

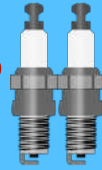


# NUTS, BOLTS & SPARKPLUGS

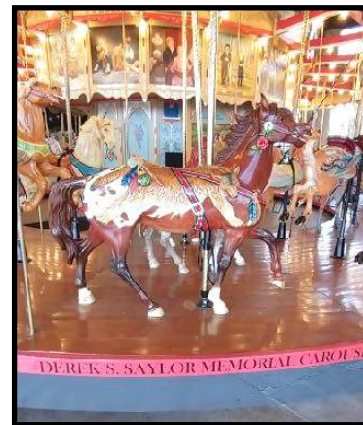
The newsletter of the Pottstown Region AACA

AACA's LIVE WIRE REGION

ESTABLISHED IN 1952



## JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Christmas Party
- Upcoming events
- The Story of the Scout
- Duryea Day 2025



# President's Message

By Tom Wright

Hello Pottstown Chapter Members

This is my first President's Message with the hope of many more to come.

We just completed our yearly Christmas Party at the Boyertown Museum of Historical Vehicles. We moved to this location in 2025 and I believe it will continue for many years to come.

Thank you to Micheala from the museum; she helped us put together a great party. Thanks to Karen Britton, Sandy Kemp, and Betty Dare for helping with many of the details. A very special thank you to Pat Strunk. She made it her personal mission to make this party the best of the year.

This group worked tirelessly to put on a great gathering. The whole party is the result of many of our members working so very hard to make Duryea Day Car Show the best and one of biggest in the area. Let's keep it up in 2026.

I also want to remember members and friends lost in 2025: Marlin, Don and Roger.....RIP.

As the new president, I hope to carry on the many years of precedence set by Bob Dare. I'm challenged to continue his fine leadership and hope to add some personal touches.

Looking forward to working with the board and many members to bring value & fun to the membership and continuing a 70 plus years club relationship.

See ya all at our first meeting in January. Be sure to check the new time in this newsletter, and everyone have a great Holiday Season.

Tom Wright

## **Welcome New Members**

**Richard Schickling**

**Gustave Miller**

**Horace Reinford**

**Jenn Reinford**



## FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I hope you're all having a fantastic holiday season! As 2025 comes to an end, we're excited about the upcoming car show season. We might even take some time to work on our vehicles over the next few months and do some maintenance to keep them running smoothly. While we call this our down time, it can actually be just as busy. If you have any exciting stories about your adventures, I'd love to share them with everyone! Feel free to reach out to me, Karen Britton, at [britton231@comcast.net](mailto:britton231@comcast.net) or 267-374-2799.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone in our Pottstown Region Family!

**The deadline for the next newsletter is March 20**



**2026 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.*

- January 14 - Club meeting at the Pizza Como, Pennsburg, PA. **NEW TIME** Dinner at 1:00PM with a meeting to follow at 1:45PM
- February 11 - Club meeting at the Pizza Como, Pennsburg, PA. **NEW TIME** Dinner at 1:00PM with a meeting to follow at 1:45PM
- March 5 - Duryea Day meeting 1PM at Boyertown Museum
- March 11 - Club meeting at the Pizza Como, Pennsburg, PA. Dinner at 6:00PM with a meeting to follow at 7:00PM
- April 15 - Club meeting at the Pizza Como, Pennsburg, PA. Dinner at 6:00PM with a meeting to follow at 7:00PM

### Upcoming AACA Events

**February 5-7, 2026 – Annual Convention/National Awards Chantilly, VA**

**March 19-21, 2026 – Special Nationals – Guaynabo, Puerto Rico**

**March 26-28, 2026 – Winter Nationals – Cartersville, GA**

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

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

### Upcoming Local Events

**January 16-18 2026** - Auto Mania at Allentown Ag Hall.

**February 17, 2026** - Fastnacht Day at Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles.

**March 1, 2026** - Leesport Swap Meet:



## Junkyard Tour

On Saturday, November 22nd, the Pottstown Region AACA had a fun outing with the Keystone State Chapter of the Pontiac Oakland GMC Club. We went to a local junkyard called Stewart Criswell & Sons Salvage in Nottingham, PA. You know how there aren't many yards left that let you go through and find parts? Well, this one is still going strong!



We started our day with a delicious breakfast at 8:30 AM at the Post House Family Restaurant. Then, we hopped in the car and headed to Stewart Criswell & Sons Salvage. About 25 guys came along for the tour, which was a blast!

The weather started out a bit rainy, but it cleared up to a cloudy day. With all the leaves on the ground and tracks through the yard, there wasn't much mud.

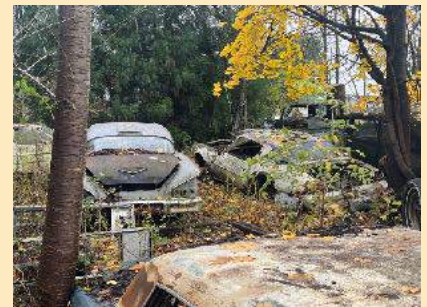


This yard has been around since 1945 and is always a family-owned business. Our hosts were super friendly and helpful, always ready to find the parts we were looking for. They have a great selection of older cars, but they also have some newer ones. Some of the cars were a bit overgrown with vegetation, so we had to get creative to reach them.

There are a lot of buses, vans, and delivery vehicles with parts stored in them too. This is a pretty big yard, so you'd probably need more than a day to explore everything. They also have some motorcycles and parts, lawn tractors, lawn mowers, and other yard equipment that you might be able to get parts from.



Overall, it was a great experience, and we had a lot of fun exploring the junkyard.





## Annual Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas Party this year started out with a visit from Mother Nature.

We were all ready for our party on Sunday December 14th but unfortunately we had a 6" snow delay. There were a lot of moving parts this year and luckily everything came together and we were able to reschedule the party for Thursday, December 18th. Pat Strunk coordinated the event this year and everything went together perfectly. This year our venue was the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles, a perfect backdrop for a car club's Christmas Party. The museum had our tables in place as we arrived. Sandy Kemp and myself added some festive touches to the tables. Betty brought the cookie tins and Pat supplied the music. Bowtied Catering by Big Phil brought the festive meal and our dessert was supplied by The Peppermint Stick Candy Store & Ice Cream Parlor.

Our evening began at 5pm with social hour. Appetizers were passed and conversations were heard throughout the venue. At 5:30 our president, Bob Dare welcomed everyone and was followed by a prayer from Lynne Hallman.

Our buffet consisted of roast beef, chicken, salmon, salad, with a variety of vegetables, and potatoes. For dessert you had a choice of an ice cream float or a sundae. Everything was delicious.

After our meal was complete, Bob Dare thanked the members who served the club for the past year and then introduced the new officers for 2026. This was followed by a "Year in Review" slide presentation by our new president Tom Wright. Tom recognized Bob and Betty Dare for their many years of service to our club with a plaque. This was followed by the traditional passing of the steering wheel from outgoing president Bob Dare to incoming president Tom Wright.



Nuts, Bolts and Sparkplugs



January-February-March



# The story of the Scout

By Don Kohn

*This article was submitted by Don, before he passed away at the beginning of November. Don was a relatively new member but was very supportive of our chapter. I felt that I would run this article in his memory.*

It all started in 1961 when the International Harvester Company introduced a 100 inch wheelbase car to compete with the Jeep. First known as the 80, it came with side curtains and a 4-cylinder motor that was literally half of their 304 cu. in. motor. Most were 4-wheel drive units.



The 80 series changed over the years into the 800 series. The changes were slight. Roll-up windows and several engines became available. The Scouts were available with full tops, half tops, or no tops.

In about 1972, International retired the 800 series and introduced the Scout II series. The Scout II had a different body style, but basically the same type of vehicle with maybe a bit more luxury. In about 1975, International decided to abandon their line of pickups. To fill the gap, they stretched the Scout II 18 inches and created the Traveler (SUV/station wagon) and the Tera (pickup).



1976 brought the availability of a Nissan diesel engine. It was very slow. The joke was that they disconnected the speedometer to reduce the drag. So, in 1980 a Turbocharged Nissan diesel was one of the available engines.

I am a proud owner of a 1980 Scout. It is a 4-wheel drive, four speed, Tahitian Red Traveler with a 101 horsepower turbocharged diesel engine.

(continued)

About 20 years ago I purchased a 1979 Scout Traveler project car. I started to repair it and then saw a 1980 Scout Traveler with a turbocharged diesel engine. It was in fairly good condition. It needed the damaged rear fender repaired and the windshield frame replaced. After I fixed those items, I had the entire vehicle repainted. I am the third owner. The first owner was a body man at an international dealership. The second owner was a salesman at the same dealership. I have replaced the steel wheels and hubcaps with the polycast wheels that were optional.

This is not for those who like low mileage vehicles. This Scout has traveled 225,000 miles.



## January in Automotive History

- **January 29, 1886:** Karl Benz applied for a patent for his gas-powered vehicle, the "vehicle powered by a gas engine" (Patent No. 37435), considered the birth certificate of the automobile.
- **January 3, 1899:** The term "automobile" was first used in The New York Times.
- **January 12, 1900:** The first commercial vehicle by The Detroit Automobile Company, a precursor to modern utility vehicles, was launched.
- **January 5, 1924:** The first Chrysler car debuted.
- **January 1, 1942:** The U.S. government froze consumer vehicle production during World War II, shifting automakers to military production like tanks and trucks.
- **January 17, 1953:** The Chevrolet Corvette concept car was introduced at the GM Motorama

# Preparing Your Antique Vehicle for Winter Storage

As the driving season winds down, many antique and classic car owners face the important task of preparing their vehicles for winter storage. Proper “overwintering” is essential to protect your investment and ensure your car is ready to hit the road again in the spring. Here are some key steps recommended by collectors, restorers, and automotive experts:

## 1. Clean and Protect the Exterior

- Wash and wax your vehicle thoroughly to remove dirt, road salts, and bugs that can damage the finish over time.
- Pay special attention to the undercarriage and wheel wells where grime tends to collect.
- Apply a quality wax or paint sealant to protect the paint during storage.

## 2. Care for the Interior

- Vacuum carpets, seats, and floor mats to prevent pests from finding food sources.
- Use a leather conditioner or vinyl protectant where appropriate to prevent drying or cracking.
- Remove any food wrappers or crumbs that could attract rodents.



## 3. Protect the Fuel System

- Fill the gas tank nearly full to minimize condensation.
- Add a quality fuel stabilizer and run the engine for several minutes to circulate it through the system.

## 4. Engine and Fluids

- Change the oil and filter before storage—used oil contains contaminants that can cause corrosion.
- Check and top off coolant, brake fluid, and transmission fluid.



- If the car will be stored for many months, consider fogging the cylinders with a light oil to prevent rust.

## 5. Battery Care

- Disconnect the battery or use a battery maintainer (trickle charger) to keep it charged.
- Store the battery in a cool, dry place if removing it from the vehicle.

(continued)

## 6. Tires and Suspension

- Inflate tires to the recommended pressure to prevent flat spots.
- If possible, place the car on jack stands to relieve weight on suspension and tires.
- If not on stands, roll the car slightly every month to change the contact point of the tires.

## 7. Prevent Moisture and Pests

- Place moisture-absorbing products (like silica packs or specialized desiccants) inside the cabin and trunk.
- Seal small openings with steel wool or deterrent products to keep rodents out.
- Store the vehicle in a dry, ventilated space. If covering, use a breathable car cover designed for indoor storage—not plastic tarps.

## 8. Final Touches

- Release the parking brake to prevent sticking.
- Leave a note on the steering wheel with reminders for spring (e.g., reconnect battery, check fluids).

**In Summary:** A little preparation goes a long way in protecting an antique car during the winter months. By cleaning, protecting, and carefully storing your vehicle, you'll ensure that when warm weather returns, your prized automobile will be ready to start up smoothly and shine just as brightly as the day you put it away.



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## MEET OUR SPONSOR

### THE CAROUSEL AT POTTSTOWN

One of our new sponsors for this year is The Carousel at Pottstown. The Carousel itself is a timeless piece of nostalgia located in an old welding building on W. King Street. It was built by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company in 1905 and designated as PTC#9. It had no moving animals or chariots when it was used at its' first location in Cleveland, Ohio. A few years later it was moved to Hartford, Connecticut, and then on to Mt. Gretna, PA in 1926. In 1935 it again found a new home in Pine Grove, PA. In the 1980s it was dismantled and the original animals and decorations were sold at auction, and what remained was put in storage in Dallastown, PA.

In 1999, a group from Pottstown had a plan to help revitalize the town with a community carousel. Through fundraising and donations, a building was found and refurbished and the remnants of the carousel were also purchased. Local machinists and mechanics updated the operating mechanisms, and master sculptor Ed Ross was commissioned to work on new horses and animals. Each custom carved piece took local artists over



Picture above of original building that now houses the carousel today in Pottstown.

250 hours of sanding, painting, and finishing. After 22 years of labor, the Carousel was finally rebuilt and restored to what visitors see today.



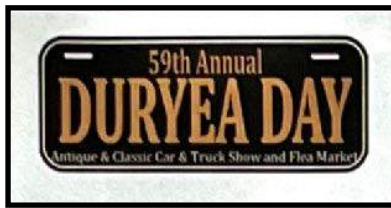
In 2016, work being done on one of the new horses. Pictured on right member, Don Fiorillo.

Stop in any Saturday from 12 to 4 and take a ride on this beautiful piece of history. The Carousel is adorned with recreated pictures of people and places that are part of Pottstown's past. When you step on and the

Carousel starts to spin with that familiar music playing, you are transported back in time to a magical place of memories from your past.



Thank you to The Carousel for being one of our sponsors!



Duryea Day was held early this year on Saturday, August 30th, 2025. The weather was unbelievable and added to our overall success. There are lots of debates on exactly how many cars & trucks came to this year's event. We had 12-14 cars from the Horseless Carriage Club that attended as our guest and feature vehicles and were missed in the count by the folks that are responsible for the official count. Also scattered throughout the car show field were cars not officially registered. These cars belonged to volunteers and may have been missed by some of the counters. In saying this, I'm going with an unofficial count of 650 cars, trucks and motorcycles in attendance.

We had to close registration a little earlier than 12 noon, our regular stop time, due to lack of space for parking any additional vehicles.

I have been Chairman of this show for 12 years and firmly believe it was the best one we put on since I have been Chair.

Our walk up spectator ticket sales was up over 45% this year, helped by the nice weather, but those attendees were able to enjoy not only cars, trucks and motorcycles, but a terrific flea market with 40 or so vendors, more than enough food choices and entertainment from our DJ and KooKoo the Clown/ Magician.

I especially want to thank the many volunteers that make this show one of kind as we completed our 59th show. I want all to remember that next year will be our 60th annual event and we plan to have some really special activities.

The AACA members, as well as other volunteers, around 48 folks in total are needed to put this show together. We get help from Boyertown Alumni Band, Gilbertsville Volunteer Fire Co and area youth from the Sea & Navel Cadets. We get financial support from Truist Bank, Gabelsville Athletic, Camping World, Erb & Henry, Littles Equipment, Tower Health, Suburban Water, Quigley Bus Company, plus others.

We start meeting in February on a monthly basis and plan throughout the spring and summer to put this event together, with the hope of no day of show issues. Next year we will celebrate our 60th anniversary of this classic car show. Please put this show on your schedule for 2026 and help us celebrate 60 years of this motoring event.

Submitted by Tom Wright (chairperson)

# Duryea Day Specialty Vehicle Trophy Winners



# CLUB BUSINESS

## **Officers 2026**

President Tom Wright 484-624-2198 [tommyjw22@yahoo.com](mailto:tommyjw22@yahoo.com)  
Vice President Cliff Wilson 610-948-5922 [wilsondad2@msn.com](mailto:wilsondad2@msn.com)  
Asst Vice President(Jan-Apr) Gary Faircloth 215-920-3921  
[\\_phrogghill@gmail.com](mailto:_phrogghill@gmail.com)  
Secretary Patricia Strunk 610-367-8252 [P1125b@gmail.com](mailto:P1125b@gmail.com)  
Treasurer James Xander 610-864-0022 [jx5576@yahoo.com](mailto:jx5576@yahoo.com)

## **Board of Directors**

Robert Strunk 610-367-8252 [rlstrunk55@aol.com](mailto:rlstrunk55@aol.com)  
John McCarthy 610-689-0713 [packardmotors@aol.com](mailto:packardmotors@aol.com)  
Joe Frattone 215-778-9804 [jfrattone@comcast.net](mailto:jfrattone@comcast.net)  
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Stefan Phifer [stefanphifer@verizon.net](mailto:stefanphifer@verizon.net)

## **2026 Committees**

Newsletter Karen Britton 267-374-2799 [britton231@comcast.net](mailto:britton231@comcast.net)  
Facebook - Pat Strunk 610-367-8252 [p1125b@gmail.com](mailto:p1125b@gmail.com)  
Membership & Website Pat Strunk 610-367-8252 [p1125b@gmail.com](mailto:p1125b@gmail.com)  
Duryea Day Car Show Tom Wright 484-624-2198 [tommyjw22@yahoo.com](mailto:tommyjw22@yahoo.com)  
Property Keith Hunsberger 610-987-0293 [khunsberger@dejazzd.com](mailto:khunsberger@dejazzd.com)  
Activities Tom Wright 484-624-2198 [tommyjw22@yahoo.com](mailto:tommyjw22@yahoo.com)  
Sunshine Sandy Kemp 610-367-6664 [sandrakemp5480@gmail.com](mailto:sandrakemp5480@gmail.com)  
Audit John McCarthy 610-689-0713 [packardmotors@aol.com](mailto: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 let Sandy Kemp, Sunshine Committee, know of any member who is sick or in the hospital. Also, if you are aware of a member, their spouse, or immediate family passing away, Sandy can be reached by phone or text at 610-780-5480 or by email at [sandrakemp5480@gmail.com](mailto:sandrakemp5480@gmail.com).

## Don Kohn

Our condolences were sent to the family of relatively new member, Don Kohn. Don always had a smile on his face and enjoyed talking to anyone he met. Although he was new to our Region, he attended the monthly club meetings, our annual summer picnic, and volunteered to man the Region/AACA information table at Duryea Day. Don will be missed.

## Club Birthday Wishes

### January

1st -Lynne C Hallman  
3rd -Gustave Miller  
6th -Patricia Poley  
11th -Kim Spiece  
21st -Irene Fryer  
21st -Darlene Reinford  
21st -Paul Sable

### February

13th -Peggy Engard  
20th -Alfred Scherzer  
27th -Mike Yannessa

### March

3rd -Thomas Spaar  
7th -Robert L Strunk  
7th -Russ Hunt  
11th -Charles E Fryer  
11th -Brian Stever  
16th -Donald Fiorillo  
16th -Leslie C Lachman  
16th -Matthew Stever  
19th -Joanne C Herilla  
22nd-Tim Britton  
24th -Robin Guigley



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Deborah Byerly-McFarlin  
Event and Marketing Coordinator

484-300-1186  
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## 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](mailto: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

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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  
January-February-March 2026*

AACA's LIVE WIRE REGION  
ESTABLISHED IN 1952