gsmr news&notes

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS REGION AND LITTLE DETROIT CHAPTER Est. 1999 Antique Automobile Club gsmr.club

Information of interest to members and friends of the Great Smoky Mountains Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America

www.gsmr.club

January, 2026

HAPPY 250TH USA!

First Meeting of the Year:

Tuesday, January 20—11:30 AM-1:30 PM

at the Mills River Restaurant

4467 Boylston Hwy. (S.R. 280), Mills River

Notes from President Jane Opliger:

Greetings club members:

Happy New Year!! It's hard to believe, but I am starting my third year as club president. Thank you for entrusting me with this position for another term and what a term this is going to be! We started our year off with a bang, developing a great plan for our Southeastern Divisional Tour August 5-8, 2026, while we also prepare for our 21st year at Blue Ridge Community College with our annual car show.

There are more events in the works for this year, but on a much smaller scale which will probably not require any volunteers --just participants-- to enjoy the event. However, we will need VOLUNTEERS for May 30 at BRCC and August 5-8 for the AACA tour from both GSMR and LDC.

A BIG thank you to those that are already assisting with these events. More volunteers will be needed. No offer to help is ever too small. There are many facets to these events, and all help is appreciated from 30 minutes to 30 hours.

So, remember to do your hand raising exercises daily and don't be bashful when asked to help. YOUR involvement and passion will help DRIVE our success as a club. Thank you for your support.

Jane

Just days away (see next pg.)...and further down the road...

Could it be? An overnight tour?
To a popular Mountain attraction?
In April perhaps? Show of hands.

AACA DIVISIONAL TOUR TAKING SHAPE

You can be part of the excitement...

- **Meet some like-minded AACA folks from around the southeast**
- **Get a close-up look at many old cars we just don't see around here**

Help out for a few hours...welcoming guests as they arrive at the hotel…or assist for a day or two on the tour route...or at one of the several functions and help us make the folks welcome to our big world of western Carolinas.

Call or email one of our committee heads listed below, or just show up at the next committee meeting coming up on the 17th (shown to the left here) and see what it's all about.

Fact is, these tours around the country are a major part of what AACA is all about—and they benefit the regions and chapters that sponsor them. That's *US*!

So get on board and spread your wings. You may just enjoy the heck out of it!

Hulon McCraw, GSMR
hcmccraw@gmail.com - Ph 828-606-2918
Mike Block, LDC
mike@sailparrottales.com - Ph 770-547-7088

(See more info. at end of this newsletter)

Say thank you to these loyal GSMR supporters:

R&D Finishing International Vehicle Appraisers
Hilton Head Capital Partners

GSMR/LDC Membership Dues Renewal

Please complete the renewal form at the end of this newsletter to renew your **GSMR/LDC** membership and mail it to the address shown. AACA dues should be sent separately using the form that comes with your *Antique Automobile* Magazine or renew instantly via email by logging onto **aaca.org** and click on "Renew AACA Today."

I drove MISS CAROL in her LIZ "A" BELLE

Submitted by Carl Hinderer

I searched for two years to find a Model A for my wife that she wanted like the one her Grandmother had. It had to be a convertible and have a rumble seat like the one she rode in when she was a little girl.

I located the car at a time when my wife was in the hospital on life support. I was not sure she would survive. I purchased it anyway, and she did survive. I did not take delivery of the car, and she didn't know I had purchased it. Three months later I contacted the man that I purchased it from and told him we would be taking a Sunday drive and would he put the car on the corner with a for sale sign that we would see as we passed by.

The drive was over an hour in a light snow that fell over night. He and I had agreed to play a game of making a purchase if she liked the car. Well when she saw the car as we passed by she got so excited she almost jumped out of the car before I could stop. We played the "dickering" game and even left to talk about it before returning to “seal the deal.“

I returned several weeks later to bring Liz "A" Belle home. I never saw my wife so happy. She drove the car only 3 miles, but I took her anywhere and everywhere she wanted to go. I drove MISS CAROL in her LIZ "A" BELLE.

*Liz "A" Belle, branded as a “Shay,” is a popular **replica/reproduction** of the classic 1928-29 Ford Model A, built by Harry Shay's company (Shay Motors) from 1979-1982 using modern Ford (Pinto) components and sold through Ford dealerships. It is now, of course, a bona-fide antique! —Ed.*

Things to think about...give it some thought

Various ideas come up from time to time as excuses for members to get together more often. Two ideas came up recently and we can consider both at this month’s meeting on the 20th:

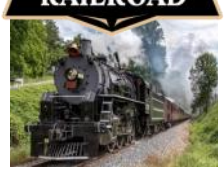
1. A weekly “Breakfast Club” or “Cars ‘n Coffee” at Pop’s Diner in H’ville
2. Weekly—say Tuesday—cruise-in at the Great American Dog in H’ville

Think about them for discussion at our next meeting.

Editor’s Note: We invite you to comment and/or contribute! Contact Editor Mike Mucci at mikmuc7885@gmail.com or our club president, Jane Opliger at tjhotrodpt@aol.com.

Could it be?
A trip to Bryson?
And a train ride?
In April?

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD



Let's talk about it!
(Next meeting)

From our Transylvania friends...

2026
TRANSYLVANIA CRUISERS CAR CLUB

Meetings & Car Shows Schedule

Mark Your Calendars!

Club Meetings at Mill River Restaurant

5:00/6:00: • 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Jan 21	May 20	September 16
Feb 18	June 17	October 21
March 18	July 15	November 18
April 15	August 19	

Cardinal Cruise-Ins

Saturday 4:00pm to 7:00pm

• May 9th • June 13 • Aug. 8 • Sept 12 • Oct. 10

More Details to Come

4th of July Car Show

July 4th Saturday - 9:00 am-4:00pm

BlueRidge COMMUNITY COLLEGE

21st Annual Auto & Truck Show

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026 - 9AM-3PM

30 AWARDS COVERING ALL CATEGORIES

CARS • TRUCKS • VINTAGE • LATE MODEL • RODS • CUSTOM • RAT • CYCLES

FOOD VENDORS ON SITE

Location: Blue Ridge Community College / Henderson County Campus
Patton Building Parking Lot

Show Vehicle Registration $20 Check-in 9-11 AM Spectator Parking $5 per car
For additional information visit gsmr.club

In the event you are unable to attend and would like to support our students, you can send a check made out to BRCC Skills USA. Mail check to: Blue Ridge Community College, 180 West Campus Drive, Flat Rock, NC 28731
Ph 828-694-1700 / Fax 828-694-1690

Hosted by the Great Smoky Mountains Region and Little Detroit Chapter of AACA.

Net proceeds benefit Blue Ridge Automotive Students in Skills USA Competitions

SkillsUSA

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS REGION AND LITTLE DETROIT CHAPTER — ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB

AACA SOUTHEASTERN DIVISIONAL TOUR

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS REGION AND LITTLE DETROIT CHAPTER

www.gsmr.club

Apple Harvest Season

Western North Carolina

AUGUST 5-8, 2026

The Great Smoky Mountains Region and Little Detroit Chapter of AACA invite you to tour our beautiful apple country during the summer harvest season

INFORMATION/REGISTRATION:

Registration is open March 9 to June 27, 2026

Tour Registrar - Kim LaRowe

klarowe68@gmail.com / Ph 828-779-2378

Co-chair - Hulon McCraw: hcmccraw@gmail.com
Co-chair - MikeBlock: mike@sailparrottales.com

Dodge

A H I M I R A D A K K G L I T N U T C R
R F R N X Y D E R G R C T H C Y W U H E
A O M T M J J Y T A P R A O O X S B A R
L D Z J X O D R N O G A P S R T V V L I
O J B B D V L O K U C D I W O Y S V L A
P M J W I Y T I I O L A Q M N O X S E F
D B B P N Y N O E N O N N R E W T U N Y
A I E X A C H A R G E R L O T U W P G A
B R P D W R T B S O I X B P M L W E E W
J A V L E F D O A T G K I W P S T R R U
R D F C O J A P P R Y L M K O Q Y B V A
Y D N C A M R O D A T A M R X D M E Y E
R A F S X J A V X J G I A Z I V A E F B
L N B Y O Y L T I W B Y Y J B O J E X S
H N M W D H S X F U Q U M R W B C Q M D
T Q D X C Z P H M A G N U M Y K L F P W
Y F Y F M D B N T C I U M L M V E P E Z
V A U Y A W S G N I K A T R G Y A L M J
Z C Z R W X V D N H H E B H R J C Y U N
S E T G Y B C M J B L N Z B Q H L B V J

Challenger
Charger
Coronet
Custom
Dart
Daytona
Diplomat
Dynasty
Fury
Kingsway
Lancer
Magnum
Matador
Meadowbrook
Mirada
Monaco
Neon
Omni
Polara
Super Bee
Viper

Thanks to Dawn Dreibus! —Ed.

2026 Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again – to renew your AACA and GSMR/LDC dues, that is! Please complete the renewal form below and return it, with your check, before year's end.

We now encourage members to pay **AACA** national dues directly using the AACA online renewal payment link. This will ensure a quick payment process allowing members to apply for upcoming future events. Log in to AACA website and select *membership renewal*. You can also call and renew using a credit card. (717) 534-1910

(For insurance reasons, all Region/Chapter members must also be AACA members.) You will also receive a renewal reminder for your AACA dues in the next/current edition of Antique Automobile. If you pay AACA dues directly to AACA, or through another Region, please do not include them in this payment!

Dues are delinquent by January 1, 2026, and if not received promptly could result in your membership being terminated and Antique Automobile magazines being cut off!

ACT NOW AND KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIPS CURRENT!

……cut here……..……

2026 AACA and Great Smoky Mountains Region Dues Renewal

Name(s) _____ AACA Member No._____

Address _____ Phone No._____

City/State/Zip _____ E-mail _____

DUES:	**Member**	**Student**
AACA*	$45.00*	$12.00
GSMR	**15.00**	**Free**
Total	$60.00	$12.00

Make check payable to GSMR
Send to: GSMR/LDC
P.O. Box 6155
Hendersonville NC 28793

*** Note**: If AACA National dues are not included in this payment, CHECK HERE [ ] to confirm that they are paid directly to AACA or through another Region or Chapter. If you do pay your AACA dues directly or through another Region or Chapter, please do not include them in this payment.

Note: AACA payment address
AACA
800 W. Hersheypark Drive
Hershey, PA 17033

Thank you…let's keep the good times rolling!

The Great Smoky Mountains Region and Little Detroit Chapter of AACA invite you to tour our beautiful apple country during harvest season

Vehicles 25 years and older qualify.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN
MARCH 9 TO JUNE 27, 2026

AACA SOUTHEASTERN DIVISIONAL TOUR
GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS REGION AND LITTLE DETROIT CHAPTER
www.gsmr.club
Apple Harvest Season
Western North Carolina
AUGUST 5-8, 2026

Arrive Early!

Hospitality opens at noon on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, with **hotel check-in at 3.**

Great Smoky Mountains Region AACA members will be anxious to greet you and help you settle in for the event.

Stay Late!

Or, you may wish to stay on for awhile to visit some of the historic venues we were not able to offer due to parking and size of our group.

They include Saluda, NC, a century-old downtown along the legendary Saluda Grade railroad tracks. Visit old general stores and locally sourced restaurants and bakery, as well as the Saluda Train Depot Museum at the crest of the steepest standard-grade mainline grade in the U.S.

Also, Carl Sandburg's Home in Historic Flat Rock, with its gardens and unique array of farm animals in the petting zoo.

And there's even more in the area's fascinating historic towns laden with history to be discovered and explored by the adventurous!

Accommodations

Host Hotel

MOUNTAIN INN & SUITES
755 Upward Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731
Phone: 828-692-7772
www.mountaininnflatrock.com
AACA Group Rate: $115.00 per night +tax

Alternate Hotels

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES
107 Upward Crossing Dr., Flat Rock, NC 28731
Phone: 540-431-8182
AACA group rate $129.00 per night +tax

QUALITY INN & SUITES
111 Commercial Blvd., Flat Rock, NC 28731
Phone: 828-697-1085
AACA group rate $110.00 per night +tax

Motor Home & Campground

(One quarter mile from host hotel)
828-388-0255 ask for Jamie

Tour Co-Chairmen:

Hulon McCraw, GSMR
hcmccraw@gmail.com - Ph 828-606-2918
Mike Block, LDC
mike@sailparrottales.com - Ph 770-547-7088

Tour Registrar: Kim LaRowe
klarowe68@gmail.com - Ph 828-779-2378

REGISTRATION IS OPEN
MARCH 9 TO JUNE 27, 2026

See itinerary next page.

Thursday Tour Highlights

The Tour will take you through historical communities, farms and orchards that have shaped Henderson County, NC. with 150 individually owned apple orchards consisting of 5500 acres, producing 85% of the States total apple production.

An industry we are particularly proud of is our Automotive Technology Programs offered to our future mechanical technicians at Blue Ridge Community College. Its proven success has produced several State and National *Skills USA* Champions; last year being the most recent State Champion winner.

Sky Top Orchard offers hands-on experience harvesting apples. We'll have lunch here and you can take a hay ride or shoot the apple cannon for fun! A variety of farm-related products and goods are available for purchase as well.

Ladies, you are not forgotten. You will have the opportunity to walk the flower bed aisles at Brooms Blooms Farm. Enjoy the beauty and pick your own special bouquet if you choose. Each day of our tour will include a coffee and donut stop mid- morning, lunch and an ice cream break before arriving back at the hotel.

(Note: Evening meals are on your own.)

Friday Tour Highlights

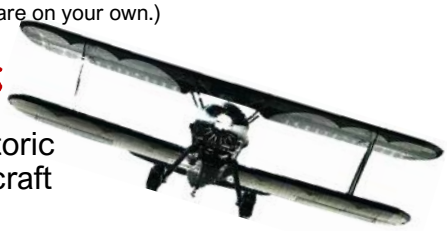
Welcome to day 2 with your host, The Little Detroit Chapter of GSMR. We'll be taking back roads from Hendersonville through the foothills of North and South Carolina. Driving through historic Saluda into Columbus, NC for a stop at the House of Flags along with the Polk County Historical Museum.

After a break, we'll drive to Greer, SC to visit Carolina Carriage for a look at original horse power driven vehicles and also enjoy some automobile creations. The tour will continue to Benson's Automobile Memory Lane Museum to see an exclusive collection of vehicles and have lunch inside the Alfa Romeo dealer showroom. To wrap up the day, we will head back into NC for a break at a popular local winery.

As a club, we hope you'll experience history of our area and what the foothills have to offer.

(Note: Evening meals are on your own.)

Saturday Tour Highlights



You'll enjoy our beautiful scenery and two-lane roads taking us to the Historic Hendersonville Airport, home of the WNC Air Museum, where vintage aircraft and memorabilia will grab our attention.

Next stop will be Matt Cook's Drag Racing Facility nestled in the foothills of the Crab Creek area. We'll tour his state-of the-art speed shop and experience this exciting car-related hobby followed by a specially prepared lunch before heading to Johnson's Historic Farm, where the Johnson brothers (Vernon and Leander—both bachelors) owned nearly all of the valley—most of which has since been donated to the Henderson County School System. We'll tour the historic home, nature trails, and 10 historic structures on 15 acres of forest, fields, and streams. The complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated a North Carolina Cultural Treasure.

HISTORIC Johnson Farm
PRESERVING THE PAST • ENRICHING THE FUTURE

From the farm, we'll enjoy a scenic drive to return to our hotel for a rewarding conclusion.