

UPDATES AND CORRECTIONS

Please see the following corrections and urgent messages within the Newsletter

1. The date of next meeting is corrected to April 28th. Sorry for the typo.
2. Thanks to Ted Brooks and Marilee Sanderson for providing the missing Chili Cookoff winners. Your free newsletter will coming next month
3. Please read the April 2, 2024 email from Helen DiPietro via Dean regarding her needing help with the Spring Region Car Meet.

NOW is the time to come to the aid of our fellow members:

Helen did a tremendous job on last year's meet and is well on the way to another success.

Due to family matters she needs our help.

Please consider volunteering in any way you can. She has created a Sign up Genius.

(Quite easy to sign up) & I will be glad help anyone who needs assistance.
rnewr2017@gmail.com or 919-422-9487 Randy N Robertson

Below is a repeat of Helen's request:

Helen DiPietro has been coordinating the NC Region Car show. However, with her mother-in-law getting worse she may have to step down as chair. She will be in NYC from April 8 til at least April 18th. Depending on situation with John's Mom it may be longer.

Dan has volunteered to take on some of the duties but has not said which ones.

These are Duties that Helen has been managing.

I need someone to handle the **registrations** and coordinate with Bob McAdam on judges, parking locations and with Ken on how much to give back to region and how much has been spent. Have excel spreadsheet.

Then I need someone to handle **solicitations and sponsors** and make sure each sponsor is given what they have been promised. Deadline for sponsorships is April 12. Have an excel spreadsheet. Need coordination with Randy, Denny, Ken, and NC region.

Then I need someone to make sure the correct **logos are on the banner, signs. T-shirts and flags**. Tom Pruett is handling the order itself. Order to be placed by April 15. Most designs and logos are in.

I need someone to put together the **raffle baskets** and assign ticket prices. And make signs for raffles. Need to pick up bucket from Majestic Solutions. Donations are still needed.

Need to get **volunteers to sign up**. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0448ACAE2FA5FF2-48656076-2024>

Need someone to **order T-shirts** for volunteers and hand them out the day-of. T-shirts are to be ordered by April 15 to be in hand by May 15. (I have names of potential vendors) designs for front is set. Back is waiting on sponsors.

Check in with Marilee on what is needed for **hospitality**.

Coordinate with **Ken** on expenditures.

Then on the day-of need someone to make sure all the **signs** are in the proper places; the **registrations forms** are completed, preprinted and given out; the **tables and chairs** are set up for hospitality, raffle, Lorrie Oaks, judges, and Hagerty; **awards are on time**, and then **cleanup**.

Helen DiPietro 919-649-1719

Thank you to all that can help.

AACA TRIANGLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

**MARCH
2024**



**Courtney and Harlow
Wilmington Chapter
Meet March 2024**

NEWS SUMMARY

- ◆ **Events Calendar – Next Triangle Meeting April 22, 2024**
- ◆ **President’s Message - See Jim Gill’s February message.**
- ◆ **Editor’s Observations and Notes – Randy’s Rant’s.**
- ◆ **Acknowledgements & Announcements**
- ◆ **Worthy Car Events – Send in your submittals!**
- ◆ **Spring Regional Meet– It’s Time to Volunteer!**
- ◆ **Meeting Notes – February Meeting Minutes**
- ◆ **Annual Chili Cookoff**
- ◆ **Triangle Chapter Officers**
- ◆ **Website, Facebook & Instagram Pages**
- ◆ **My First Car Series Part 3 —Featuring Randy N Robertson’s 1953 Customline “Miss Alice”**
- ◆ **The Continuing Adventures of Harlow**
- ◆ **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: April 28, 2024

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

Future Meeting Dates: The May meeting date is 05-26-24 and the schedule is to be determined.

(Most General Meetings of the Triangle Chapter are held on the 4th 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. Future meetings are currently set for: 5/26/2024, 6/23/2024, 7/28/2024, 9/22/2024, 10/27/2024, 11/24/2024

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

NOTE NEW EARLIER TIME

Event Schedule: The National Car Auction Experience

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

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

Presentation Topic:

Fellow Triangle Chapter members and guests, have you ever thought about participating in a nationally recognized vehicle auction, either as a means of selling one of your beauties, or to purchase one? If so, you will find the following presentation by two of our members relating their auction experiences helpful as well as entertaining.

At our April 28, 2024 Triangle Chapter meeting, Denny Oestreich and Tom Pruett will provide the presentation described here:

There are many aspects of the antique car hobby including restoring, driving, and competing in judging. Another popular aspect of the Antique car hobby are the auctions. Many of our members have enjoyed watching or even bidding at local car auctions. The Raleigh Auction and the GAA Greensboro Classic Car Auction. One of the largest auctions for collector

cars is the Barrett-Jackson Auction in Scottsdale, AZ in January each year. You may have this televised auction for several nights on TV. Tom Pruett, the bidder, and Denny Oestreich, the guest, attended the auction on January 20 thru the 28. Barrett-Jackson brings over 2000 vehicles together for their auction. During the same week when many big bidders are there, four other auction houses also hold smaller auctions. Tom and Denny will give a 20-30 minute presentation of the venues, the activities, and the many vehicles they admired.

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

The March madness is in full swing, the March pollen season is in full swing and March weather has brightened our yards with blooming trees and appearance of green leaves. That can only mean the car show season is just around the corner as we transition into spring. I played musical cars this month getting cars removed from dollies and out for some short cruises. Both T's and the Galaxie all started after the purchase of two batteries. Hopefully we all had the opportunity to brush off the dust and get those antiques rolling.

Another very successful Chili Cookoff also took place in March. If you missed it, you missed an opportunity to try a dozen different chilis. Details on the winners deeper in the newsletter. I thank Joel Hoffman for providing the space, Marilee for the coordination and Jean for the gift bag designs. I also thank Denny and Andrea for the efforts they put into the revamping of our Triangle Chapter Member's Guide which was available for distribution at the cookoff. Great times for all that attended.

Our plans for the Region Spring Meet are in full pedal-to-the-metal mode.

Trophies, dome logos, dash plaques and signs are all on order. We had another successful meeting with representatives from the Corvette Club and Town of Cary working out details on entry and exit plans and signage locations.

Helen is still looking for volunteers for parking and raffle baskets, Take Apart T mechanics.

This last item is new as the Town asked if we would do the demonstration. After some negotiations on preshow positioning we agreed to do the show. See Fred Harley for helping.

So far we are 100% ahead of last years registration pace. Get your registration in as we are going to limit quantity to 65 cars. Our last opportunity to discuss details will take place at our next chapter meeting in April.

See you all there at our new starting time of 2:30pm.

EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS AND NOTES

By Randy N Robertson



1. The luck of the Irish to all.
2. Does anyone know of a reputable RV rental in the Salt Lake or Los Angeles area. Bonneville hear I come!
3. Thanks to all for your contributions this last month.
4. Please contact me with anything you want published. rnewr2017@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

As reported by Mike Petersen

Mike is preparing a Route 66 presentation for future presentation to the 2025 annual meetings.

The presentation is about 50 to 60 minutes and will not fit into our normal Triangle Chapter meeting timeframes.

Mike has suggested the following:

Route 66 Circa 1955 – Please let me know if you are interested in a special presentation prior to our regular AACA Triangle Chapter meeting.

I have a presentation that I intend to submit to the NC Region AACA and the AACA National for consideration as a seminar at the annual membership meetings in 2025. I do not know if this presentation will be accepted. Please let me know if you are interested in a special presentation prior to a regular AACA Triangle Chapter meeting at dodgecity@nc.rr.com. It is about 1 hour in length like a regular AACA seminar.

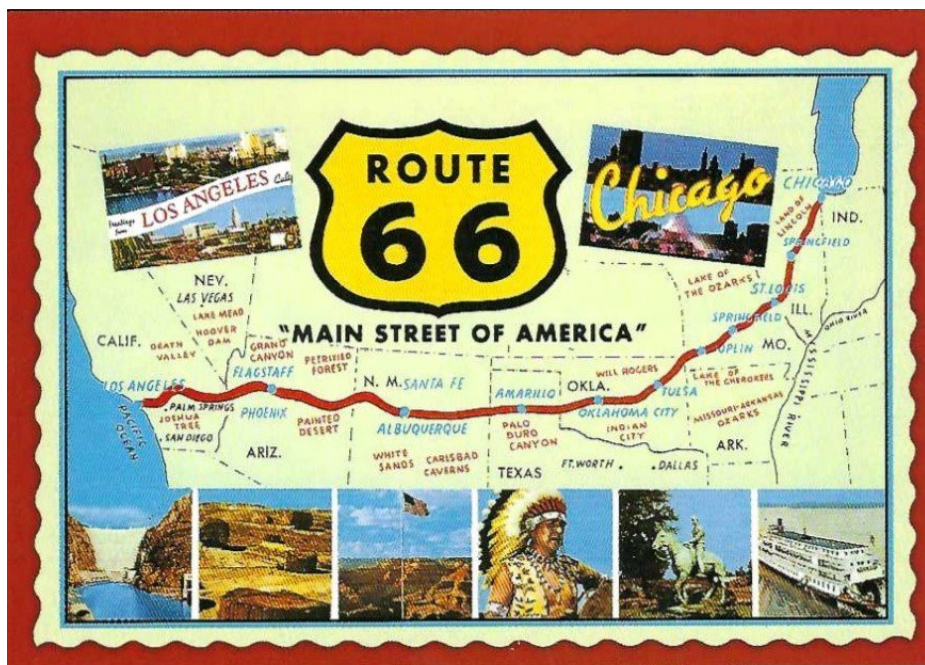
The presentation is a PowerPoint presentation of a trip on Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica circa 1955. There are period pictures of the highway, motels, restaurants, and attractions as they existed circa 1955. Some of the history of the highway, motels, restaurants, and attractions will be part of the presentation as we travel down the Mother Road. You will see automobiles of the period in their natural habitat.

I have traveled on various sections of Route 66 at least 10 times. In particular I traveled on it in the summer of 1959 when most of it was still signed Route 66. That started to change in Missouri in November, 1959 and by the end of 1984 the entire Route 66 as a signed US highway was gone. I also have some artifacts that I collected on my travels. My pictures include the 1957 Buick Special in which I traveled on Route 66 in 1959 as well as attractions that I saw.

Let me know if you would like to join me, other AACA members, Mr. Peabody, and Sherman for a trip in the Way-Back Machine back to Route 66 circa 1955. The past is an interesting place to visit.

They do things differently there.

Mike—I for one am definitely are interested in this presentation Thanks Randy



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

As reported by Mike Petersen—Continued



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

As reported by Dean Tryon

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

As reported by Dean Tryon - Correction previous contact information omitted

Dean recently had his RV seats recovered from Dennis Powell, who comes highly recommended. Dennis is a one-person operation in business for 40 years. Interior seats, carpeting and convertible tops.

Dennis Powell 2758 Dick Holeman Rd, Timberlake, NC 27583 (North of Durham)

As reported by Courtney Johnson

I understand Wake Tech has declined to work on our Model T.

I just completed a 2-yr Auto Restoration curriculum at Central Carolina CC in Sanford.

They may be willing to help us with this project.

I need to know a detailed list of repairs needed, so I can approach CCCC.

Who do I need to talk with regarding this project.

Courtney—I believe Jim Gill and Fred Harley are folks to talk to. Thanks Randy

As reported by Joel Hoffman

When I picked up the Lotus Seven I just finished restoring, it was partially disassembled, and came with a pile of parts. Some of the parts have nothing at all to do with the Lotus. I have some brand new **Ford parts** that came from Mac's Antique Auto Parts in New York, and will give them to any chapter member who can use them:

New water pump 1955 to 1962 Ford

Gasket for the same

New upper radiator hose 1955 to 1956 Ford

New lower radiator hose 1956 to 1956 Ford

Radiator air deflector to radiator seal for the same

Joel Hoffman 919-649-5635

As reported by Ken Powell

Don Bayley recently joined our Chapter and was seeking some guidance with his 50 Ford. Given that the two of you have similar vintage cars, I was hoping that you two (Randy Robertson & Chet Butcher) could answer his 'technical questions' about the specifics and that Mike Petersen, one of the AACA's most experienced judges and a member of our chapter, could perhaps provide some judging perspective. Don didn't say so, but I suspect that it would help if this could all happen in time to prepare for the Region Meet in May.

He writes:

"I have a pretty original 1950 Ford. I entered it in the Cary car show last May and plan to do it again this year.

It is a good basic car, but I am new to this game. Is it possible for someone in the club to look it over and give me some tips on how to make it show better? "

If not, can you suggest others whom he might contact? As a means of contact, I included your email addresses on this note. Thanks!

There is an on going effort to coordinate a date review Don's car.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

As reported by Helen DiPietro

American Girl Doll History Camp. Looking for pre-WW2 cars.

Contact **Ann Croft** - 919- 412-4087 or email : **AnnCapca@Gmail.com**

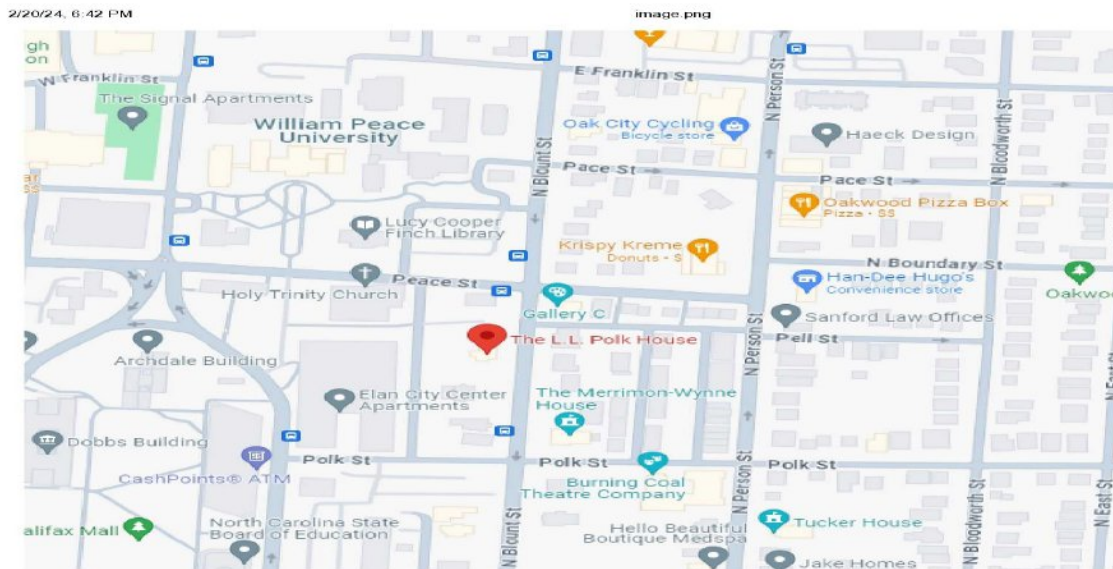
Our Member Riley Reiner used to bring his car to the camp and give the girls a history of his car, how things worked on it by telling and showing, what people wore that rode in the car, etc. He always had facts about Henry Ford.

Who knew he invented an electric car for Mrs. Ford in the early 1900s? The girls love a ride in the car.

Riley took 2-3 at a time and drove around the parking lot of the Polk House and down the sidewalk in front of the house and back into the parking lot. He circled the house. (see map below)

He would let them take pictures of the car and the girls around the car. He has done this for the past three years. Since Riley is unable to bring his car this summer. Ms. Croft is looking for a replacement.

The date is June 18 around 10 am. If the car is trailered, Peace University provides use of their parking lot which is across the street from the Polk House. They usually have 10-12 campers. Ages 5 - 12



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

As reported by Dan Fuccella

Event Details:

Event: 2024 Glenaire Antique and Classic Car Display
Location: Glenaire Retirement Community
Address: 4000 Glenaire Circle, Cary, NC 27511
Date: April 20, 2024
Time: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Eligibility: Original appearing vehicles up through the 1960's

There will be limited trailer parking.

Glenaire will be providing complimentary refreshments during the display period and hosting lunch for the display participants following the display.

We wish to focus on early generation vehicles that would of interest to the residents at Glenaire.

Please contact us with any questions or suggestions:

Dan Fuccella: danielfuccella@gmail.com or

Fred Harley: fredharley@nc.rr.com

Welcome new 2024 Members as reported by Ken Powell

Nathan Swanson

Charlie & Dori McDarris

John & Arlene Peterson

Michael Zink

Thanks to all renewing members! Tell a friend, We have fun!



WORTHY CAR EVENTS—SEND ME YOUR SUBMITTALS

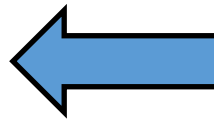
April 20, 2024—Glenaire Antique and Classic Car Display. 9:30 to 12:30pm

April 19, 20 & 21 2024—GoodGuys—NC State Fairgrounds

April 27, 2024— Brier Creek Car Show— 8am to 1:00pm—See attached registration info & link

April 28, 2024—Brier Creek Show—Rain Date

Link to register- [Car Show 2024 \(jotform.com\)](https://jotform.com)



May 18, 2024—NC Region Spring Meet—In Cary - See attached registration Form

November 9th or 16th—Chick-Fil-A Display— Nothing definite but working on it!



NC REGION AACAA SPRING REGIONAL MEET

Helen needs our help!

1. **Volunteer to handle the raffle**—This will require putting baskets together (with a list of what is inside), shopping for additional items to complement what has been donated, and then selling the raffle tickets on the day of the show.
2. **Two people (at least) to help solicit sponsors**—This would require driving to locations, giving out the sponsor forms and picking up any donations. (see Attached Sponsor form)

Update on the progress as of 03-11-24

1. Flyer has been approved and sent out for distribution. (attached)
2. 15 registrations to date (ahead of last year)
3. Four Sponsors - Majestic Solutions- \$300; Professional Paint- \$ 2500; C& C Automotive \$ 175; Starbucks-coffee
4. Hotel block has been established- 10 rooms held at \$ 169/ night May 17- May 18
5. Stakeholder meeting with Town of Cary and Corvette Club set for March 20 at 10 am (item of note-> Corvette club is balking at double entries. i.e. vehicles that enter both shows)
6. Parking layout is almost complete
7. Town of Cary and Triangle Chapter will be promoting Dean's Book. Dean has also provided a copy of his book to be raffled off.

Stay tuned for Helen's periodic Emails.

To volunteer please use the Sign –Up Genius form. (link below)

Sign up by 04-15-24 to get T-Shirt with 70th Anniversary logo!

Please use this form even if you think you signed verbal or other. **This is the official form!**

[Triangle AACAA: 2024 NC Region Spring Car Meet \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

Please also feel free to donate for the raffle

Are there automobile items or gift cards that you may have received as a gift but never used?

Would you like to donate them for the raffle? You will receive a letter acknowledging your donation for tax purposes

TRIANGLE CHAPTER MEETING NOTES

As reported by Dean Tryon

Action Items -- These items need [your response](#) if you are interested. More details are in the newsletter.

Future meetings will be March 17 (with the Chili-Cookoff at Joel Hoffmans house), April 28, May 26, and June 23, at the Backyard Bistro (April to June).

Our New starting time will be 2:30 PM to accommodate the restaurant that closes at 5 PM.

4/20 - Glenaire car display in Cary. (See below)

4/19-20-21 -The Good Guys show at the NC fairgrounds in Raleigh.

4/27/24 – Joe Parsons is organizing the annual Brier Creek car show. Car will be selected and invited in advance only and will be a great variety of makes and models.

5/18/24 – **NC Region** Meet in Cary in conjunction with the Cary Wheels on Academy show. More info below.

6/8/24 – Tom Pruett will be doing his annual cruise-in at his house.

August – Tom Pruett will host our annual ice cream social. Date TBD

12/8/24 – Annual Christmas party.

Meeting Agenda Items:

Our meeting at the Backyard Bistro was well attended with 35 attending.

Several guests and new members attended included Michael Zink (1940 Ford), John Peterson (Ford T & A's) and Charlie McDarris (1926 Ford T). Charlie requested help getting his car transported to Raleigh.

Ken Powell reported our treasury is in good shape and membership is 83 not counting recent renewals and new members.

Sunday, **March 17 – Chili Cookoff.** Joel Hoffman's house, 10125 Lake Wheeler Road (located just south of Hilltop Needmore Road and West of 401), Fuquay Varina, N. C. 919-649-5635

Arrive at 1:30 for social time 1:30 - 2:30 while chili is warming.

Bring a pot of your favorite Chili (some folks bring cornbread).

We need more chili than we had last year. Believe it or not, most members try every pot of chili in order to vote on what they think is best. We will be voting on best chili, hottest chili and best cornbread.

Drive your antique cars.

Contact Marilee Sanderson at marileesanderson@gmail.com (919-434-4609) if you plan to attend and let her know that you will bring chili. Joel will need some of us to come early to help set up tables.

Joel also has offered anyone to use his lift before the meeting or to charge any electrical devices you have (long story)

Jim Gill requested a volunteer to take over the secretary's position. To clarify the Board notes in the newsletter, the open job is someone to head up the new Communications committee. That position would encompass and coordinate the newsletter, minutes, social media, email distributions of chapter info, develop flyers for our shows, etc. Dean has been doing the minutes and email distributions for many years (meeting minutes and email distribution) and is willing to continue this part.

Randy Robertson reported on the newsletter. Please send articles, photos, etc. that he can use.

Fred Harley reported on the 4/20 display at Glenaire in Cary. Time is 9:30 to 12:30. Lunch will be provided for car owners at 12:30. Call Fred if you plan to attend (919-244-3300). Glenaire now has 400 residents so should be a good attendance.

Denny Oestreich is preparing the 2024 Members Guide with updates and changes. If your info has changed, let him know soon. It will be available at the March meeting.

Fred Harley and Jim Gill will be handling the Take Apart T maintenance replacing Riley who has done it forever.

TRIANGLE CHAPTER MEETING NOTES

As reported by Dean Tryon

AACA Meeting Notes 02/25/2024

Helen DiPietro is heading up the 2024 NC Region meet on **May 18** that will be in conjunction with the Cary Wheels on Academy (as last year). Her Jan. report is below:

The Town of Cary has moved both shows a bit farther north along Academy Street.

Cary has food trucks planned.

We are planning on 65 cars

Volunteers needed. Set up will be Saturday Morning 6 am – 7: 30 am

Hospitality will need help to pickup food donations and sell T- Shirts
Sign up sheets will be available for
Saturday Setup
Saturday Check-in
Parking
Hospitality
Awards
Clean up

Awards- Jim Gill is designing and building trophies.

At the AACA Annual Convention (Feb 8-10, Chantilly VA) Dean and Ted Brooks presented a seminar on *Carburetor Basics 102*. (Carb 101 was last year.) For the seminars on Friday, they had 72 in attendance – the largest group of the 20 seminars that day.

Hagerty continues to give us good support for the Youth Judging for kids at our shows.

Joe Parsons has info on 2 cars for sale. 1955 Chev Cameo pick up and a 1960 Roll Royce Silver Cloud

The program was an informal Q&A about Hershey for those who had not attended before.

Not discussed in the meeting (I forgot it) was a request from Helen DiPietro from the American Girl Doll History Camp. They would like to have a few pre-WW2 cars on June 18 at 10AM to show and give the girls a short ride. The location is the Polk House in downtown Raleigh. Riley Reiner used to bring his car to the camp and give the girls a history of his car, how things worked on it, what people wore that rode in the car, etc. He always had facts about Henry Ford. Who knew he invented an electric car for Mrs. Ford in the early 1900s? Riley gave the girls a ride around the parking lot of the Polk House and let them take pictures of the car. (Does not have to be a Ford.)

**Please visit our Website to see 2024 Breaking News between Newsletters
by Denny Oestreich**

[Home \(triangleaaca.org\)](http://triangleaaca.org)

**Please visit our Facebook page to see up to the minute posts
by Helen DiPietro**

[Triangle Chapter of the AACA - Wake County NC | Raleigh NC | Facebook](#)

Annual Chili Cookoff

What a great turnout for the Chili Cookoff.

Thanks again to Joel Hoffman for graciously opening his home again this year.

This years winners are:

Hottest Chili—Fernando and Josefina Lugo

Best Chili— Rebecca Wingler

Best Cornbread—Dan and Jean Fuccella

Best Desert— Cheryl Brooks

Start working on your recipes for next year!

A few images for your enjoyment



Annual Chili Cookoff



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)

“My First Car”

Randy N Robertson’s 1953 Ford Customline

Calling all members!. Send me information on your first car! Who’s Next?

My First Car- Miss Alice

I can still remember the excitement and anticipation of getting my driver’s license. Having seen my sister acquire hers just a couple of years before only made me more excited.

My Great Grandmother’s (Miss Alice) 1953 Ford Customline was to be the car I would drive.

My sister was not interested in that “old car” and content to share the use of the family’s 1967 Chevy Belair. Dad was still driving his 1957 Chevy, a car he proudly drove for 50 years and even prouder to sell it at a considerable profit over the \$1800.00 he paid for it new.

Around 14 ½ I began preparing “Miss Alice” for my eventual license and graduation from my bicycle and the hush puppy express. Sure, I was hooking rides from some of my year older buddies, those lucky enough to have a car or access the family car for the night, but this was different. This car was to be mine!

All the Robertson kids aged 14 and up were experienced drivers having been allowed to drive up and down “the lane” on the visits to my Grandparents for Sunday dinner. “Down Home” as it was called was the perfect place to practice driving and a rite of passage that was handed down to my younger brother and sister.

Miss Alice was housed in the garage, and I pulled it in and out of the garage for preparations as needed. I cleaned and cleaned, shining every surface inside and out. Sears seat covers were installed. I pulled the seats out front and back to install wall to wall carpet that I commandeered from our basement. The rear window platform was covered in the best Naugahyde money could buy. She was a thing of beauty in my eyes.

My father called his friend Ray to check the car to make sure it was safe on the road. I recall helping him and my father check the battery, change the oil, and flush the radiator. We also checked the tie rods for tightness, carefully measuring the distance between the tire treads for the “working man’s alignment”. The carburetor was cleaned, and I believe we installed a new float. Ray carefully listened to the running of the car while I revved’ it up and down. Ray was experienced, old school and could tell the condition of a vehicle just by a spin around the block and listening to the engine.

At last Ray and my father deemed Miss Alice ready for the road!

I passed my drivers test and I was free to roam. I drove Miss Alice all around town, to school, out to the forest, Ocean City and even Baltimore. Along with other places I would not have shared with my parents. Gas was cheap and my friends all chipped in for our nightly cruises. Life was good for this teenager.

Now I suspect that all teenagers are lazy in some respect, or at least not experienced with wisdom and tenure. Not in a bad way, just not always thinking ahead.

This was the case with me.

As was the routine, my brother Jim and I drove to school every morning, sometimes stopping for a couple bucks of gas. One cold and frosty morning we started out for school, stopping by the Esso station for gas.

As I mentioned lazy and frosty. My fellow AACA members are aware old vacuum operated defrosters and wipers are at best inadequate. Now comes the laziness, instead of scraping the windshield of frost, I took off with about an orange sized opening cleared by the driver’s side defroster. My brother in the front seat had an opening about the size of a grapefruit.

“My First Car”

Randy N Robertson’s 1953 Ford Customline

We pulled out of the gas station, I remember my brothers’ eyes growing wider and crashing, head on into my neighbor’s car. Now remember I grew up in a small town and police generally left discipline to the parents, so there were not any tickets or lawsuits from the person I hit.

Miss Alice had some damage, but after the exchange of paperwork, the gawking of the entire neighborhood, who undoubtedly had already called my mother, we moved on to school.

Discipline in the Robertson household was for the most part always doled out by my mother. Imagine my surprise to see my father standing in the driveway as I arrived home from school. This was getting serious.

The words were simple, “pull it in here son.” As I walked out of the garage, my head hung low, Dad said “hand me the keys son.” I handed over the keys and perhaps made it two steps when I heard the words, “hand me your license son.”

I was back to the hush puppy express.

Dad gave me my license back 30 days later.

Jump ahead 33 years later. As my parents were moving, my father during our normal Sunday night phone calls asked if I wanted that car back. It had sat in the garage all that time. I said yes, but explained I did have a place to put it yet. Dad said not to worry, if needed they could take it to the new house.

I not completely sure what my mother said in the background, but the next 6 months on Sunday nights my father’s first question was “have you found a place for that car yet son?”

I eventually got the car. Now, as time permits, I will attempt to put it back on the road.

But that is another story.

In full disclosure, I have told this story many times over the last 52 years. As any legendary story goes, it gets better with age. I plan to share this story with the many passengers of Miss Alice. The good news is the story may get better.



The Continuing Adventures of Harlow by Courtney Johnston

Courtney and Harlow are off to early start in 2024 !

Harlow hits the Beach at AACA-Wilmington

Our 2024 AACA car show season kicked off with the Cape Fear Chapter Show in Wilmington in early March.

Harlow & I had such a good time last year, we decided to return. It was a rainy, blustery day when we left Apex, but we arrived at Legion Stadium in Wilmington just as the rain was fading away. The sun came out by 10:00 and we had a beautiful day, but the damage was done as about 80% of the usual participants stayed home. They wound up with about 100 cars, spread around the large lot.

The low attendance meant that everybody went home with a 1st place trophy, plus they have plenty of trophies for next year.

As usual, the hospitality of the chapter members makes the trip worthwhile. Their hospitality trailer is amazing, serving breakfast and lunch to all participants freely.

The Best in Show was Bob Lancaster's 1913 Pierce. The Brass in that engine is beautiful.

There is always a good collection of 36-38 Buicks there, Matt Hinson's Roadmaster Phaeton and a couple of Special coupes, so Harlow feels right at home.

This year, we were joined by a '36 Plymouth coupe.

It's a good show, well worth attending.

I hope you enjoy the attached pictures.

Yours,

Courtney & Harlow



The Continuing Adventures of Harlow by Courtney Johnston



The Continuing Adventures of Harlow by Courtney Johnston



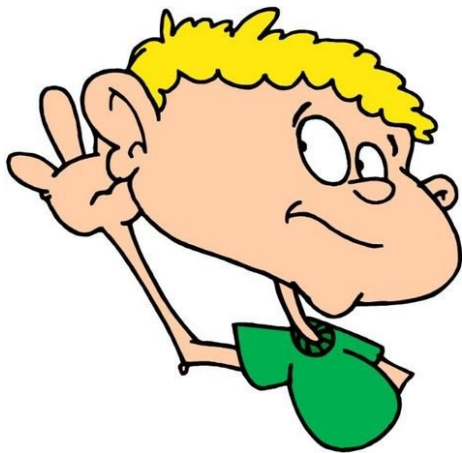
NC REGIONAL 2024 CALENDAR

Last Update 1/21/2024					
Date	Type Meet	Host	City/State		Notes
April 4 - 6	AACA Southeastern Spring Ntl	Hornets Nest Region	Charlotte, NC	NAT	
April 5	AACA Grand Nationals	Hornets Nest Region	Charlotte, NC	NAT	
April 13	Chapter Meet	Old Salem	Kernersville, NC	U&T	
May 4	Chapter Meet	Coastal Plains	Washington, NC	U&T	
May 11	Chapter Meet	First Capital	New Bern, NC	U&T	
May 18	NC Region Spring Meet	Triangle	Cary, NC	REG	
May 18	Region Meet	Alamance Region	Burlington, NC	IPO	
June 1	Chapter Meet	San-Lee Chapter	Sanford, NC	U&T	
June 8	Chapter Meet	Three Rivers	Eden, NC	U&T	
June 9-13	AACA Eastern Divisional Tour	Buzzards' Breath?	Fredericksburg, VA	NAT	1999 and earlier
June 20 - 22	AACA Eastern Spring Nationals	Saratoga Region	Saratoga Springs, NY	NAT	
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	Chapter Meet	General Greene	Greensboro, NC	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	NC Region Fall Meet	Furnitureland	Spencer, NC	REG	Also Fall of 2025 & 2027
September 21	Chapter Meet	New River	Jacksonville, NC	U&T	
September 22 - 27	Revival AAA Glidden Tour/AACA Hosting	Sugarloaf Mt Region	Fairfield, PA	NAT	1942 and earlier
October 5	Chapter Meet	Southeastern	Mount Olive, NC	U&T	New Date
October 8 - 11	AACA Eastern Fall Nationals	Hershey Region	Hershey PA	NAT	
October 19	Chapter Meet	Morehead City	Morehead City, NC	U&T	Alt: Oct. 12'h — depends on city
October 23 - 26	AACA Southeastern Fall Nationals	North Alabama Region	Huntsville, AL	NAT	
Cancelled	AACA Winter Nationals	East Tennessee Region		NAT	
Rescheduled to 2025	AACA Western Spring Nationals	Tucson Region	Tucson, AZ	NAT	New Date: April 10-12, 2025
For Updates/Cancellations Contact: loaks@ec.rr.com		Text/Call: 910.622.0294			

TIP or Question of THE MONTH



***This month we continue
with Tried and True
Methods—
from Mike Petersen
Experience Counts!***



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

Send me those tips or questions

There may be a time when a wheel is frozen on a hub by rust.

This can be problematic with a roadside flat tire. There are two remedies.

In each case make sure there are wheel lugs loosely installed on their studs. With the car jacked up one can kick the tire and it may pop loose. If the car should fall it will not go very far since the wheel is still on the car. If that does not work one can put the car back on the ground, keep the lugs loosely installed, drive forward at slow speed, and jam on the brakes.

When I worked in a garage I encountered this problem and the head mechanic instructed me to raise the car further up on the lift and hit the back of the tire with a small sledge hammer.

He forgot to tell me to keep the lugs on and the tire popped off and bounced across the garage – fortunately without hitting any workers, cars, or damaging any equipment.

When working with coil suspension springs (or hood springs) for removal secure the spring with a chain or metal cable so that it cannot travel very far if it should pop loose. There is a tremendous amount of energy stored in a compressed spring. On a similar note it is a good idea to do the same for your garage door springs if they are of the type that, once broken, are free to then visit the far reaches of your garage.

Pro Tip: Listen to the experience of others, it save you some time, money and hopefully not some pain Thanks Mike!

THE PARTING SHOT

Keep those OUTDOOR pictures coming! –

Bob “The Fire Man” Gahr’s Miniature Fire Truck



ZOOM ZOOM

Till next month Randy N Robertson