

AACA TRIANGLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024



Fred and Sue Harley
courtesy Denny Oestreich

NEWS SUMMARY

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Triangle 2024 Events Calendar:

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

Meeting Date: **October 27th, 2024**

Meeting Location: **The Local (formally Backyard Bistro)**

1235 Hurricane Alley Way, Raleigh, NC 27607

Future Meeting Dates: 11/24/2024, 12-08-24 Christmas Party

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.**

Event Schedule:

Arrive 2:00 to 2:30

Lunch/Dinner 2:30 to 3:45

Meeting and Presentation 3:45 to 5:00

Program—Gilmore Car Museum presented by Dean Tryon

Brief overview of the Gilmore by Dean

The Gilmore Car Museum in Michigan is one of the best museums in the US (in my opinion and many others). It was formed in the 1960s with 2 large red, 2 story barns on 90 acres and has continued to grow. Their 200,000 sq ft and multiple buildings makes is a large and varied museum with all displays clearly described. In addition to the huge Gilmore collection of vehicles, many car clubs have built their man museums on the site also.

Dean's quick overview with give you a good idea of it's layout, complexity, interconnected buildings and variety of vehicles on display. This needs to be on everyone bucket list.

The location is 20 mi NE of Kalamazoo. To add to your future Michigan visit, Dean will also touch on 5 other great, but little know, car museums in southern Michigan you will be interested in.

If it is nice drive your classic cars!

NC Region 2024 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/>

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello fellow club members.

Good news, we are back to our normal meeting location.

We have received word that the Backyard Bistro renovation project has been completed and open for business. Only one change, the name of the business; now called [The Local](#).

The menu has been updated as well as the room. They added a door to close off the unwanted noise from the kitchen, installed a larger screen and brightened up the color of the room.

See you all this coming Sunday at 2:30 pm. Unfortunately, this meeting coincides with the last day of the State Fair so traffic may be a problem.

The club was well represented at the Fall National meet in Hershey a couple of weekends ago.

Jim Aldridge and I shared a booth, and both sold some goodies that were no longer needed but sought after by others. I even received a message from an individual in MA thanking me for the quality of the "T" top I sold him. And as usual, I had to turn my cash back into hardware and purchased a brass horn that worked beautifully. I did miss out on the purchase of a complete set of clincher rims and spoked wheels that I eyed on restoring. Snooze, and you lose.

Another event this past weekend was the Wake Forest Garden Club car display. Club members were present with just a few vehicles but enjoyed the afternoon.

On a personal note, I want all to consider running for the open positions of our Board. Elections, both nationally and in our chapter, are next month. If you would like to learn more about the positions, please feel free to call. Also get a hold of Mike Hess as he will be touching base asking for nominations.

And finally, an update on my HPOF Mercedes, it is RUNNING!! A few test drives this week and hopefully a drive back to my garage after five months in the shop. Good thing the grand kids don't understand the over budget dilemma.

See you all Sunday!

EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS AND NOTES

By Randy N Robertson

1. Early voting has begun in NC. Please VOTE
2. What great weather for the fair.
3. Thanks to all for your contributions to the newsletter this last month
4. Please contact me with anything you want published. mewr2017@gmail.com

THROWBACK TIME

SPOTLIGHT ON JIM ALDRICH, and BECKY TOO

JIM'S STORY –

Jim's interest in automobiles dates back practically to day 1 of his life: his father worked for Buick in Flint, Michigan. The family – Jim and his parents – lived in the outskirts of Flint in the town of Corunna. There they had a small farm on which they raised chickens. Jim's dad would often sell fresh eggs and chickens to the men at the Buick plant. While no longer a chicken farm, it's still in the family. Jim owns the farm and rents the land to a local farmer for raising crops.

Jim grew up in Corunna, and completed his schooling there. It was such a small town that there were just 35 seniors in his graduating class. Shop classes were among his favorite subjects in high school – wood shop, metal shop: Jim professes that he was the teacher's pet. He also did well in math, having been encouraged by his father to study hard so that he could go to GMI (the General Motors Institute, now called Kettering University). There was not much free time for Jim. He worked at a gas station during high school, from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. on school nights, and on Saturdays he washed cars at the station. It was a great education in automobiles.

Although Jim's father worked for Buick, he was partial to Fords. Consequently, the very first car that Jim bought was a 1937 Ford, which he purchased from a local farmer in 1950 for \$25. Jim's next car was a 1940 Ford, followed by a '47 Ford. He then began building hot rods – first from a 1932 Ford pick-up and then a 1951 Ford. Jim worked on the restoration all of his cars, rebuilding transmissions, clutches, etc. Engineering was a perfect fit for his interests and skills.

Jim indeed went to GMI in 1955, on an apprentice program with Chevrolet. He admits that he did not know either Dean Tryon or Les during his GMI years, but he dated some of the Hurley Hospital nurses and maintains that they were a wild bunch. Les was surely the exception. Jim further claims that he did not see his first television program until he was 13 or 14, and that his family had an outhouse until he was in high school. (Polygraph test results are not back yet.)

After receiving his degree from GMI, Jim worked for Chevrolet for about 11 years as a toolmaker, design engineer and processing engineer (engine design), and later in manufacturing applications. During this time, Jim was married briefly. He has 3 children – 2 sons and a daughter – all living in Michigan and all working for the automotive industry.

He left Chevrolet in 1967 and was hired by Kenna Metal, for which he worked the remainder of his career. Jim's expertise was marketing, field applications and trouble-shooting, which took him all over Michigan. From Michigan he was sent to Seattle, Washington, and then on to Denver, where he met Becky.

Jim and Becky were married in 1972, and according to Jim, "from then on it got exciting." The two of them moved to Birmingham, Alabama for a brief stint, and then on to Indianapolis, Indiana. Although they were not there long, Jim found Indianapolis to be an interesting and exciting place with its car, tractor and aircraft businesses as well as car racing.

In 1974 Jim and Becky were transferred to Japan, where they lived in Tokyo for 5 years. Jim sold Kenna Metal products to Japanese automakers, and both he and Becky enjoyed their time there. Then it was off to Singapore for 6 ½ years. This was Jim's favorite place as far as creature comforts go: understanding the language (English) was particularly helpful. From Singapore they returned to Japan for an additional 4 years, before being sent to South Korea, where they were for the 1988 Summer Olympics. Jim was the Managing Director of the Southeast Asia Region at this time and did a great deal of traveling. Becky often went along.

It was not until 1995 that Jim and Becky returned to live in the States. Jim was assigned to the North American Marketing Office in Raleigh. However, when Kenna Metal decided to move that office to Pennsylvania, Jim took a buy-out. He and Becky liked Raleigh and didn't want to leave, perhaps because their house has a 5-car garage. And yes, all the spaces are filled.

THROWBACK TIME

During the 23 years that Jim and Becky had lived overseas, they hadn't owned a car. Meanwhile, Jim's taste in antique automobiles had changed from hotrods to vintage cars, and in 1997 he "went berserk," joining 5 car clubs. The first car that he showed at a Triangle Chapter event was a 1936 Cadillac. Although the car didn't take any prizes, Jim still has it, along with a 1920s Dodge (it's in pieces). His next purchase was a 1938 Cadillac, which he showed for a while before selling it at the Hilton Head Island Concours automobile auction. Jim then immediately purchased the 1931 Chrysler Imperial with body by LeBaron, which has won many awards.

Last April, the Chrysler received its AACA Senior award at the Charlotte meet. The following day it was part of the Chrysler display on the motor speedway track, where it received an award for Best Chrysler, the People's Choice award, and the Golden Steering Wheel award for Best in Show. Two months later the Chrysler was shown at the Classic Car Club Gilmore Gathering, outside of Kalamazoo. There it took Best of Class, People's Choice, and the People's Choice award of Haggerty Insurance Company's kids' judging competition. There is yet another award that Jim hopes to acquire, and the car is currently being re-painted in preparation for the Grand National show in New Bern this May.

Asked if he has a favorite car manufacturer, Jim responded that he does not - he just likes the old cars. His next purchase? His dream is to own either a 1934 Packard or a 1932 Duesenberg. He'll decide which one to buy when he wins the lottery.

Although Jim is retired, he is not idle. He works part-time at a collision repair and car restoration shop in Benson, which is where the '31 Chrysler is being painted. Jim and his two sons have a joint venture in Michigan restoring muscle cars. The barn on the old family farm is their workshop. Jim tries to get back to Michigan every other month to see his family, which now includes 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, and to take care of business. As a sidelight, Jim does special design work for an Indiana company that makes trailers. Riley Reiner and Rob VanDewoestine are two of his satisfied customers.

Jim enjoys being an active member of the Triangle chapter. He loves working on cars, displaying them and touring in them. The chapter's Thursday dinners and excellent programs are greatly appreciated by both Jim and Becky.

BECKY'S VERSION

Becky Baker was a single girl, working in Denver and living in an apartment complex. One day, in the laundry room of the complex, a young man came in with his laundry and introduced himself as Jim Aldrich. He announced that today was his birthday and he was having a party; the young lady was invited. Intrigued by such an unusual pick-up line, Becky went to Jim's apartment that evening and it indeed was filled with people celebrating his birthday.

They began dating, but Jim got transferred to Alabama — a good distance from Denver. In fact, it was so costly to fly back to Denver on weekends that Jim decided it would be cheaper to get married. He proposed. Becky accepted. They were married on a Saturday and moved to Birmingham, Alabama on Sunday. Like Jim, Becky was an only child, and her parents, Dee and Bob, were not very happy that she would be so far away. (Most of us know Becky's delightful mother, Dee, who has attended many of our AACA functions.)

Becky had grown up in Denver and had never been away from home. Moving to Alabama was like moving to a foreign country, as far as she was concerned. But she and Jim weren't there very long before they were sent to Indianapolis. There Becky worked for L' Eggs, driving a truck and delivering shipments of pantyhose, attired in the company uniform -- hot-pants and boots. Becky loved her job: her schedule was her own and she was doing well. She was in line to become a district manager, until Jim phoned one day and said, "Quit your job, we're moving to Japan."

The move to Japan was a major adjustment for Becky. They had been told that they only needed to take their clothes because the Japanese apartments were "furnished." They arrived to discover that, among other things, there were no beds and no sheets in the apartment. Furthermore, Jim left on business the day after their arrival. Becky bravely faced the language barrier and went shopping for furnishings. Not realizing that stores would deliver items, she would take the train into town, make a purchase, take the item back to the apartment, and then go back into town on the train for the next purchase. She and Jim were the only Americans with Kenna Metal in Asia at the time, which made for an even greater challenge.

Reprinted with permission. No editing, and that's the way it was. Sorry pictures from the article are lost in time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan and Jean Fuccella report that we are in for a **treat not a trick** on our upcoming visit to the newly remodeled "The Local" (formally Backyard Bistro).

"Both the meal and the surroundings were enjoyable, and our meeting room has been nicely updated"



Dean Tryon reports

I am selling my 1016 McLaughlin-Buick as listed in the last newsletter using the site www.bringatrailer.com. It is going online today (10/12 at 12:30) for 1 week.

See the site: https://bringatrailer.com/listing/1916-buick-mclaughlin-d-45-5-passenger-touring/?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_3674988

\$OLD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our own Military Memorabilia expert **Courtney Johnston** is excited about an upcoming show this Saturday October 26th.

Ladies & Gentlemen of the AACA,

Once again, Harlow will be making the pleasant drive-up Creedmoor Rd to the Henderson/Oxford airport for their annual Airshow / military show.

There are always several WWI military vehicles at the show, and Harlow has a standing invitation to attend.

Please invite the members of AACA to bring their pre-war vehicles to this fine show.

In addition to the planes and military vehicles, the reenactor community comes out in force to support this show.

There will be displays and firing demonstrations from several time periods and nationalities

The airshow/military show is on Saturday, Oct. 26th, from 10:00-16:00

The address is 6514 Airport Rd—Oxford, NC

I will be your POC at 919 931-4337.

Please come. Harlow is surrounded by spectators before I can even get her shut down.

Looking forward to seeing you there.



WORTHY CAR EVENTS—SEND ME YOUR SUBMITTALS

October 26th—Henderson/Oxford Annual Air and Military Show

December 8th—Triangle Chapter annual Christmas party

January 17-18th, 2025—NC Region Meeting in Raleigh

See section attached below for additional upcoming regional shows! **Updated 2024 Schedule**
Stay tuned for 2025 schedule



Membership Renewal Time

It is the season for dues renewal. **Dues remain unchanged at \$70 for 2025 and can be submitted to me** and I will distribute them to the other parts of the organization. I have found this method leads to the least number of errors. I continue to commit that I will send checks to and update the Region and National every two weeks. And if you have a concern about registering for a meet and need help with a speedy renewal, let me know. **I will be at "The Local" for Sunday's meeting collecting dues and I will save you a stamp.** I think that is now 1% of dues!

I suspect that you all received a note from AACA National about paying your National dues online. As I have said before, this is fine with me. BUT... So many members make mistakes and either forget that they only paid National or double pay National. This creates delays and a lot of extra work. Unfortunately, I have no way of knowing whether you have already paid National if you don't pay through me until after the deadline. It is a lot easier for me if you send me your dues for \$70 and I distribute them to the other parts of the organization.

Dues are due by December 31st. Please help by paying on time. In late January, National locks down the new Roster for the chapter and late dues sometimes cause members to not be put back on the Chapter Roster for the year. (Although they will be recognized as having paid National).

Attached is a dues renewal form. Please look at your personal entry in this year's directory and confirm that it is correct. Denny uses these records to update the Directory. If correct, no need to repeat the information on the renewal form. I continue to try and streamline the process.

Thanks, Best Regards, Ken

Ken Powell

4513 Wood Valley Dr

Raleigh, NC 27613



2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL

Antique Automobile Club of America
North Carolina Region
Triangle Chapter AACA

First Name _____ Last Name _____

NATIONAL AACA: Annual Dues \$45 *Required for membership in Region and Chapter*

- I have paid my 2024 dues directly to AACA National in Hershey or online.
- I am a life member of the National AACA

NORTH CAROLINA REGION AACA: Annual dues \$15 *Required for membership in Chapter*

- I have paid my 2024 dues directly to the NC Region
- I am a life member of the NC Region

TRIANGLE CHAPTER: Annual Dues \$10

- I am a life member of the Triangle Chapter

Please Make Checks payable to: TRIANGLE CHAPTER AACA Total Submitted \$_____

Note: Dues can be combined on a single check and Ken will forward to National and Region

Mail To: Ken Powell
 4513 Wood Valley Dr
 Raleigh, N.C. 27613

Phone: 919-638-0756
 Email: kgp8888@gmail.com

Please return this form with your dues payment. Thanks.

You only need to fill in any information below that is different from your 2024 directory listing

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Home Phone # _____

Primary: Email Address: _____ Cell Phone # _____

Secondary: Email Address: _____ Cell Phone # _____

TRIANGLE CHAPTER MEETING NOTES

AACA Meeting Notes – 9/22/2024

Action Items

1. Chapter officers are selected in October and voted on in Nov. If you are interested, contact Jim Gill (919-593-5860)
2. 12/8/2024 – Annual Christmas party. Jean Soehnlein and Marilee Sanderson.
3. 1/17-18/2025 – NC Region meeting in Raleigh.

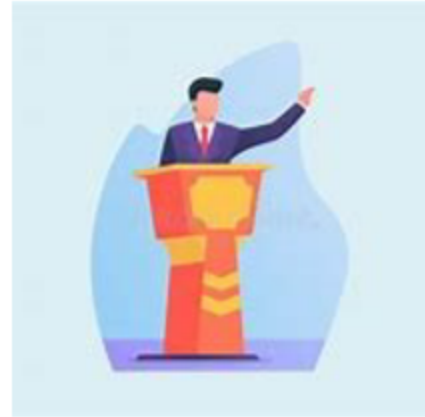
Meeting Agenda Items:

1. Our meeting at the Village Grill was well attended with 45 attending. Hopefully, the Backyard Bistro will be open next month. Dan is following.
2. New members attending included Marisa Dietsche (moved to N Raleigh from Dubai – 38 Buick), Nathon Swanson (VW) and Dave Parker (32 Dodge). One guest with Ted Brooks was Beth Eakes.
3. Jim Gill reported on the Region meeting:
 - a. Membership is up recently to 1045 (mostly due to the Wilmington and Triangle Chapters)
 - b. The annual region meeting will be 1/17-18/2025 in Raleigh. The cost is just \$20.
 - c. We have an opportunity for an additional Region Board member for our chapter along with Denny Oestreich. Call Jim if interested.
 - d. New Bern will host the Region Spring show.
4. Ken Powell reported our treasury is at \$3300 with 95 families – the highest in many years
5. Denny Oestreich has prepared the 2024 Members Guide with updates and changes coming soon to be pasted into your book.
6. Possible display at Woodlawn Terrace next year – Dan is following.
7. Our spring show needs a new location next year. Joe Parsons has a possibility. Other thoughts?
8. Hershey – many members are going including Jim Aldrich, Tom Pruett, Dean & Les Tryon.
9. Dan and Jean Fuccella are attending the Region Tour this week. We will expect a full report.
10. Dean and Ted Books are preparing the next in the series of Carburetor Basic presentations. It covers engine controls from the 1960s thru 1999 and might be 2 sessions at the AACA Annual meeting next Feb in Charlotte. Stay tuned.
11. Denny Oestreich received a 2023 website award from the Region.
12. The program was a presentation on a Route 66 tour by Debbie and Tom Pruett. This tour is for modern cars and organized by Two Lane America (Austin Coop). It traveled from Chicago to LA in 13 days with well-organized stops along the way. Thirteen cars and 34 people participated. Very interesting.

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
Glenn Ott 609-658-8322

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/>



Did you know?

The first Motorcycle was the Daimler Reitwagen



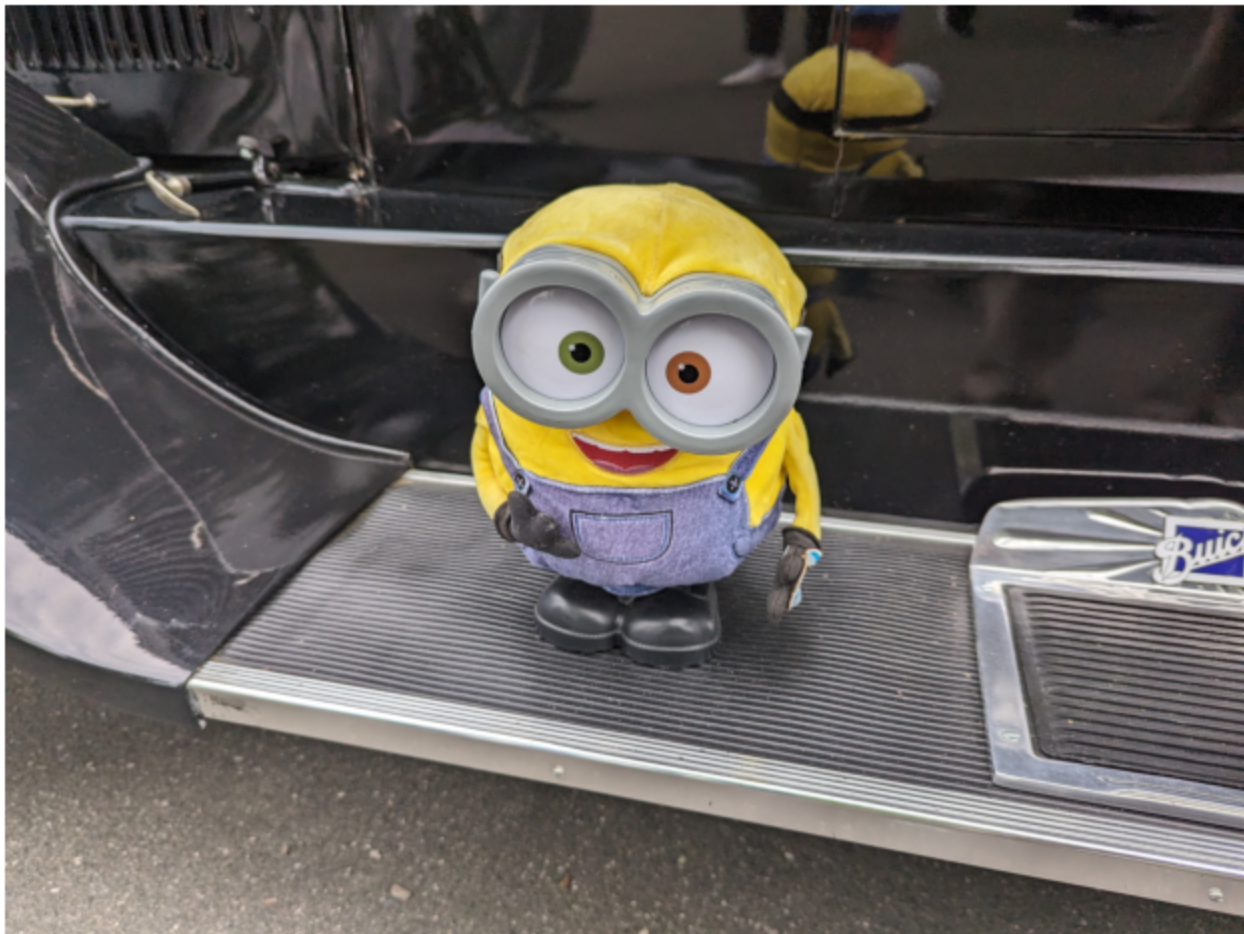
It was a collaboration of Gottlieb Daimler and Wilhelm Maybach in 1885

Corrections to this article are welcomed

(the price of correction is an article about your first car)

NC REGIONAL 2024 CALENDAR

Last Update 1/21/2024					
Date	Type Meet	Host	City/State		Notes
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: loals@ec.rr.com		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

A new use for old gloves!

Now that works!



Pro Tip: After using the fingertips, slide several similar sizes into the glove remainder for quick access. Sharp chisels are great for working on those wood frame cars. You can't beat a sharp chisel.

THE PARTING SHOT

Do your part!



ZOOM ZOOM

Till next month Randy N Robertson