Inside this issue:

Find New AACA Members
Mel Carson
AACA Executive Vice President

Find New AACA Members
Mel Carson
AACA Executive Vice President

Missed Opportunities
Wayne Tuck
Vice President Membership

The Antique Automobile Club of America is “America’s premiere resource for the collectible vehicle community! We know there are countless folks in the country that grew up loving cars as much as we do – and they are not all AACA Members. Many have at least one collectible car stashed away so they can get it running again ‘some day.’ They probably are attracted to the cruise-in gatherings that seem to be very widespread. These cruise-ins bring together individuals who enjoy, and probably have a collectible vehicle, but often do not belong to AACA.

We can do a great job of finding new AACA members by talking with them about cars. Usually an antique vehicle owner is thrilled to talk about their vehicle. When they bought it, what they did to make it run, who owned it before! Don’t be modest, talk about your vehicle and AACA. Create a personal goal to find new members and bring them into AACA now!

Every local cruise night or car event we attend results in a few leaflets or flyers being tucked under a wiper or dropped on the seat. It would be nearly impossible to attend every event you are invited to. Do we even try to investigate? I have attended a few that were pretty dull. However, I have also been pleasantly surprised by some that turn out to be fantastic. We never know until we try, or someone you know gives you a tip on what you might be missing.

These local events are great opportunities to spread the word about how great it is to be a member of AACA. Be one of those folks that takes advantage of the opportunity to be out there in the old car community and drop a few leaflets of your own telling other old car fans about the advantages our club has to offer. Take advantage of the new tri-fold brochure available free from AACA headquarters promoting the advantages of Region and National membership.

How many times have you been stopped in a parking lot and asked about the old car you are driving? Are you prepared to hand out a brochure touting the benefits of AACA membership? We need to be prepared when opportunities present themselves. Keep a handful in all of your vehicles to avoid having any missed opportunities!
Editor’s Note
Matt Hinson
Rummage Box Editor

Welcome to my tenth issue as Editor of the Rummage Box. I recently signed up a new AACA Member at out local Cars and Coffee. I also gave out a few prospective member kits to a few other potential new members. I was a bit amused as I was preparing this issue when I received Mel Carson’s and Wayne Tuck’s articles that appear in this issue. Both articles recommend that local Cars and Coffee type events are a great place to find potential new AACA Members. I have found this to be absolutely correct. In addition to it being a good location to find new members, in my experience, it is the best location to find new younger members.

Some of us older folks may not always like the younger generation’s choice of collector cars but if you talk with them, you will find that they are car guys and car gals just like the same, they are most just starting out with the kinds of lower budget cars that younger folks can typically more easily afford. In spite of some of these young people collecting cars that might not be my personal idea of an ideal collector car, I find that many are interested in my 1937 Buick Century and other older antique cars. The days of $50 Model A Fords are long gone. I grew up after those days myself. If we are accepting of the antique car choices of younger generation collectors, you will see that the future of the hobby is better than some of the gloom and doom predictions that you may have heard. While I may not be a big fan of some of the Import cars that I find at our monthly local Cars and Coffee event, the people who are there with those cars are still great potential new AACA Members. Many of them like older cars just as much as I do, they just can’t afford them while dealing with the modern day financial issues of the younger generation. I got started in this hobby when I was in my 36 years old. My first antique car was a Model A Ford. Now that I am retired, I can afford much nicer collector cars than that first rusty old Model A Ford.

I enjoy driving my 1937 Buick Century to lunch and dinner on a regular basis. I also enjoy driving it to our local Cars and Coffee. I get a lot of people who want to talk about my car. I give out a lot of information about our local AACA Chapter. All you have to do is drive an old car and keep AACA brochures with you, and you will be surprised how many potential members you find.

I am also still working on the restoration of a 1938 Buick Century. If you want to see this project, please check it out on the AACA Discussion Forum at: http://forums.aaca.org/topic/297623-1938-buick-century-model-61-four-door-touring-sedan-trunk-back/.

How It Started
Fred Trusty
VP Regions
Western Division

I guess I’ve been a gearhead most of my life. As a kid I was the neighborhood bicycle mechanic. I knew how to adjust chains, handlebars, seats, and fix flat tires. Next it was go carts. I built my first go cart from old galvanized ¾” pipe, scraps of plywood, wheels from a hand dolly, and a horizontal shaft Briggs and Stratton engine off of an old garden tiller. The steering wheel was a piece of plywood and the clutch was nothing more than a piece of pipe bent at ninety degrees with a pulley on one end that you pushed down on with your hand to tighten the belt. We had lots of fun with that contraption until one of the neighborhood kids ran it into my dad’s car. Fortunately, the car was parked. Unfortunately, my dad happened to be sitting on the porch. Even though I could have fixed the damage my dad made me disassemble it, the go cart that is. That was fine because I had my eye on a new way to go fast.

I was 14 years old so I knew that in less than two years I would have my driver’s license. I would buy hot rod magazines and read them from cover to cover. I didn’t understand half of what I was reading but I had a passion for learning about anything with an engine. I sure wish I had known about AACA back then.

I had a big decision to make in life at the age of 16. I could keep playing football but that meant no money, no car, plus you need both for the other hobby I was learning; girls. I thought I was on top of the world making $1.65/hr. at the local grocery store. I saved every penny and bought a well-used 1965 Ford Custom. It was basically a stripped down Galaxy 500 but to me it was cool.

Paychecks went for chrome reverse wheels with wide white letter tires, an AM/FM 8 track player and of course pizza, movies and girls. After that it was a ‘69 Mustang Mach I, a ‘73 Camaro, a ’70 Honda 175, a ’72 Honda CB350, a Gremlin, a ’54 Ford pickup, a Harley, and the list goes on and on. I would buy a car, drive it while I worked on it, then sell it and buy another one. I had fun, made some money, learned how to work on cars, and went through a lot of girlfriends. I wish I still had every one of them today, the cars that is.

The point is that there are still 14-year-old kids out there that have never heard of AACA. If we can find some of them, they might grow up to be gear heads like me.
AACA members have asked, “How are vehicles nominated for National Awards”? First, it is important to understand the composition of the National Awards Committee. It consists of 26 of the most experienced Senior Master Judges in the AACA judging system. The team members have over 6400 judging credits. The team members pay their own travel expenses to attend Meets. The National Awards Committee is the responsibility of the Vice President of National Awards, and assistant Vice President of National Awards.

During the year, there are 8 to 10 National Meets with 3,500 to 4,000 vehicles on the show field. There are also hundreds of vehicles that participate in National Tours. Several National Awards recognize tour vehicles.

I would like to walk you through show day so you will understand the functions of this committee. Vehicle owners are greeted by the assigned 5 member judging team for the traditional vehicle evaluation or judging. During this same period National Award Committee members will appear to seek nominations for National Awards. They can be identified by their yellow shirts. Team members fill out nomination forms for the various awards available. These judges also make nominations for the prestigious Zenith Award. During the show hours, a special Zenith team follows up on these recommendations for the 3 vehicles (2 primary and an alternate) that will be selected from the Meet as a nomination for the annual Zenith display at the Annual Grand National Meet for the next year.

There are over 70 individual National Awards, including HPOF, DPC, and 4 touring awards. A list of National Awards can be found on the AACA website. Traditionally, National Tours are evaluated on a number of activities experienced by the National Awards Committee members present.

On the first Saturday in December, the Committee assembles in Hershey to select the recipient of the various National Awards. This is a difficult task for the team, since so many beautiful vehicles are shown during the year. A vehicle can only win 1 National Award, with one exception, a vehicle is also eligible for the pre or post war Annual Grand National Meet National Award. A nomination does not preclude a vehicle from receiving a nomination at another time.

Member nomination letters are mailed the week after the Fall Hershey Meet and the winners are notified the first week of December. National Award winners are invited to the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia to receive their award.

I hope this information will be helpful in understanding the function of the National Awards Committee and Zenith Team.

The Hornets Nest Region, AACA will host the 2019 AAA Revival Glidden Tour in the Rock Hill, SC – Charlotte NC area. The schedule is Sunday September 22 through Friday September 27, 2019. There will be many attractions of the Old English District of upper South Carolina.

More Revolutionary War battles were fought in South Carolina than any other colony and many of them were in the seven counties (Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Union and York) known as the Olde English District. The battles and the similarity to English town names give the north central area of the state its name. A National Park (Kings Mountain National Military Park), living history sites, monuments and markers invite you to explore your past and the beginnings of our country.

A bus trip is planned to the NASCAR Museum in downtown Charlotte which will also include a visit to the Carolinas Aviation Museum where you can see the airliner from the ‘Miracle on the Hudson.’ Registration will be available after the 2019 AACA Annual Meeting.
Expand Your Knowledge

Mark McAlpine  
Chairman  
Continuing Judges Education

After the antique vehicles, the second most important thing on an AACA show field is the judges. We all know the requirements for becoming an AACA judge: per the AACA Official Judging Guidelines, you must be a member or spouse of a member of the AACA; you must possess, have possessed, or be eligible to have a driver’s license; and you must be able to be fair, honest, understanding, and reasonable when judging a vehicle. I would add two other considerations to the list: judges must be consistent in their judging and knowledgeable about antique automobiles.

We can help you expand your knowledge of antique vehicles so you can be fair (and comfortable) when judging on the show field and to maintain consistency in judging among AACA national judges by attending AACA Continuing Judges Education (CJE). CJE seminars are about 30 to 45 minutes long and offered at every AACA national meet (except the Annual Grand National Meet), usually immediately following the Judges Breakfast on Saturday morning but on Friday afternoon at the Eastern Fall Meet in Hershey.

We have over 40 very experienced AACA judges who volunteer to present over 30 different CJE lessons. These lessons cover broad topics like the core class judging categories of Exterior, Interior, Chassis, and Engine, more focused topics like Brass Era Cars, Ford Model Ts, Race Cars, and Motorcycles, and specific topics like Chrysler High Performance Engines, Truck Beds, and 1937-1962 Chevrolet 6-cylinder engines. Our CJE instructors also offer lessons on Judging Administration, Driver Participation Class (DPC), Historic Preservation of Original Features (HPOF) Class, and Professionalism in Judging. Two new additions this year are Ray Fischer’s Military Vehicles CJE lesson and Mike Peterson’s Documentation lesson. I actually think the Documentation CJE lesson should be mandatory for Judging Team Captains.

Attending CJE is not mandatory, but it is strongly encouraged. If you need more justification for why you should take CJE lessons, did I mention that you receive judging credits for doing it? AACA Judges receive one judging credit each calendar year if they participate in a CJE seminar that year. In years you reach an AACA judging milestone - i.e., 10, 25, 50, 75, 100 judging credits, etc. - you may receive one additional judging credit by attending a second CJE seminar that year. One important thing to remember: you only receive judging credits for attending CJE seminars (or AACA Judging School) if you judge at an AACA national meet that same year.

You don’t receive judging credits for attending extra CJE seminars (although it is recorded in your official judging record), but the more CJE seminars you attend, the more you’ll learn. Even if you’ve taken a specific CJE seminar before, it’s a good idea to take them again every so often - information changes, our memories fade, and each seminar is a little different every time it’s presented (especially if it’s with a different instructor). And don’t worry if you can’t remember how many judging credits you have or if this seminar represents your Annual, Millennium, or Extra judging credit - Dollie Flechler, Chairman of Judges Records & Judges Administration, keeps excellent records and will correct any errors.

Even though our CJE program offers over thirty different seminars, we need more. With the list of AACA-eligible vehicles increasing every year, we need knowledgeable and informed judges to keep up with the ever-expanding show field. Please contact me if you’re willing to prepare and present a new CJE lesson. You don’t have to be a professional speaker and you don’t have to present it at every AACA meet (but if you present a CJE lesson at three or more meets in a year you’ll receive a judging credit).

So, whether you’re an experienced Senior Master Judge with hundreds of judging credits or are just becoming an AACA judge, attend a CJE seminar at the next meet you attend. CJE expands (or at least refreshes) your knowledge and helps make us all better judges.

2018 AACA 1/2 Year Memberships Now Available for New Members

The ½ year membership is for first-time new members only.

It doesn't apply to current members that are late in paying their yearly dues or members that have left their membership lapse for a year or more and wish to reinstate their membership. If you have any questions regarding the ½ year membership program, feel free to contact Karen White at AACA Headquarters at 717-534-1910 or kwhite@aaca.org.

Click here to download an AACA membership application.

Reminder to Regions & Chapters: Don’t forget to use the complimentary 2018 membership applications that were sent to your region or chapter by September 30, 2018.