February we visited a really great collection at 3Dog Garage and now in March we have another tour at Car Catcher Collection in Willow Grove.

We have two of our favorite club events coming in the next few months Hobby/Craft night and "What Is It" night please plan to attend these terrific meetings. Also, coming up in May on Saturday the 23th we are planning a driving tour thru Berks County ending up at the Old Spokes Museum near Kutztown. The driving tour will be led by our own Matt L. Please plan to attend this really neat and new event, bring out your car and cruise.

We then have our "KOOL" summer picnic in August, of course Duryea Day and then in the fall club meetings, a speaker, another tour(s) and our Christmas Party back at Brookside Country Club. I would call this a club on the move!

Come enjoy these events and fellowship with other car fanatics.

I once again want to honor and mention our friend, our DD/club partner and for me a fellow Oldsmobile fan Robert Strunk as we will pray and remember Bob throughout this year.

See ya down the road!

Tom

Welcome New Members

Hank Hallowell
Allison Hallowell
Dan D'Annunzio
Brian Schantz

POTTSTOWN REGION



FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Spring is finally here! Our club's calendar of events is much larger than last newsletter as we look forward to another year of car activities. As I write my article this month, my mind goes to membership.

One thing that has always impressed me about this club is the passion we share—not just for our cars, but for the friendships, history, and memories that come with them. Whether your pride and joy is a concours winner, a daily driver, or a long-term project, this club has always been about more than what's under the hood. It's about people.

As we look ahead to a new season of events, tours, and gatherings, I'd like to encourage every member to think about one important goal: **bringing new members into our club.**

Car clubs thrive on fresh energy. New members bring new stories, different cars, new ideas, and often a renewed excitement that reminds us why we joined in the first place. Without growth, even the strongest clubs can slowly fade. With growth, we ensure that our traditions, knowledge, and enthusiasm continue for years to come.

The good news is that recruiting new members doesn't require a big sales pitch. Often, it's as simple as:

- Inviting a friend or neighbor to a cruise-in or meeting
- Talking to someone who stops to admire your car at a show or gas station
- Sharing club events on social media or wearing club apparel proudly
- Letting others know that all ages, experience levels, and vehicles are welcome

Many people are looking for exactly what we already have—camaraderie, shared interests, and a place where they belong. They just may not know it yet!

Each of us is an ambassador for this club. A friendly conversation, a personal invitation, or a warm welcome at an event can make all the difference. Remember, every longtime member was once a new member who took a chance and showed up.

Let's work together to keep our club growing, vibrant, and strong. The road ahead is always better when there are more cars—and more friends—traveling it with us.

Karen Britton

The deadline for the next newsletter is June 20th.



2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
GET EVENT INFO AND FLYERS ON THE CLUB WEBSITE
<https://pottstown.aaca.com/>

- April 8 - Club meeting at the Pizza Como, Pennsburg, PA. Dinner at 6:00PM with a short meeting to follow at 6:45PM
- May 7 - Duryea Day meeting 1:30pm Boyertown Museum
- May 13 - Club meeting at the Pizza Como, Pennsburg, PA. Dinner at 6:00PM with a meeting to follow at 6:45PM. Hobby/Craft Night
- May 23 - 9AM meet at Boyertown Museum. We will take a scenic driving tour to the Old Spokes Museum - Owned by a NY doctor. He owns 2 buildings an old Ford dealership across the street from an old Maxwell Dealership.
- June 10- Club meeting at the Pizza Como, Pennsburg, PA. Dinner at 6:00PM with a meeting to follow at 6:45PM. "What is it?" Night
- Aug 22- Club picnic
- Sept 4- Set up Duryea Day - 9AM at Boyertown Community Park
- Sept 5- 60th Annual Duryea Day - Boyertown Community Park

Upcoming Local Events

April 22-25 - Spring Carlisle Flea Market.

June 6th - Antique British Car Show - Fort Washington

June 7th - GM on Display - All GM car show at Macungie Memorial Park -

June 13th - Gasket Goons Car Show at Macungie Memorial Park

June 19-20 - Antique Truck Club National Meet at Macungie Memorial Park

June 24th - Ted Mauer Cabin Fever Memorial Show

July 31 - Aug 2 - Das Awkscht Fescht - Macungie Memorial Park

Sept 5 - 60th Annual Duryea Day - Boyertown Community Park

Upcoming AACA Events



April 9-11, 2026 – Southeastern Spring Nationals – Charlotte, NC, NC

April 23-25, 2026 – Annual Grand Nationals/Western Spring Nationals – Las Vegas, NV

May 28-30, 2026 – Eastern Spring Nationals – Indiana, PA

June 11-13, 2026 – Southeastern Fall Nationals – Oak Ridge, TN – hosted by Volunteer Region

June 15-19, 2026 – Sentimental Tour – Mechanicsburg, PA – hosted by Oakland-Pontiac Worldwide Region

July 23-25, 2026 – Central Spring Nationals – Green Bay, WI

August 5-8, 2026 – Southeastern Divisional Tour – Flat Rock, NC

August 19-22, 2026 – Annual Grand Nationals / Zenith Awards – Allentown, PA

September 9-14, 2026 – Founders Tour (1932-2001) – Williamsburg, VA

September 20-26, 2026 – Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre-1943) – Dover, DE

October 6-9, 2026 – Eastern Fall Nationals – Hershey, PA



My First Antique Car

By Joe Frattone

This story is about my first antique car, a 1950 olds 88 two-door sedan. My story starts out on a day in 1980 that I planned to go to a car show and auction in Atlantic City, New Jersey. I was walking around the auction floor looking at the cars waiting their turn to be bid on, when what was to be my car came across the bidding floor. It was the first time I saw it. I stopped to watch the bidding because it was so low, and I was surprised at just how low it was, only \$400. I called out \$500 (sold)! What did I just do? I had never seen the car before. I knew it ran, that I could see. The paint was good, so that was a plus. So I now owned a car that needed interior



work and chrome. So what do you want for \$500? Over the course of the last 45 years, I had the transmission rebuilt and many other things fixed, big and small. As most of you know, you're never really done. There is always just one more thing to do. It is always fun to drive and has never let me down. It is still all stock with its original 6 Volt system, V-8 engine, transmission, radio, heater, turn signals and back up lights. It's loaded. LOL.



Oh! The places I went in 2025

By Jim Xander

As many of you know, I am a volunteer at the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. One of my tasks at the museum is to go to various car shows and other events to promote our great museum. So, myself and the blue tent, along with everything else packed in my car, went to about 25 different events over the course of 2025. My journey began back on March 2nd at the Leesport Farmers Market, and then ended on December 6th at Boyertown's Chillin' on Main Street Festival.



Over the course of the year, I was able to meet a lot of great people and talk about the museum and cars in general. I have a few events that stood out to me that I would like to share. In March, I got to set up at Motorama in Oaks, PA. A special Evel Knievel display was set up with artifacts from the great stuntman. The display owner was gracious enough to take my picture with the display. It was also great to meet people as far away as Virginia at this show.

One of my favorite events I do is the Truck Show in June in Macungie, PA. I get to meet folks from all over the United States and Canada. It's a must-attend event for me that I ask to attend every year. The Show and Shine in Fleetwood on July 4th and Cabela's in Hamburg in October are among my favorites, as both shows benefit charities where all proceeds go directly to the charity.

I'm looking forward to 2026 as I am anxious to highlight our museum even more, as 2026 should be a great year. My hope is to expand my reach into Bucks, Lancaster, and Lebanon

(continued)

Counties. Send any show suggestions in those places my way. I would like to thank everyone who helped out by assisting me and bringing vehicles when able. You all were great, and I can't do this without you. And thanks to all the event coordinators who invited the museum to be part of your event. 2026, here I come.

"If you are interested in learning more about the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles, please contact them at 610-367-2090, or visit the website at www.boyertownmuseum.org



Photo taken at 2025 Das Awk Fest in Macungie with the museum's 1948 Indian motorcycle. Nancy Bishoff a local realtor who stopped by was taking a YouTube video of the show!



April in Automotive History

- **April 25 1901:** New York becomes the first state to require license plates, starting at a \$1 fee.
- **April 24 1908:** The first confirmed cross-country car trip by Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Murdock from LA to NYC in a Packard.
- **April 5 1923:** Firestone introduced inflatable tires, which used less rubber and offered a smoother ride than solid versions.
- **April 14 1927:** The first Volvo car rolls off the assembly line.
- **April 19 1955:** Volkswagen of America is officially established in New Jersey.
- **April 17 1964:** The revolutionary Ford Mustang is launched to massive public excitement.
- **April 29, 2004:** GM shuttered its Oldsmobile division after 107 years of operation.
- **April 27, 2009:** General Motors announced it would discontinue the 80-year-old Pontiac brand as part of its bankruptcy restructuring.

My 1927 Chevrolet

By Bob Dare

My 1927 Chevrolet 4-door landau sedan has a fascinating history. It was originally purchased in 1927 by Miss Pennypacker, who worked at a bank in Phoenixville. In 1950 and 1951, she would call my Dad to come and start her car at her garage to keep it in good condition.

Then, in 1952, my Dad bought the car for just \$50. It had only 13,000 original miles on it. My Dad kept the car at his garage, and I would often go there to drive it around the back. I'd dig out in the stones and grass, and it was so much fun! Then bang! Sadly, after breaking an axle shaft, I couldn't drive the 1927 Chevy anymore.

My Dad, on the other hand, took the Chevy to Ocean City and drove it in the Boardwalk Parade for an impressive 20 years! He also took it to Hershey every year and drove it to all the local shows. He put only 10,000 miles on the car, so now it has a total of 23,000 original miles.

After that, in the late 70s, my Dad decided to buy a 1915 Chalmers. So, the little Chevy has been sitting in the garage, waiting patiently for a drive out someday!



I told my wife, she should drive her car more often! Or something like this could happen.

1971 Oldsmobile Cutlass "S" Restoration

Hello my name is Brian Fox. My wife Andrea and I are relatively new members of the Pottstown chapter of the AACA. As discussed at recent monthly meetings, it has been requested of the members to provide articles for the newsletter. So my hope is that the members may enjoy reading an ongoing set of articles as we progress through the partial restoration of our 1971 Oldsmobile Cutlass "S".

We have owned this car since 2006. We purchased this car for ~ \$2,300.00 in Souderton PA. It is an eastern PA vehicle that was originally purchased in 1971 at the Pitcairn Oldsmobile dealership in Langhorne PA. We are the third owners of this Cutlass. We have been working on this car through the years and have decided to provide a more extensive restoration of this Cutlass.

This first episode is documenting the initial steps of the disassembly. I am in the process of removing the trim, lights and bumpers along with the interior to prepare the car for body and paint. A lot of fun with rusty bolts and screws of course!

The shop that will be performing the paint and some body restoration is called "610 Auto Works" in Schwenksville PA. The engine will be pulled in about a month. The engine will be cleaned-up and updated by Chris Grant Automotive; who is an Oldsmobile engine expert.

I hope you may find some interest in following an ongoing set of updates on the steps of the restoration of our Cutlass. Please see the photos below.



The Cutlass "S" prior to partial restoration



by Jim Xander & Tim Britton

On Saturday February 21, 2026 the Pottstown Region AACA visited the 3 Dog Garage in Boyertown PA. About 20 of our members attended this tour. The 3 Dog Garage consists of 2 buildings which are owned by Ross Myers. Ross opens his buildings only a few times a year for local car clubs to see his collection of vintage historical hot rods and race cars.



Upon entering the first building, there was a row of early Ford roadsters. One of the Ford's in this row was 1931 that was nicknamed "Cockroach" powered by a 425 ci Buick Nailhead engine with 6 Stromberg carbs.

As you made your way into the collection, there is a reproduction Mobil gas station, several project cars in different states of restoration along with a machine shop and several race cars.



Upon leaving the first area of the museum, you walk into a smaller room and look up to see the underside of a modern custom 1936 Ford street rod built for Ross Myers by Troy Trepanier. The underside is as clean and detailed as the top. This room had about 10 cars on display including the "Rick Nelson" roadster and the Andy Kassa 32 Ford 3 window coupe.

The second floor houses an in-house extensive automotive library along with a number of custom '36 Fords and numerous pieces of art from Tom Fritz. All throughout the buildings you could find many automobile and local related painted, porcelain, and neon signs.



Moving up to the third floor we saw the Andy's T custom C-cab delivery, the red 1929 "Dick Flint" Ford roadster, the 1922 Ford T-Bucket featured on the TV show "77 Sunset Strip", also known as the "Kookie Car" among numerous other historical hot rods.

(continued)

From here we went to the second building about 3 blocks away. This building houses a mix of older and newer race cars as you enter. Some of the highlights were an Allard J2, a 427 Cobra, a 1957 Ford Thunderbird "Battlebird", a Ford GT, several Mustang Trans Am race cars, the Orange Crate, the Chrisman Brothers Coupe, and many more.



In another area of this building there were 2 floors of the Mark J Smith Ford collection. On the passing of Mr. Smith in 2021, 3 Dog Garage purchased this collection of primarily Ford model T's and A's to keep the collection in tact and for the enjoyment and education of future generations.

Everybody enjoyed themselves and were enthusiastic about what they saw. Tours like this are a great reason to become a member of our club. A special thanks goes out to 3 Dog Garage for having us. We hope to be back again soon!

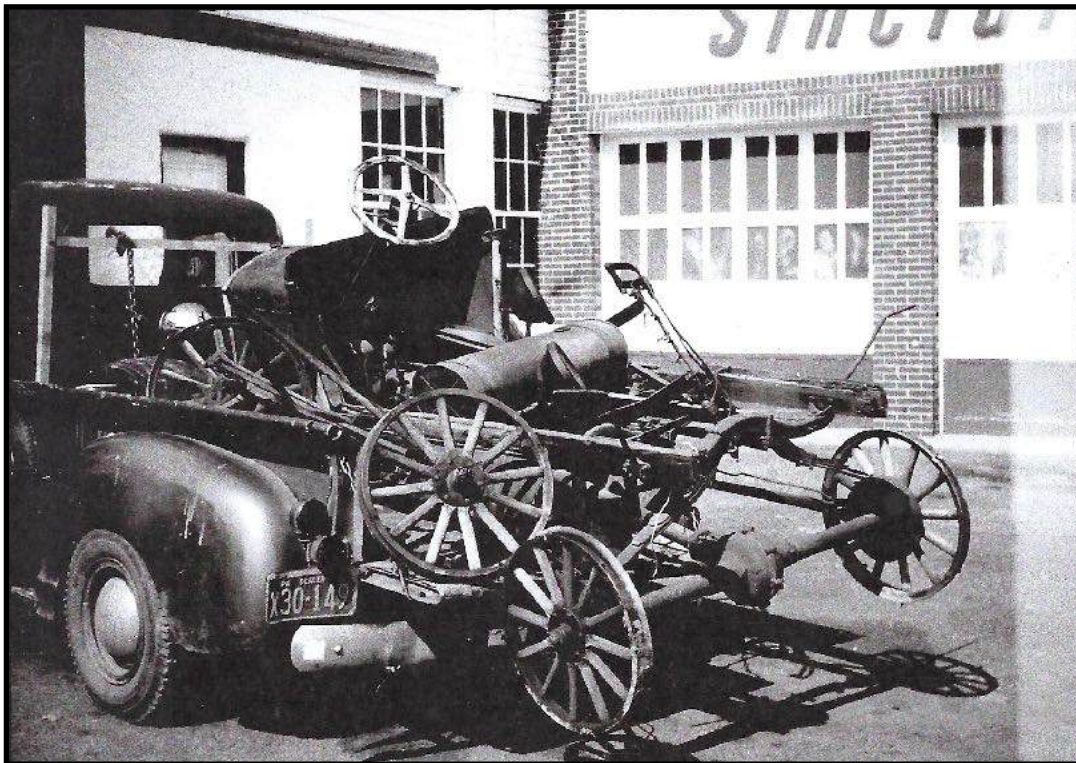


Thank you!

We received this note from Bob and Betty Dare -

Betty and I want to thank you all for the beautiful award that we received at the Christmas Party. It has a place of honor on our windowsill. Also, please give Tom the same great support that you have given us.

Thank you again,
Bob and Betty



How many of you would have paid for this car in this condition?

CLUB BUSINESS

Officers 2026

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Secretary Patricia Strunk 610-367-8252 P1125b@gmail.com
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Honorary Director 2026 - Robert Strunk

2026 Committees

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Duryea Day Car Show - Tom Wright 484-624-2198 tommyjw22@yahoo.com
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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 6:45PM during Spring/Summer/Fall. During Winter (Jan./Feb) we will meet for lunch at 1:00PM followed by the meeting at 1:45PM. 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

Please inform Sandy Kemp, Sunshine Committee, of any sick or hospitalized members. Also, if you know of a member, spouse, or immediate family passing away, Sandy can be reached at 610-780-5480 or sandrakemp5480@gmail.com.

Our sympathies to Region Secretary Pat Strunk on the recent passing of husband Bob. Bob was an active member of Pottstown Region having served several terms on the Board of Directors. He also headed the Parking Committee for Duryea Day. Bob enjoyed showing his 1937 Chevy coupe, his 1955 BelAir and his 1939 Oldsmobile at shows. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Sending get well wishes to both Christine Schuck, Cathy Wright, and Don Fiorillo. We wish them all the best as they recover from surgery.

Club Birthday Wishes

April

8th -J. Wilmer Hallman
9th -Paul B Reinford
9th -Allison Hollowell
19th -Dan D'Annunzio
19th -Jackie Hartung
19th -Dan Olsen
26th -Samuel Schlosberg
27th -Nancy Krombach

May

5th -James Xander
16th -Joseph Rogers III
19th -Rich Walters
25th -Richard Hartung
25th -Harry Tucci
26th -Mary Stastny
31st -Sharon Heizmann

June

1st -Christine Schuck
2nd -Sandra Kemp
2nd -Pamela Pizzichil
5th -Calvin Fredericks
7th -Andrea Fox
7th -Matthew Loizeaux
7th -Richard Schickling
10th -Francis Gross
16th -Keith Hunsberger
21st -Michael Engard
22nd -Clifford Wilson
25th -Hank Hollowell



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Deborah Byerly-McFarlin
 Event and Marketing Coordinator

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

SPONSORS

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 2026. 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
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January 1, 2026

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 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.

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,

Tom Wright, President

P. S. We'd like to invite you to our car show this year on September 5th - 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
April - May - June 2026*

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