Getting New AACA National Judges
By John McCarthy

During the mid-1980's I judged at local car shows where all you had to do was say "yes" when asked if you would help out and judge at an upcoming local car show. Our AACA Region only had a few National Judges and two of them who knew I attended Hershey each year told me I should become an AACA Judge. One of these judges had just become our Region’s first Senior-Master judge and I was impressed with the pin and new board he received to attach his judging chips. I agreed to judge at Hershey and realized judging at an AACA National Meet meant you were in the big leagues and I better do everything right. At Hershey in 1990 I was on the field judging, a bit nervous, but with a wonderful team that helped me along.

Judging back then was different. The only time you could attend a judging school was at the AACA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, there was no Continuing Judges Education and there was no apprentice training. Judges training has been much improved. There is now a judging school at every National Meet, a large variety of CJE courses to choose from, and first time judges serve on an apprentice team lead by an experienced AACA judge. It took me a couple of years to get three judging credits but now on one weekend you can get three credits and also receive excellent training and assistance that will provide a solid base from which to judge at subsequent National Meets. AACA judges are very friendly and you will make lifelong friends by judging together.

That said, what can you do to get new AACA judges? Most Regions and Chapters have a monthly meeting and your President is always looking for someone to give a talk at these meetings. Make your President a happy person and volunteer to give a talk on AACA judging. Talk about the judging team structure, how it works, the responsibilities of each judge, bring a copy of the Official Judging Guidelines manual (free at each judging school), go over a sample judging form, the judging school, CJE, answer questions, but most importantly, ASK those at the meeting to become an AACA National Judge. Don’t forget the ladies---AACA has a large number of lady judges many of whom are very experienced judges. Asking is important as some people think they might not know enough---we have all be there and have become experienced AACA judges in the Club that has the best judging program of any club.
Some of our best times have been with friends and old cars, and when you combine them, everything just gets better and better. It seems like every time you turn around there is another AACA National Meet or Tour, a Divisional event, or something else special going on.

BUT WAIT -- THERE'S MORE!

It is time for you and your Region to step up and host because there is so much to see and do in your part of the country. The rest of us don’t know how much is going on there, and would really enjoy driving your back roads, seeing the areas of interest in your communities, visiting the things that are special, and that ordinary folks might never get to see.

Take a year or so to get things in order, but for now just let me know that you are interested. I’ll help you to set up a plan. We can talk through the types of activities, the driving thoughts, the vintage, the type of event, and so on. Would hosting a National Meet be your “thing”? Are you more interested in having a chance to string together several of your club’s single day activities into a three-, four-, or five-day tour? You can do it, and we’ll help you get organized.

Hosting an event opens the door building new friendships, building better working relationships within your own club, and when properly managed, can be profitable to your club in so many ways.

Even the smallest of clubs can have some of the nicest events. Just ask anyone who came to Houma, Louisiana for the 2015 Central Fall Meet what a small club can do. When first presented, the enthusiasm may not have been what we hoped for, but as plans matured the excitement was overwhelming, and club membership swelled in both numbers and participation.

Step right up to the center of the midway! You don’t have to be a Hershey or a Charlotte. We have those already. What we want now is to visit your corner of the world, to drive your roads, to sample your special foods, to learn about your industry and tourist areas, and to head back home having built some more great memories.

Attention AACA Regions and Chapters, we are in need of your help. Our AACA Activity calendar has opportunities for local clubs to highlight your area of the AACA world. I am sure most of you have attended an AACA National Meet or Tour, and enjoyed the event. We now are in need of you to think about hosting a meet or tour to keep our events going strong. I know some of you are thinking that, “Gosh, our club is getting older and our energy is a little short.”

There are ways to overcome that. Almost every AACA region or chapter is close to another AACA club. You can easily get together with each other and share the load. There are also scouting groups, athletic clubs, and even other non-AACA car clubs that would glad to help out if you could support them in their events and help make all events successful.

Another important thing about hosting a national event is the revitalization of your club, bringing everyone together again, after many members may think that their club is getting stale.

Lastly, and most importantly, AACA needs you to help promote our hobby and keep our events calendar strong and full. We have openings for events in 2017 and beyond. The AACA Board, the Judging committee, and my committee are here to help you succeed in promoting our hobby.
PLEASE - HELP US TO HELP YOU

By Lars Anderson
VP Membership

AAACA has 30,000 member families. If we look in the directory we’ll learn who you are. And that’s what we know about you. Some of you joined last year and others more than 50 years ago. It would be very helpful for the club to learn the demographics of its members so it can better program for your benefit. Therefore Hershey is undertaking having a member survey conducted. It’s a voluntary thing, takes a minute or so of your time. Don’t worry, there’s nothing personal about this, nothing will be tied to your name. It will be administered by an independent firm and will come to you on your email. Please complete it and help us to help you.

Editor’s Note

Matt Hinson
Rummage Box Editor

This is my second edition as the editor of the Rummage Box. Hopefully, I will be able to help editors by providing useful content for their region and chapter newsletters. Feel free to contact me with any input to help improve the Rummage Box.

I would like to thank John E. Sayler, Jr. for his submission of the Jay Leno interview found in this issue. He and Mr Leno kindly gave their permission for this to be reprinted in other AAACA newsletters. I am sure that many AAACA members will enjoy reading this article.

Pass It On For the Future – Our Future

By: Don Barlup

This past year while serving as your AAACA National President, have taken Carol and I to meets and tours from Puerto Rico to Houma, LA. We have enjoyed each event and especially meeting our fellow AAACA members.

I have read volumes of Region and Chapter newsletters (now you know the source of some of my jokes). Most of these newsletters are looking for more youthful members while they enjoy the camaraderie of the automotive hobby and each other. Most Regions and Chapters host one or more meets and tours in their local areas each year. I continue to marvel at the collections they visit, the landmarks they drive by, and the excitement and just plain fun that they share with each other.

Actually, I am in some ways jealous of what they have to offer. I want to see what they see. I want to enjoy their scenery and local landmarks, but I am not invited, as I do not belong to their AAACA group!

We have approximately 360 Regions and Chapters enjoying our hobby under the AAACA umbrella throughout the USA, Canada, and Puerto Rico, but we continue to rely on a small percentage of them to invite us to their area of the country to show us what they are most proud of, their Region, their attractions, their hospitality, and their members. Why is this? What are we missing in the equation? Regions + Members + Cars = Fun. So, let’s pass it on for the future, because the future of AAACA...
Hi. My name is Earl and I am a caraholic. Who knows when it began? My father building late model and super modified race cars in the family barn or maybe the 1958 Impala convertible with a 348 and three deuces that was my mother’s first car.

It is hard to point to one simple beginning, but along the way I have learned a few things. Never put a rusting MG into long term storage and that my talent is not deep enough to finish a drop center frame H modified Crosley with an Almquist Engineering body.

If you are reading these words you are either a card carrying caraholic or an enabler.

Over the years, I have learned how to start an Antique Auto Restoration College program and how to organize a successful old car youth event. I never tire of giving tours of my shed-mahal or taking young people for a ride in vintage tin.

As AACA National Director of Youth development I have collected a committee of like-minded enthusiasts from across our country. We promote various initiatives including the Hagerty Youth Program, College Chapters that are supported by AACA Regions, High school and middle school clubs, grants and scholarships for the Great Race X-Cup teams, as well as the annual AACA College Scholarship Program and even the AACA Greenhorn Region, a non-geographic region for young people.

I can talk to you all day about this wonderful hobby but I am not the Future. The FUTURE lies with our children and grandchildren. Our Youth Development Committee members are glad to share their time with you discussing your youth initiative programs or possibly starting one.

So give this old caraholic a call and we will talk about our future.

Remember when your Region was like a vintage red sports car everybody wanted to ride in? You had monthly meetings with a program, drawings for wearing club clothing or simply being there, a mini-tour every month, car shows, a great newsletter to keep everybody informed, and lots of fun. But now, you’re an old beater, barely able to make the once a month get together for breakfast at McDonalds. If this is you, here’s a wakeup call! Pretty soon you and your friends tire of that, and National AACA gets a request to dissolve the Region. That happens too frequently all over the country.

The story doesn’t have to end that way. Why not give the old beater a new paint job and a tune-up? As a start, just try being more visible in your community. Drive your beautiful vehicles. Contact a local civic group like Lions or Rotary or Kiwanis which is active in your community. They depend on the public to help raise money for their projects--and a small car display with your Region name prominently displayed will bring people to their event and probably get you free publicity in the local newspaper or on radio broadcasts. This tactic may well bring out potential new members to revitalize your club. Building on that, branch out to hosting a small swap meet, a mini-tour to somewhere close, car show, etc. If you’re worried about insurance costs for a club event you host, you’re covered--just call National Headquarters for a certificate. You’re part of the largest and oldest car club in the world--don’t let it go and just die out. There are plenty of things you can do to put new spark plugs into that old beater and watch it shine like new again! You have experts at National and with Chairperson members of your Divisional Region Development and Support Team to help you--you’re not alone. Just look us up on the national website, our contact info is there for you!
Military Sponsorship Program

By Bob Parrish
AACA 2016 President

Military personnel have often lived all over the world and once they retire are ready to settle down - maybe pursue a hobby. Perhaps antique cars is something they have always had an interest in and we can be the ones to make that introduction.

This program will be promoted on the AACA Region/Chapter level and an attempt will be made to match these new members with the local Regions/Chapters where they reside. Regions and Chapters will be encouraged to invite these new members to a meeting or activity and also consider giving these new members a current year complimentary membership to their respective Region/Chapter.

The different military services have Retiree Services Offices throughout the country to provide assistance to and connect with military retirees in their respective locales. These individual Retiree Services Offices plan various retiree activities, which usually include an annual Retiree Appreciation Day. The Retiree Appreciation Day is an event that may have guest speakers, luncheons, seminars, etc. designed to keep retirees informed about services for them. This would be a good venue to promote this program.

Applications will be available from AACA National Headquarters and can be downloaded from the AACA website at: http://www.aaca.org/images/pdf/AACAMilitarySponsorshipApplication.pdf

Startup funding will be provided by AACA. Corporations, Regions/Chapters and individual contributions are welcome.

The number of memberships are limited by the funding available. Applications should be mailed to, and questions regarding this program can be directed to:

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Gettysburg is about as far removed from the television and entertainment industries as Yugos are from Duesenbergs. We reached collector Jay Leno, hard at work at his California garage, to get a glimpse into the world of TV production, especially as it applies to his new show, Jay Leno’s Garage, on CNBC.

Gas Buggy Gazette: Jay, what would you say the general theme of the show is? For people who haven’t seen it, how would you describe it?

Jay Leno: The general theme is, “anything that rolls, explodes, and makes noise.” That’s pretty much it. You know, I get tired of these shows where everybody throws tools at one another and they pretend to have arguments, and they restore a car in a week. It’s hysterical to me, because people say to me, “Can you restore my uncle’s Mustang? His birthday is in two weeks!” “No, I can’t do that.” “But I’ve seen it on TV!” So you wind up having these conversations.

Gazette: Your interest is broad: You have the antique cars, the exotics, the motorcycles, the customs. Who decides the subjects you cover each week?

Leno: Well, we always try to find a different topic. Sometimes it’s designers, sometimes it’s drivers, sometimes it’s rivalries—A. J. Foyt versus Mario Andretti, whoever it might be. So we always try to have some tenuous theme that ties the show together.

Gazette: I think you’ve had eight episodes so far—

Leno: Yes. Most car shows are a half hour, which is really only 22 minutes, so we try to make it an hour to make it a little more interesting.

Gazette: You get more content.

Leno: Exactly.

Gazette: It really seems like it’s an ambitious production, because you have several segments you’re doing every hour. You’re going to a lot of different places—

Leno: We try to keep it moving. It’s like the spinning plates on the [Ed] Sullivan show: You want to keep people from getting distracted. We like to include the segment for the wives: “See how much this car will be worth in five years. See, your husband did the right thing!” That makes it kind of fun.

Gazette: With all the action, it’s not like Jay Leno sitting by the fireplace and chatting about the history of Haynes-Apperson.

Leno: No, we try to avoid that!

Gazette: Here in Pennsylvania, we’re not anywhere near the entertainment industry. Can you tell us briefly how the show is made, with the writers, etc.?

Leno: There are really no writers. It’s a real low-budget show. We just go out with a camera and I call on
people I’ve known over the years, like Mario Andretti, and you get them to come in. Like for the low-rider segment, there are a lot of low-rider clubs around Los Angeles—we contacted a few of them: “Would you guys bring your cars?” And when people realize you’re not going to make fun of them, they really come on board. Most car guys want to promote the hobby and promote the cars, so it’s actually good—people really step up and bring the cars and hang around for hours while we do the shoots, and they’re really great. People in the hobby want to see more young people get involved in the hobby.

We always feature different segments. You can’t always feature old gray-haired white guys! We have had a few female drag racers and some African-American car clubs, a Latino car club. You try to show that automobiles are something that crosses all spectrums, all economic classes. One day we’ll do Pebble Beach, and that’s all the millionaires and the billionaires; the other days we’ll do some little events like “The Blessing of the Cars,” where primarily Latino groups and families come out and have barbecues and show their cars off. We cover all spectrums.

**Gazette:** Are you doing something like five hours of tape for a 40-minute broadcast?

**Leno** [laughs, and explains to the naïve Gettysburg editor]: It doesn’t work that way. Most television is an hour per minute of broadcast. You’re doing well if it’s an hour per minute. For example, we shot the episode up at Fort Hood. It takes you three hours to get there—well, that’s on the clock. You’re on an army base, then you go through security—that’s another hour for all the crew, and everybody gets searched. Then you start shooting. So if you can get a minute on the air for every hour you shoot, you’re doing pretty well.

**Gazette:** That’s an insight that we would have no idea of—

**Leno:** Then you go back and edit it all, and that’s hours and hours. You shoot tons of material, and you try to get the best tape you can.

**Gazette:** What demographic are you especially trying to reach? The coveted 18- to 35-year-old male viewer?

**Leno:** No, you’re not going to get that, necessarily. You just try to cover a broad spectrum. We try to keep it interesting. You know I do Jay Leno’s Garage on the web; that’s a little more technical. But for this show, since it’s a mainstream TV audience, we just try to make it interesting for people. The best compliment I’ve gotten is when wives say, “I enjoy watching it with my husband. I actually like the show!” It’s not another two guys yelling at each other with tattoos, trying to put a Chevy engine in a ’55—

**Gazette:** So I assume the 80- to 100-year-old demographic is out—

**Leno:** You know, I’ve always been rather egalitarian. I’m a comedian. If people laugh at a joke, they laugh at a joke. I really don’t care what age they are. When I did The Tonight Show, they would always push you and try and get the younger rock bands and things, and that’s fine; but to me, entertainment is entertainment. If something is interesting, it’s interesting. When I watch a Ken Burns documentary, I’m not particularly interested in the Civil War, but he does it so well, that I watched all 20 hours of that, because I thought it was fascinating. If you make a subject interesting to people—the real trick is not to make it appeal [exclusively] to car guys—it’s to make it appeal to non-car people. Because there aren’t enough car guys to make any TV show a hit, so you’ve got to make it so people who aren’t real enthusiasts say, “That was interesting, I had no idea”—

**Gazette:** And it is. The A.A.C.A. has about 60,000 people. If every A.A.C.A. member watched, that wouldn’t be enough to sell it.

**Leno** [laughs in agreement]: Yeah!

**Gazette:** Now, what’s your favorite segment so far?

**Leno** [ponders]: Oh, gosh—

**Gazette:** We have to put you on the spot for something—

**Leno:** One I thought was fascinating was Francis Ford Coppola, because I was a huge fan of his films, he’s Italian like me, he doesn’t do any TV, and he agreed to do our show. He’s named after Henry Ford. Did you know that?

**Gazette:** I didn’t know that, no.

**Leno:** He’s a car guy. Francis Ford Coppola was born in Detroit. His father played in the orchestra for Henry Ford. Henry Ford had the Henry Ford Radio Hour. In the old Italian tradition, Francis Ford Coppola’s father named his son after his employer. I thought that was sort of interesting.

**Gazette:** Yes. It’s a good thing his father didn’t work for Maytag.

**Leno** [ponders amateur editor’s attempt at a joke]: He’d be Francis Maytag Coppola—yeah—

(Continued next page)
**Interview: Leno TV Show**

(continued)

**Gazette:** Now, do you think we’ll see a show focused on steam cars? You mentioned the White [in one episode].

**Leno:** We’ve had the steam cars on. That’s another topic, “Anything But Gasoline,” showing cars that run on hydrogen, cars that run on electricity, cars that run on steam, cars that run on coal gas or wood. That’s the idea: Try to find interesting things that people will find entertaining.

**Gazette:** Just so people don’t think you’ve retired, can you tell us how many comedy shows you did last year [2015]? We want to correct any misapprehension.

**Leno:** I do about 210 dates a year.

**Gazette:** When will the next episodes [of Jay Leno’s Garage] be broadcast?

**Leno:** We did the first eight [in 2015]. Now we’re filming [for 2016]. We’ll probably do 3 or 4 months of filming. We’ll probably start [broadcasting] the middle of April, something like that. May, possibly.

**Gazette:** Are they going to be broadcast the same date and time [on CNBC for 2016]?

**Leno:** I think so. We’re going to do twelve episodes this year instead of eight. The show was a big hit. It’s the biggest original programming show they’ve ever had on CNBC, which is kind of cool, because it’s a car show and it’s not necessarily a general-interest [program]. It seems to be doing well, and it seems to be growing. People seem to like it….

We have a segment coming up called “Love Stories,” where people that had a car their whole life, [like] guys that bought a GTO when they came back from Vietnam, those kinds of stories are fun too.

**Gazette:** Definitely! Well, that should be it for the actual interview—

**Leno:** Thanks for taking the time. I appreciate it.

AACA’s National Headquarters serves as the hub for the operation of AACA. Seven full-time staff members handle the administration of the Club including the publication of ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE magazine, the country’s foremost automobile historical publication.

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Anyone on the staff is ready to help you with a problem or a question. However, the list below identifies some of our staff’s primary areas of responsibility:

**Pat Buckley:** pbuckley@aaca.org accounting, meet program, membership program and internet concerns

**Karen White:** kwhite@aaca.org membership, meet request forms and merchandise

**Lynn Gawel:** lgawel@aaca.org vehicle awards, I Got a Member Program, meet request forms and Region and Chapters

Shown below is the image of an AACA marketing brochure that can be obtained from AACA Headquarters. Below the image is the text that appears on the back of the brochure.

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“This is not your father’s AACA!” to paraphrase an Oldsmobile ad from the 80s. Today’s AACA combines the very best things from our past, along with new technologies and a very progressive agenda for the future. Our 100-plus car classes for national judging include all cars, trucks and motorcycles that are at least 25 years old - foreign and domestic models, daily drivers and unrestored originals. We are the most inclusive car club in the world.

Each year we hold 10 National meets, plus several great car tours. Traveling to and exploring fun places with a couple hundred of your best friends is always a blast! Many of our 60,000+ members belong to one or more of our 400 local Regions and Chapters and enjoy the camaraderie of those groups. AACA is for all ages and recognizes the importance of nurturing the car-crazy gene in young people. We have great programs for the youngest of children to students and even through college. AACA has a large scholarship program as well. AACA is dedicated to preserving history and it leads our actions every day. Our Library and Museum are world class and our magazine is a national award-winning publication. We have more to offer than can be explained on this piece, so please consider joining in the fun that is AACA - we'd love to have you! www.aaca.org • 717·534·1910