

FenderTalk

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NICHOLE GAMBINOUS



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The Steering Column

Wow, Wow, Wow. A fun time was had at the 72nd Texas Tour in Waco and good things were done. Our tour was a great success thanks to all the people that supported and worked to make it happen. We can all be proud of our club's accomplishments and the high regard people have for the Road Relics.

There were many notable experiences and stops on the tour. Examples include:

- Lively, music entertainment on both Thursday and Friday evenings
- The hospitality offered at the Homestead Craft Village . . . especially the "hot . . . just out of the oven" cinnamon rolls!
- A "walk back in time" collection of Americana at the Roadside America Museum in downtown Hillsboro
- The VFW car show and BBQ in West, TX
- And remarkably, the JEA Speed Cave museum and home in Axtell . . . a myriad of displays of original porcelain signs of every size shape and configuration you might consider. The sign guys at Pate have nothing on this guy.
- Our silent action was a success thanks to bidding support from our tour attendees
- And our quilt raffle raised enough funds to provide 3,000 meals to Waco residents

Many, many thanks to all!!!

Joe Peter, President CTR-AACA



The Antique Automobile Club of America is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of automobiles and automotive history.

www.aaca.org



Road Relics is the Central Texas Region of The Antique Automobile Club of America. <https://centraltexas.aaca.com/>

FenderTalk

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Secretary's Report

Minutes of Road Relics Monthly Meeting May 12, 2026 – Catfish Parlour

By Leif Allred

Meeting President Joe Peter started the meeting at 7:00pm. Texas Tour was the overarching theme.

Attendance 26 members; 0 guests present

Secretary's Report The April 2026 Meeting Minutes from the May 2026 newsletter were accepted without changes.

Treasurer's Report Jeremy provided the treasurer's report in advance that was accepted without changes.

Sunshine Report Two cherished members have recently passed away and so a moment of silence was observed:

Vern Hancock died from complications of cancer. He was fondly remembered as a great guy and always willing to help where needed.

John Anderson held a special place in the club members' hearts and was a crucial reason Pate Swap Meet is what it is today. He was very dependable and a true friend to many.

Newsletter Thanks to Greg, Wayne, Wendell, and DJ for sharing about Pate Swap Meet, DJ for the Healey Round-up and John Robertson for the Lawson's Motor Wheel contribution.

Past Activities

- Lone Star Round Up
- Pate Swap Meet

Upcoming Activities

- 5/21 – Texas Tour (Waco, TX)

Texas Tour

- Schedule Reviewed
- Greg Herbert appreciated for his work
- 78 registrants, 138 people, 70 cars
- Plenty of "ogle stops" planned

Member's Projects

- Dean and Susan are the proud new owners of a 1964 MGTB

Dessert Compliments of Catfish Parlour – a peach cobbler shortage with pudding option

Program Susan Lokker presented an extraordinary program revolving around a 1930 Buick that has touched six generations of her family. With a backdrop of the stock market crash and political challenges like the Ghandi Salt March, other period interests set the stage for the car. For example, Birdseye had introduced the first frozen foods. Purchased new in 1930 for \$2,106, it has just over 25,000 miles on it today.



Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Past Events

Texas Tour 2026 – Waco, TX

by Wendell Bell, Texas Tour 2026 Chairman

Road Relics Delivers Successful Texas Tour!

The Road Relics hosted a successful 72nd Texas Tour in Waco, where participants traveled scenic back roads, visited unique attractions, and enjoyed plenty of good food and fellowship. A total of 75 antique automobiles were registered, along with 141 participants, including 29 attending their first Texas Tour.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Few seemed bothered by the inconveniences caused by ongoing renovations at the Hilton Waco or by occasional surprises such as street closures and crowded parking lots. The weather was somewhat unpredictable, but fortunately all storms passed through during the evening and overnight hours, leaving clear days for touring.



NICHOLE GAMBULOUS

Registration: Wendell Bell and Greg Herbert

Twenty-nine members of our club participated in the event. Co-Chair Wayne Heikkila and I are deeply grateful for the tremendous effort required to plan and execute the many tasks involved. Registrar

Greg Herbert not only handled communications and registrations but also managed financial transactions with the hotel. Barbara Baker helped staff the registration table, providing a warm welcome to participants as they arrived.

Greg's contributions extended far beyond registration duties. He compiled judging results, purchased snacks and supplies, ordered T-shirts and tour bags, and resolved countless issues that arose along the way. Greg also worked on tour route planning as did Paul Price; including early scouting exercises that eliminated several roads and venues that just didn't work out. →



LEIF ALKRED

Judging, Coffee, Cinnamon Rolls: Homestead



WENDELL BELL

BBQ: Homestead Heritage

Past Events

→ Bob Ross served as head judge, ably assisted by James Bartlett, Gary Baker, Tommy Pearson, and others. Bob did an outstanding job announcing the winners at the awards ceremony, while trophy maker extraordinaire Rich Bassemir and Gary presented the awards. Each trophy was a one-of-a-kind work of art and will serve as a lasting memento for its recipient.



Trophies by Rich & Co: a BIG hit

Leif Allred juggled a wide variety of responsibilities, from driving the water wagon and coordinating vehicle and trailer parking to loading photos for the awards presentations and coaxing the audiovisual equipment into working properly. Nancy Herbert and Shelby Herbert Grammer were everywhere – making things happen and filling in at Homestead, registration, awards (including silver polish), hospitality, etc. We kind of now know how Greg gets so much done. They make him stop to eat.

Joe Peter drove the vulture wagon, which had a few customers during the tour. He also photographed every registered vehicle. Lizette managed the silent auction and raffle with assistance from Shirley Pearson, Ceale

Kirkham, and Lynn Bell.



Awards Ceremony: Chief Judge Bob Ross



Roadside America Museum: Car Show Outside



Roadside America Museum: Collectibles Inside

Many volunteers helped in the hospitality room organized by Lynda Rankin. →

Past Events

→ In addition to providing a gathering place for participants, the hospitality room served as headquarters for stuffing tour bags, with Chester Toothman, Duane Pufpaff, and many others pitching in to help.

The featured speaker at the Friday night banquet was Richard Smith, whose stories about restoring antique automobiles and airplanes provided the framework for a moving account of the father he never had the opportunity to know because his plane was shot down during World War II when Richard was an infant. His presentation was both memorable and especially appropriate for Memorial Day weekend.

Jim Rankin emceed the banquet on Saturday evening, adding a professional and polished touch to the final proceedings.



JOE PETER

Best Owner Restored Car: 1930 REO, Wendell



JOE PETER

1st 1939-1948 Closed Cars: 1940 Buick, Wayne



WENDELL BELL

JEA Speed Cave – Axtell, TX: Co-Chair Wayne Heikkila with Joe and Eileen Armstrong



JOE PETER

1st 1959-1968 Open Cars: 1962 Cadillac, LaShanda Epting and Hudson



WENDELL BELL

I am proud of our club's efforts and grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of the event. I hope everyone enjoyed the tour as much as I did. We now look forward to next year's Texas Tour in Bryan-College Station, hosted by the Gulf Coast Region AACA.

In Loving Memory

Two Cherished Members

by Leif Allred

Vern Hancock

Vernon Harrell Hancock, 75, passed away on April 22, 2026, in Georgetown, Texas. He was born in Austin, Texas, to Harrell and Lois Hancock.

Vernon grew up in Austin and carried with him a lifelong appreciation for craftsmanship, discipline, and hard work. As a young man, he served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War as a tank and jeep mechanic. He rose to the position of Noncommissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of the motor pool, where he was known for his leadership, technical skill, and reliability. He also graduated at the top of his class in marksmanship, a point of pride remembered by his family.

Following his military service, Vernon dedicated much of his career to public service. He worked for 20 years with the Federal Bureau of Prisons and later served for 10 years as an auditor for the State of Texas. He was known throughout his career as dependable, steady, and committed to doing things the right way.

Vernon was married to his wife, Jonnie Hancock, for 50 years. Together they built a life centered on family, resilience, and loyalty.

He is survived by his wife, Jonnie; his children, Bryan Hancock and his wife Melissa; Desmond Hancock and his wife Brenda; and Danielle Hancock; his sister, Dorothy Conn and her husband Jim; his beloved grandchildren, Amber, Avery, Kacy, Jacob, Michael, Anthony,

Brendan, and Tyler; and his great-grandchildren, Amirah, Liam, Isabella, Jakoby, and Prince, all of whom brought him great pride and joy.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Barbara Doebner.

Vernon is also remembered with love by his nieces, nephews, and extended family, all of whom were part of the broader circle of family he valued deeply.

Outside of work, Vernon had a deep love for antique cars, college baseball, and building things with his hands. He found satisfaction in creating, fixing, and understanding how things worked, and he passed that mindset on to those around him.

Vernon will be remembered as a dependable and honorable man—a steady presence in the lives of his family and those who knew him. His legacy lives on through the values he instilled and the family he loved deeply.



VERN HANCOCK

In Loving Memory

John Anderson

The way I understand it, John Anderson was celebrating his 85th birthday surrounded by his family. He retired for the evening and did not wake up the next morning. Services will be communicated when known.

I had followed John in my Model A from Austin (87 miles one-way) to Fayetteville to participate in the Licksillet Days parade. John's encouragement made it possible as that was the farthest I had ever gone from home in it. He didn't have an extra generator cut-out, though.

We would first go to John for Model A parts as he had bought up all of the remnants from a collector's widow to alleviate the burden she had to disposition the remainder. He was that kind of guy. When he told me I needed a "nut splitter" to take apart my rear bumper bars for replating, I thought he was teasing me (like asking for a metric crescent wrench). He then loaned me the tool and taught me how it worked.

When approaching the bar, John would ask the tender "Which beer do you have that is the least favorite?" Once told, that is the beer that he would order. John loved COLD beer and his theory was that those unfavorites had sat in the refrigerator the longest.

John was instrumental in the success of Pate Swap Meet and was president of the organization for many years. Texas Tour was also one of his passions. He was very dependable and a true friend to many.



ASHLEY TAYLOR



LAURIE TAYLOR



LAURIE TAYLOR

Automotive History

Lawson's Motor Wheel – Part II

By DJ Stamp

To piggyback on John Robertson's article about the Lawson Motor Wheel, there were a couple of variants in the United States - Briggs & Stratton and A.O. Smith. While developed in England, the A.O. Smith Company obtained manufacturing rights to produce them in the United States. That lasted from 1914 until 1919 when Briggs & Stratton purchased the design and patent rights. They were a popular project for cyclists to add to their bicycles and are now a sought after item among bicycle and motor collectors.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auto_Red_Bug



GOOGLE

They were also used to power the A.O. Smith Flyer Buckboard, the Briggs & Stratton Flyer and finally, the Auto Red Bug. I've seen a Briggs & Stratton Motor Wheel on display at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion (pictured) along with many other mechanical marvels I have not seen anywhere else!!



DJ STAMP

Unfortunately (DJ), Thankfully (Pat), I do not own one.



GOOGLE



GOOGLE

Antique Cars Abroad

1905 Daimler
By John Robertson

We are in Dresden, Germany and saw this beauty in a plaza at the Church of Our Lady.



JOHN ROBERTSON



JOHN ROBERTSON

Technical Tips

Battery Cut-Off Switches

by James Bartlett

I'm a great believer in battery cut-off switches. Insurers say the leading risk to collector cars isn't accident or theft, but fire. When a car is not in use, a cut-off switch safely isolates the battery from the entire electrical system, eliminating potential shorts due to worn wire insulation or faulty components, and preserving the battery's charge. Switches come in a variety of styles, capacities and prices. I prefer big industrial-looking versions that offer 1,000-amp momentary capacity, whereas smaller switches may be rated at 100 or 200 amps. With car batteries ranging from 600 to 1,100 cranking amps, a heavy-duty switch will

last longer without the contacts corroding due to overheat. A corroded switch can unexpectedly fail, no longer establishing the flow of electricity when switched on. I've seen this on two of my cars. I've managed to pry apart crimped joints and clean up the contacts (shown at left), gaining another year or two of service, but it's only temporary. Ideally the switches should be replaced periodically, perhaps every five years.

[Especially when the battery is inaccessible, (requires removing the seats, carpet, and floor) the cut-off switch will prevent the temptation to perform "hot work"—Ed]



Letter From the Editor

I found early in my time in the car club that a member friend dies each year. Then it became two die each year. Now it's two died this month. The fact that we have antique cars means that someone owned and loved it long before us. Let us lean on one another and keep the memories of our friends alive. The cars they loved so dearly were simply the medium that brought them into our lives; it is their generous spirits, infectious enthusiasm, and vibrant personalities that we will carry with us on every journey ahead. Please take a moment this month to reflect on the good times, check on your fellow club members, and hold your loved ones close.



Vern's car and Granddaughter

Around Town

GTACC Car Show and Charity Benefit Sun City, TX – May 2, 2026

By Leif Allred

A cloudless sky, cool morning and warming sun, music, food, cars, people, indoor facilities. It was a perfect day for a car show and followed a week of rain. Georgetown Area Car Club has donated over \$110,000 for students of the local high school for college scholarships. Several recipients were awarded at the show. The 50/50 raffle winner got \$747. The participants were in a generous mood.



Pistons on the Square

Georgetown, TX – May 16, 2026

By Leif Allred



I didn't even bring a car. Instead, I had pieces and parts of other cars to get fixed. Alex was there, though.



There was a spectator taking photos of antique cars with an antique camera. The empty whiskey bottles he planted in the rumble seat were "aged" but not antique.



DJ's CarSense®

An Automotive Outlet for Outstanding Observations

by DJ Stamp

Zippo Car That is the Zippo Car, a famous product-mobile used for advertising. It is basically a giant lighter on wheels! Cool Facts About the Zippo Car:

- The Original: The first one was built in 1947. The owner of Zippo, George Blaisdell, wanted a car that looked just like his famous lighter to help sell them across America.
- The Design: It was built using a 1947 Chrysler Saratoga. They added two huge lighters that actually had "neon flames" that lit up at night.
- The Mystery: The original car from the 1940s actually went missing! It got too heavy to drive easily and was left at a repair shop in the 1970s. By the time the company went to get it back, the shop was closed and the car was gone.

The New One: The car in the picture is a replica built in the 1990s because the company loved the original so much. It is based on a 1947 Chrysler New Yorker. Where Can You See It? Most of the time, this car stays at the Zippo/Case Museum in Bradford, Pennsylvania. Sometimes they still take it to parades or car shows.



DJ'S ARCHIVE

Toyota Mega Cruiser This was at the Las Vegas AACA Western Meet. Toyota Mega Cruiser (BXD10/BXD20) produced from 1995-2002. Japan's equivalent to the Hummer H1. It features a 4.1L turbodiesel engine, 4WD, portal axles, and 4-wheel steering, with only 133 civilian models made.



AACA



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Membership

Mini-Tours

One of the most rewarding activities in old cars is parading around town as a group on a mini-tour. Now is the time to sign up and fill the 2026 calendar with excursions. Please let John Robertson know which month you wish to coordinate a tour. Karl and Jeanne Frank have a paper map whereupon they highlight the obscure back roads they've explored. Let's help them fill it up.



Membership

National AACA dues are \$45 and our local Central Texas Region AACA dues are \$20 (requires national membership). For any questions, please contact membership chair, Wayne Heikkila at (512) 740-4212 or wayneheikkila@gmail.com.



Pay by Mail:

1) \$45 payable to AACA

2) \$20 payable to Road Relics

Wayne Heikkila

220 Jena Lane

Lumberton, TX 77657

(or Central Texas Region - Antique Automobile Club of America Inc)

Club Gear

Vests	\$18
Club Shirts	\$15
Rain Ponchos	\$15
Ball Caps	\$15
Texas Flag Badge	\$2
CTR Window Sticker	\$1
2017/2019 FDCS T-Shirts	\$Offer

Greg Herbert: gdherbert@aol.com



Leaders

President

Joe Peter

Vice President

Bob Ross

Treasurer

Jeremy Cameron

Secretary

Leif Allred

Directors

John Anderson

Rich Bassemir

Paul Price

Greg Herbert (Past Pres)

DJ Stamp (Pate Rep)

Wendell Bell

Membership Chair

Wayne Heikkila

Sunshine Chair

Ronnie Burt

Programs Chair

DJ Stamp

Mini-Tour Chair

John Robertson

Club Gear

Greg Herbert

Webmaster

Rich Bassemir

National News

National News, Notifications, and Nudges

As Reported from AACA emails, Antique Automobile Magazine, Website, and Mailings



Helpful tips for your Club's Membership Tent...

By Jeff Oaks 2026 VP
National Membership

Springtime is on its way out and everyone is getting out with their old antique cars, ready for another year of fun. The local Chapter and Region shows are also underway and I have been asked if I have any useful tips to help with their local membership tents. Well from experience and listening to others, there are a few handy ideas that seem to work well:

- Have a tent and table set up in a high traffic area on the show field. A great number of our new members come from the enthusiasm and spirit of the show.
- Have a banner that says Club Information and Membership or something to that effect for easy recognition and clarification.
- Strike up a conversation. Find out if they own an old car, and what is their favorite era? Are they looking for something? Are they a member?
- When you have inquiries about the club, have information readily available to pass along about the AACA and your Region. There are Trifolds available for this very purpose with some good info listed. This will give them an idea of what our club is all about.
- Ask the local membership to donate (recycle) old AACA National and Region magazines for the show. Display them for prospective members to look at and take a

few with them.

- There is always interest about your local level. An idea that works well is to make up a local fact sheet to pass to those interested. This should include parades, picnics, outings, and other annual events. Include websites for AACA National, your Region, and Chapter. A couple of small photos are also an eye catcher. Include info for a contact person.
- Make sure the information on your Website is up to date!
- Another useful thing is to have a few copies of AACA calendar events at all levels. I laminate them and put them on the tabletop. It is very useful in promoting the club.
- Talk up the Tours. This is a great way to have fun with others, drive your cars, visit places you've never been, and see the countryside.
- Do not forget the Complimentary Memberships and Military Memberships for first time AACA members.
- Finally, if a person loves antique cars and wants to keep up with the hobby, owning a vehicle is not a requirement to be a member of the AACA.

There are many other ways to promote membership but maybe this list of ideas will help ... Promote your local Region and the AACA. There are plenty of things to enjoy on all participation levels throughout the year! I am looking forward to each of the 2026 events on our AACA calendar and hope to see you there! See you soon...

Calendar

June 9, 2026 7:00pm (earlier for food)
MONTHLY MEETING
Catfish Parlour South 4705 E Ben White Blvd
Program: "Visions of Pate Swap Meet" by DJ

June 21, 2026
FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW
The Vineyard at Florence
Florence, TX

June 6, 2026 9:00am-1:00pm
OIL DRIPS CAR SHOW
Patriots Hall, 231 Patriots Hall Blvd
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

July 23-25, 2026
CENTRAL SPRING NATIONALS
Green Bay, WI – 920-819-1407

June 11-13, 2026
SOUTHEASTER FALL NATIONALS
Oak Ridge, TN – 865-803-3412

September 23-26
62nd STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB
International Meet – Waxahachie
Host Hotel: Residence Inn 275 Rae Blvd
Waxahachie Civic Center
2000 Civic Center Blvd
<https://ntxsd.com/international-meet>

June 14-19, 2026
SENTIMENTAL TOUR (1928-1958)
Mechanicsburg, PA – 717-877-4766

Classifieds

The gentleman who purchased my lamp has this truck in Columbia and needs wiper arms. Alvaro says the Columbian supply has dried up so . . .

WANTED: Wiper arms for an F1 Ford. If anyone has some please contact DJ 512-520-7026

