

# AACA TRIANGLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Please pass the Grey Poupon.

Courtney Johnston's Harlow mixes with the crowd in Pinehurst.

## NEWS SUMMARY

- ◆ Events Calendar – Next Triangle Meeting September 22, 2024
- ◆ President's Message - See Jim Gill's message.
- ◆ Editor's Observations and Notes – Randy's Rant's.
- ◆ Acknowledgements & Announcements
- ◆ Worthy Car Events – Send in your submittals!
- ◆ The Continuing Adventures of Harlow
- ◆ Meeting Notes – See May minutes
- ◆ Tom and Deb Prueett's Cruise In
- ◆ Triangle Chapter Officers
- ◆ Website, Facebook & Instagram Pages
- ◆ My First Car Series Part 6 —Denny Oestreich's 1955 Mercury Custom
- ◆ NC Region 2024 Event Schedule
- Tip or Question of the Month
- The Parting Shot

# EVENTS CALENDAR

Triangle 2024 Events Calendar:

**Event: General Meeting of the Triangle Chapter of AACA**

Meeting Date: **June 23 meeting is canceled** due to renovations at the Backyard Bistro. July meeting location is pending. **Stay tuned to Email blasts for updates.**

Meeting Location: **(WE HOPE) Backyard Bistro—1235 Hurricane Alley Way—Near Trinity Rd and the PNC Area**

**Future Meeting Dates:** 9/22/2024, 10/27/2024, 11/24/2024

(Most General Meetings of the Triangle Chapter are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at the Backyard Bistro. However, meeting dates may, on rare occasions, be moved to an alternate Sunday due to scheduling conflicts at the Backyard Bistro.

**Please check your most current Triangle Chapter Newsletter, Website or Facebook for last minute changes.**

**Please plan on attending in person. This is the last meeting before the Spring Regional Meet.**

**NOTE NEW EARLIER TIME**

**Event Schedule:**

**2:30 to 3:45pm:** Late lunch and social time

**3:45 to 5:00pm:** Business Meeting and presentation

**Presentation Topic:** TBD

**DON'T FORGET OUR ULTRA POPULAR ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON AUGUST 11TH !**

**If it is nice drive your classic cars!**

NC Region 2023 Calendar Events Planned – **See details below**

**AACA National Events Calendar – UPDATED LINK FOR 2024!**

The AACA National Shows are scheduled for 2024. The 2024 events are listed on the AACA Website at:

<https://aaca.org/events/category/aaca-national-calendar/>

By Jill Gill

# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Jim sends his regards and endorses a July 28th meeting to enjoy the **Durham Bulls**.

We need to understand who is interested.

Please contact me directly (by Wednesday July 10th)

via email or phone 919-422-9487

This is a 5pm Sunday home game. We can organize some carpools!

I can take three people with me from the Crabtree area.

Your Editor and Baseball fan.

Randy N Robertson

## EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS AND NOTES RANDY'S RANTS

By Randy N Robertson

1. Peanuts and Crackerjacks, I don't want to ever come back. Group Meeting at Durham Bulls? July 28th 5:05 game.
2. **The summer is flying away. Happy 4th of July**
3. Thanks to all for your contributions this last month.
4. Please contact me with anything you want published. [rnewr2017@gmail.com](mailto:rnewr2017@gmail.com)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## As reported by Helen DiPietro

Here is an update on the status of Facebook.

We currently have 2.4k followers (people who read and look at our page)  
We gained 542 followers in May.

In the last 90 days we gained 1900 followers.

If you haven't looked at the Facebook page recently, please do so and give me feedback

<https://www.facebook.com/TriangleChapterAACAA?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

## As reported by Cheryl Anderson

My 1956 Tbird is experiencing a power steering pump issue (too much pressure).

I want to find a 1956 Tbird OEM power steering pump to replace the one that's having issues (no rebuild).

This is my first endeavor with my classic car to find an OEM part.

Do you or the chapter have suggestions on where to go from here?

FYI—I sent Cheryl some information for parts research.

## As reported by Dean Tryon

In 2022, Ted Brooks and I did a two hour tech session on basic carburetor functions – not only how they work but why. That proved successful and we did 6 of them during the year. That led to the suggestion that I write a book on this subject and it was completed last summer (see link below).

Dean and Ted's newest seminar tackles the often-perplexing world of emissions controls, including electronically controlled carburetors evolving to TBI to fuel injection from the 1980s to 2000. We also look at the emission legislations that drove many other devices from the early 1960s through the late 1990s such as catalytic converters, EGR, etc. By explaining the "how" and "why" behind each system, we seek to demystify how these devices work to reduce emissions while improving drivability and fuel economy.

Also, as a result of the initial tech sessions and the book, we have done several seminars at the NC Region annual meeting and the AACA Annual meetings. In 2025, we will be doing a third seminar in Feb. at the AACA Annual meeting. This will be your chance to see it first and help us finalize the material.

Several AACA & BCA members have indicated to me that they are interested in seeing the new material. **Let me know if you would be interested in attending a 2 hour session this fall.** They will be held in my living room in small groups of 8-10 to foster a good informal discussion. The Saturday dates suggested are:

Sept. 7	Sept. 14
Nov. 23	Dec. 14

**Let me know by Aug. 1 if you are interested and which dates you are available.** This will determine the number of sessions needed and the best dates.

Since we will not be reviewing the 2022 basic carburetor 101 & 102 information, I suggest you consider having one of the following as helpful background:

1. Attendance at one of the six 2022 tech sessions or
2. Attendance at either the 2023 AACA or NC Region seminars on carburetors or
3. Review the *Fundamental Carburetion* book

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **As reported by Helen DiPietro**

A potential member and follower of our Facebook page seeks:

"Hey if anyone knows someone who would have a flex plate for my 68 AMC AMX 343 engine automatic transmission M11 borg Warner. I really appreciate it. "

Reply to Helen with any advice

## **As reported by Dean Tryon**

Dean is looking for someone to take over the Communication Committee Chair position.

## **As Reported by Mike Petersen**

There was a question at the AACA Triangle Chapter meeting on 26 May 2024 about the "Official AACA Car Sign" such as that advertised on page 88 of the "Antique Automobile", March/April 2024, and in other issues as well as the AACA "Speedster"..

Many years ago, before the "Official AACA Car Sign" was available, Fred Harley of the AACA Triangle Chapter started making similar 8.5" x 11" signs for members. At the AACA Triangle Chapter meeting a member said that he was told that only the "Official AACA Car Sign" can be displayed with a vehicle on an AACA show field. Other signs must not be used on the AACA show field.

I disagreed. The advertisement in the "Antique Automobile" states the "Official AACA Car Sign" is the "AACA recommended sign for car shows". To me the key term is "recommended".

My opinion, based upon my experience in the AACA, is that an informational sign about a vehicle does not have to be the "Official AACA Car Sign". Other informational signs are permitted and rather commonplace. The important thing is that the sign should not be ostentatious. I said that the best course of action is to use the "Official AACA Sign" on the AACA show field even though others are permitted.

I sent this information to Jim Elliott, AACA Director of Judging, asking if he agreed. He told me, "I totally agree with your position."

I believe the sign prepared by Fred Harley is perfectly acceptable for the AACA show field. AACA national judges should not be influenced by informational signs.

I have not used an informational sign with my vehicles at AACA Nationals. However, I have used my Fred Harley sign at other venues.

## **As reported by Wilson Fausel**

This is what happens when 51 owners of 100+ year old cars find the gate unlocked at the North Wilkesboro Speed way.

Click the link for this cool video!

<https://youtu.be/3BvLUh33jAI>

# WORTHY CAR EVENTS—SEND ME YOUR SUBMITTALS

August 11, 2024— Triangle Chapter Ice Cream Social 2-4—See flyer for details

September 21, 2024— Kars for Kids Charity Car Show and **possible Take-A-Part demonstration**

November 9th or 16th—Chick-Fil-A Display— Nothing definite but working on it! UPDATE— **This location on Capital Boulevard is currently closed for renovations.**

December 8th—Triangle Chapter annual Christmas party

See section attached below for additional upcoming regional shows! **Updated 2024 Schedule**





# The Continuing Adventures of Harlow

## Commentary and Images by Courtney Johnston

Harlow was rubbing fenders with the Pinehurst crowd at their Concourse over Memorial Day . She met & was appreciated by many fine people, including Miss Sandhills & Miss Moore County.

Harlow makes friends wherever she goes.



# TRIANGLE CHAPTER MEETING NOTES

As reported by Dean Tryon

## AACA Meeting Notes - 5/26/2024

### Action Items

1. 6/8/24 – Cruise-In at Tom Pruett's house. Open to all cars and non-AACA members. See flyer attached.
2. 8/11/24 – Ice Cream Social at Tom Pruett's house.
3. 12/8/24 – Annual Christmas party.

### Meeting Agenda Items:

1. Our meeting at the Backyard Bistro was well attended (for a holiday weekend) with 28 attending.
2. Jim Gill reported on the region meeting on 5/18:
  - The Region is up to over 1000 members
  - Financially in good shape.
  - The Region tour is set for Sept as an open tour, dates and locations to be set but each members can attend as desired and make you own hotel reservations. More later.
  - Region meeting will be 1 week later than normal – Jan. 17-18, 2025 | Raleigh as this year.. We agreed to support this meeting with \$300 as we did this year.
  - Discussion on transporter plates – might be limited to 2/person.
3. Ken has nametags for many new members who have not been at an event to pick them up. Several members offered to make personal contacts.
4. The Woodlawn Terrace retirement home and Dan Fuccella are considering a show in August. Date TBD
5. We agreed to have meetings in June, July and Aug this year. The Aug date might be the ice cream social.
6. A new member with a 1991 Mercury Marquis is looking for help. See Dan if you can (919-349-5911).
7. An update to the 2024 Members Guide will be distributed by Denny in a form you can print and insert.
8. Denny also mentioned the annual "Circle of Honors" award given by the Region for any members doing exceptional support of their Chapter.
9. The region newsletter is looking for photos and articles if you have anything of interest to all.
10. Our 5/18 Car Show was a success even with limited attendance. The weather forecast was fortunately wrong and we had a perfect weather day. A recap discussion led by Helen DiPietro included:  
The joint Wheels on Academy with our region show is a good format. Advantages include:
  - a. Indoor facilities for registration, Board meeting and rest rooms
  - b. Tables and chairs supplied by the Town of Cary
  - c. Good trailer parking
  - d. Covered outside area for hospitality, raffles, tables, etc.
  - e. Both shows do advertising, and both attract visitors. We had far more spectators than any recent show.
  - f. Compact show field (for AACA vs lined up along 1 street)
  - g. Police presenceThe final numbers:

Profit was \$redacted (vs \$redacted last year)

- o 54 cars registered, 35 showed up (was a perfect weather day after all)
- o Wheels on Academy had 120 registered and 60 showed up.
- o Our show had 15 Sponsors
- o Kudos to Marilee Sanderson- Hospitality; Cheryl Anderson- Raffle; and Dan Fuccella- for Helen's shadow.



# Tom and Debbie Pruett's Cruise In

## Commentary and Images by Helen DiPietro

Great day for a car show. Lots of sun-hot, low humidity and very comfortable in the shade

There was a food truck offering hot dogs, smash-burgers or BBQ sandwiches with fries and a drink for \$10.

Tom was collecting donations of \$10 to benefit Transitions Hospice. Tom's count was 140 vehicles attending





# 2024 TRIANGLE CHAPTER OFFICERS

## Officers

President – Jim Gill – (919-363-2616)  
Vice President - Dan Fuccella (919-349-5911)  
Secretary/Treasurer – Ken Powell (919-638-0756)  
Region News Correspondent – Denny Oestreich (919-846-8163)  
Ex-Officio – Mike Hess (916-201-3973)



## Board of Directors

### 2024-2025

Ray Bader 919-418-0977  
Helen DiPietro 919-649-1719  
Glen Ott 609-658-9087

### 2023-2024

Jim Aldrich 919-676-1230  
Tom Pruett 919-422-4761  
Brian Wingler 919-362-9303

## Committee Chairs

Awards - Jim Gill - (919-363-2616)  
Newsletter Editor – Randy N Robertson (919-422-9487)  
Facebook Editors—Helen DiPietro (919-649-1719) & Andrea Irby (919-815-1355)  
Webmaster - Denny Oestreich (919-846-8163)  
Youth Coordinator - Dan Fuccella (919-349-5911)  
Car Show Committee Chair – Helen DiPietro (919-649-1719)

# WEBSITE, FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

## Web Sites

You can see ongoing updates or recent cancellations and reschedules of Triangle and NC Region Activities on our Website or Facebook sites. Both have many more pictures and updates of Triangle activities.

Triangle Website <https://triangleaaca.org/>

NC Region Website: <http://www.ncregionaaca.com/region/>

## Facebook Pages

[Helen DiPietro and Andrea Irby are updating our Triangle Facebook page.](#)

[Please have a look, "Like" the page and give them suggestions or information for the pages.](#)

Triangle Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TriangleChapterAACA>

## Instagram Accounts

NC Region Instagram Account <https://www.instagram.com/nc.regionaaca/>



# “My First Car”

## Denny Oestreich’s 1955 Mercury Custom

When I was a boy, our family became a Chevrolet Family. In our area of West Central Wisconsin, you were either a Chevrolet, Ford, or Pontiac family because those were the only dealers within 45 miles. In 1957 my dad traded in our 1950 Ford for nice 1955 Chevy Bel Air 4-Door as the family car. It was a great low mileage Chevy with a 265 V8 and an automatic transmission. Later in 1960 my father purchased the first new vehicle the family had ever owned, a 1960 Chevy Pickup for his construction business. When I was 14 years old, I learned to drive that truck in the country, so Chevys were my first choice of cars.

I worked after school and on weekends at no pay in the local garage which was across the alley from our home. I learned “mechanical skills”. Most of the time I was allowed to clean the sludge out of the rocker arms and oil pan. These were not important engine tuning skills, but a start. I also watched and helped with grinding the valves, replacing the rings, and standard transmission repairs. I learned very early you cannot change oil often enough to keep the inside of your engine clean. The work in this garage was not restoration or improving the engine performance, but just “keep it running” for folks of limited means.

My plan for a first car started to come together when I was 16 years old. I was able to save \$300. The 1955-1957 Chevys were all about \$700 to \$900. It would have taken me another two to three years to save that much money. So, I began looking in the back rows of the local car lots for a worthy \$300 vehicle. I found a 1955 Mercury Custom two door sedan. It was blue with a white top. It was freshly painted albeit with a paintbrush. It had four retread tires. The engine was a 292 Ford V8 and the transmission was a three speed standard transmission with an over-drive unit. Best of all the car dealer could start it. I later learned there are tricks to starting a car that dealers know but do not divulge. After an agreement with the dealer for my \$300 and my father’s permission I was able to drive it home.



“A picture of a similar 55 Mercury Custom”

The drive home was the last time the “Merc” drove well. Over the next year if I wanted to go for a ride, I had to gather four friends to push start the car. The 55 Merc had a 6-volt positive ground electrical system with a poor battery. The engine would barely turn over in cold weather. With four friends pushing down hill and the clutch depressed you could “pop the clutch” and start it. After the Merc started you pushed in the clutch in and stopped, the boys jumped in and away we went. You couldn’t let anyone out—(continued)

# “My First Car”

## Denny Oestreich’s 1955 Mercury Custom

until you got home because if the car stalled you needed four boys to push start it again. My mother called the Merc the “Five-Boy car”.

Noticing the engine made strange noises and was sluggish I decided to investigate. I drove it into the garage where I had been working and did a compression test. The compression was very low. The mechanic told me it needed rings and a valve grinding. I drove the car back home to my father’s garage and proceeded to “remove the oil pan”. The mechanic came to our garage and checked out the rod bearings and declared them bad as well. He recommended a reground crank shaft and new bearings. To get the car out of my his garage my father donated \$70 for the reground crank shaft and bearings. With the engine still in the car I pulled the cylinder heads, removed the pistons, and installed new piston rings and the reground crank shaft. The mechanic also reground the valves for me. When the engine was back together, it started and ran much better.

Next, I gathered my four friends and we off we went for a victory ride. We drove about five miles. It was neat. The car ran great and with the overdrive and some coaxing from the boys in the back seat we got it to go 100 MPH. This carelessness proved the theory that the amount of trouble boys can get into is directly proportional to the number of boys in a car. The boys all lived through the great victory lap, but the engine did not. When we returned and drove into the driveway the engine began to knock badly. Finally, as we came near the garage door a connecting rod came through the bottom of the oil pan.

With the Merc back in my father’s garage again, I removed the oil pan to assess the damage. One connecting rod cap came completely off. The nuts on the connecting rods were evidently not tight enough. My fault! One bearing set was completely flattened out and the connecting rod was bent. The crank shaft had a small gouge from a connecting rod bolt. The mechanic measured the crank shaft, and it was ok except for the gouge. However, the gouge was small and directly in line with the other oil holes in the crank shaft. The mechanic was able to file and polish the dent. With a replacement connecting rod and new bearings the crank shaft was repaired. I pounded out the oil pan and we welded the hole. I put the engine back together. The engine started OK and the oil pressure was good.

I gathered the four boys again and off we went for another victory lap at “a lesson learned” slower speed. On subsequent trips the engine did not always start with the battery and the boys got tired of pushing. I never did get to use the car to “cruise main street”. These adventures took place over the course of a year, so I was without my own usable in wheels my senior year of high school. I had to borrow my mother’s car.

By midsummer after high school graduation, I had saved enough summer job money and found a nice 1958 Chevy Impala for \$1200. I convinced the car dealer to bring the Impala to show my father, hoping he would help finance the deal. For several reasons including getting me out of his garage, to free up my mother’s car, and to get me to my father’s construction sites for work my father agreed to negotiate for me. He negotiated a deal for the car at \$850 with the Merc as trade-in. He then told me to hand the dealer the Merc keys. I panicked a bit thinking, “What if it doesn’t start”? Will the deal be off? I had forgotten about car dealer’s magic. The dealer turned the key and the Merc started the first time. The dealer drove it off to his car lot with the same old bad battery that was in Merc when he sold it to me. I never went back to see if the Merc was sold again, but I knew “my first car” would run at least six miles back to where it came from.

[Who’s Next?](#)



# NC REGIONAL 2024 CALENDAR

Last Update 1/21/2024					
Date	Type Meet	Host	City/State		Notes
July 10-13	AACA Western Divisional Tour	Nebraska Region	Big Horn Mt, WY	NAT	1999 and earlier
August 3	Region Meet	Zooland	Asheboro, NC	IPO	
August 10	<b>Chapter Meet</b>	<b>General Greene</b>	<b>Greensboro, NC</b>	U&T	
August 22-24	Special Fall National	Historic Virginia Peninsular Region	Hampton, VA	NAT	
September 5 - 7	Fall Charlotte Autofair	Hornets Nest Region	Charlotte, NC	IPO	
September 12-14	AACA Western Fall National	Poudre Valley Region	Loveland, CO	NAT	
September 14	<b>NC Region Fall Meet</b>	<b>Furnitureland</b>	<b>Spencer, NC</b>	REG	Also Fall of 2025 & 2027
September 21	<b>Chapter Meet</b>	<b>New River</b>	<b>Jacksonville, NC</b>	U&T	
September 22 - 27	Revival AAA Glidden Tour/AACA Hosting	Sugarloaf Mt Region	Fairfield, PA	NAT	1942 and earlier
October 5	<b>Chapter Meet</b>	<b>Southeastern</b>	<b>Mount Olive, NC</b>	U&T	New Date
October 8 - 11	AACA Eastern Fall Nationals	Hershey Region	Hershey PA	NAT	
October 19	<b>Chapter Meet</b>	<b>Morehead City</b>	<b>Morehead City, NC</b>	U&T	Alt: Oct. 12'h — depends on city
October 23 - 26	AACA Southeastern Fall Nationals	North Alabama Region	Huntsville, AL	NAT	
<b>Cancelled</b>	AACA Winter Nationals	East Tennessee Region		NAT	
<b>Rescheduled to 2025</b>	AACA Western Spring Nationals	Tucson Region	Tucson, AZ	NAT	New Date: April 10-12, 2025
For Updates/Cancellations Contact: <a href="mailto:loaks@ec.rr.com">loaks@ec.rr.com</a>		Text/Call: 910.622.0294			

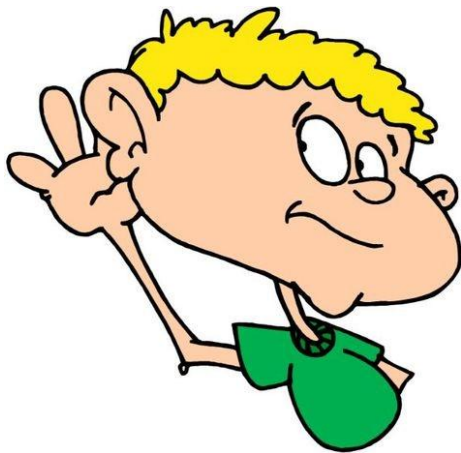
# TIP or Question of THE MONTH



We can all use a little help around the garage or shop!

**Send me those tips or questions**

***Now that works!***



## Pegboard Cubbyholes

Here's tool storage technique for all those slender tools and shop accessories.

Cut short lengths of PVC pipe (1-1/2-in. and 2-in.-dia. pipes work well for most items) and slide them over pegboard hooks.

Then load them up with files, hacksaw blades, [zip ties](#), pencils, stir sticks ... you get the idea.

**Pro Tip:** Line them up in a row and use different sizes & lengths to keep things organized. For example preloaded bit extensions. Phillips, Torx & Slot. Now where did I put the # 3 Phillips driver?

# THE PARTING SHOT

Keep those OUTDOOR pictures coming! –

**240Z– 1970—image courtesy of Andrea Irby**



ZOOM ZOOM

Till next month Randy N Robertson