gsmr news&notes

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

www.gsmr.club

March, 2026

Upcoming GSMR Meeting:

Tuesday, March 17—11:30 AM-1:30 PM

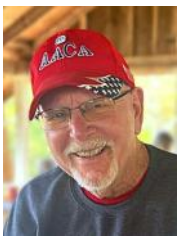
Get your best green outfit, dancing shoes, and Irish accent and meet us at **Bay Breeze Restaurant** for a fun meeting. "Photo booth" pics will be taken with lime poke cake and mint chocolate chip cookies for dessert.

Our toast to you----
Slainte! (Irish for good health) begorra

Notes from President Jane Opliger:

Greetings club members:

Last month I reminded club members who Ralph Griffith is and what he volunteers to do for the club. This month I would like to congratulate Ralph for another award winning year recognized by AACA national with a regional website 2025 Award of Excellence. Ralph reminded me it was a win for the club and hopes to spotlight our website and our Clubs again next year.



Mike Mucci

Chris Magnet

Now on to this month, I want to recognize Mike Mucci, GSMR newsletter editor "News and Notes" and Chris Magnet LDC, newsletter editor "The Spark Plug". These men volunteer their time to keep us current with all that is going on at each "branch" and national events. It takes time, creativity and dedication to produce an excellent newsletter.

Mike and Chris don't do this for the accolades, but for the love of the car hobby and the friendships and experiences they have along the way. They search for cars and club members to feature in our monthly newsletter, often times the sound of crickets is overwhelming when no one volunteers to showcase their car, yet they manage to get a story. Last year we were not able to submit our newsletter editors to be considered for a national award, but this year we will make that submission.

I look at a lot of newsletters from other AACA clubs and so far none are better than the ones produced by our editors, Mike for GSMR and Chris for LDC. So the next time you see one of these men, say thank you for a job well done, even better volunteer a story about your car for them to feature in one of our newsletters so all the club members can learn more about you and your car.

As for me, **THANK YOU** to Mike Mucci and Chris Magnet for your dedication and willingness to help with not only the newsletter, but whatever else is needed -- like show flyers, tour brochures, etc. I personally could not do my job without your help and creativity.

Jane

LATE NEWS from President Jane:

Your Vice-President Tommy Opliger and Lifetime member Hulon McCraw have been working together to find some new locations for monthly social gatherings. Please consider joining them and the rest of us at some or all of them.

NEW for 2026:

Coffee & Doughnuts is back at long last:
The first meeting will be at Ingles Cafe at 625 Spartanburg Hwy, (across from Harris-Teeter) Saturday March 14 at 8 am. Tommy will have 2 dozen assorted doughnuts from Ingles's bakery waiting while you get your coffee from Starbucks. This is a planning meeting to discuss future meeting places for coffee and doughnuts. There are not very many places available in Hendersonville or close by to choose from.

Tuesday Cruise-Ins from 4-6 meeting on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday monthly beginning In April at The Great American Hot Dog, 808 Greenville Hwy, Hendersonville. Drive classic as much as possible. Tom, the owner, is looking forward to having us back.

Sunday Ice Cream Social at Piggy's, 102 Duncan Hill Rd, Hendersonville, NC will be the first and third Sunday each month beginning in May.
Piggy's is a club supporter.

Our monthly meeting for April 21 will be at Mike's on Main, 303 N Main St, Hendersonville, with **FREE PARKING** secured by Hulon at PNC bank (2 lots) and Church Street Automotive. PARKING BECOMES AVAILABLE AT 5:30 pm and NOT before. Meeting is from 6-8 with guest speakers. Patty the owner is looking forward to having us back. She is a club supporter.

APPLE TOUR REGISTRATION STARTS MARCH 9!

Volunteer now to help August 5 thru 8th!

- **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 a committee head:

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

Memories of her 1972 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible

Story submitted by recent new member, Jim Lewis

When I was discharged from the Marine Corps and returned home my wife Sherry and I were as poor as church mice so to supplement our income I suggested we buy a car, fix it up and sell it to make some extra money.

She wasn't too excited about the idea of taking the little bit of money we had at the end of the month to buy a car that we may or may not make a profit on—even after I explained to her that this is what I did when I was in high school and did pretty well at it.

Eventually she reluctantly agreed to try it ONCE.
I always liked Cadillacs so when the next issue of the *Iwanna*, the local buy-sell-trade newspaper, came out we went out looking for a car. We found a 1964 Cadillac 2 door for a good price and bought it. It was so dirty that we weren't sure what color it was. After a good cleaning and a tuneup we sold it for twice what we paid for it. The next thing she said was "let's go buy another car."

Before long that became our favorite pastime and soon we were buying 3 cars a month and making a profit on all of them. Then one day we bought a 1972 gold Cadillac Eldorado convertible and when it was ready to sell she said " I think I'll keep this one for a while." That became a favorite memory of mine.

When she passed a few years ago I bought this 1972 Cadillac Eldorado convertible in her memory. She would have loved it.

Jim is retired from the real estate business and lives up in Glenville (north of Cashiers). He joined the club in 2025 and has been to several meetings, but since it's a 100-mile round-trip to get here, he joins us whenever he can. We welcome him to meetings and events any time he can make it! —Ed.

THANK YOU, JANE: Speaking with all humility for Chris Magnet and myself, we are honored to be recognized by President Jane in her message this month. But, honestly we are simply part of an extended family of GSMR and LDC, joined by many active participants like Hulon McCraw, Mike Block and the boards of both clubs, for the enjoyment of our gatherings as well as our vehicles. Without the support and participation of all our members, we would have no purpose. So thanks go to all members who attend meetings and pitch in wherever and whenever needed. *—Ed.*

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.

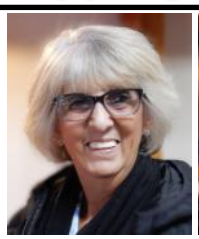
Just days away—the Swofford Show is this Sat. Mar., 7 and then…

Don't forget: Daylight Savings time this Sunday, March 8 "Spring forward"! Our next meeting is around the corner at Bay Breeze March 17 (the final mid-day meeting 11:30 AM—1:30 PM)! Beyond that is a "Meet 'n Greet" on March 30th at BRCC (more t/c in a separate e-mail), a mid-day cruise on March 31 to Butcher's Block in Landrum with a visit to Thompson Family Farms...plus our planned road trip to Bryson City in April...and Hennie's Car Show...plus the big BRCC show and the biggest of them all, the AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour in August! Wow! All the info is here in this newsletter for you!

Your GSMR 2026 Leadership

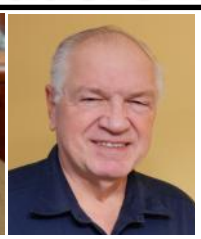
Jane Opliger
President

Tom Opliger
Vice President

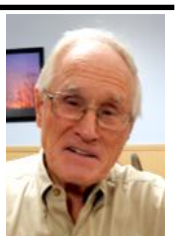

Judy Manzanares
Treasurer

Carl Hinderer
Secretary

Kim LaRowe
Membership


Mike Morgan
Director

Mark Thompson
Director


Hulon McCraw
Director

Our generous supporters help us keep things rolling

Let them know we appreciate them!

Danny's Starters & Aternators
Daniel Greer
Owner
106 McMinn Woods Dr.
Hendersonville NC 28792
828.702.3161
danielgreer37@gmail.com

International Vehicle Appraisers Network
Eric C. Marsh Certified Appraiser
ecmarsh@i-van.org
Cell: 704-267-9383 ecmarsh@i-van.org
575 Paulownia Drive, China Grove, NC 28023

ETCP
EAST TENNESSEE CHROME PLATING, LLC
DBA R&D FINISHING
REPRODUCING AND RESTORING CLASSIC CAR PARTS
METAL CASTING · POLISHING & CHROME PLATING SERVICES
FAX: 423-543-2440
5 TONY FULLER RD
ELIZABETHTON, TN 37643
423-543-1722
EASTTENNPLATING@GMAIL.COM
WWW.EASTTENNPLATING.COM

Bruce Brenner Wood
Managing Partner/Investment Advisor Representative
Mobile: (804) 350-1338
Office: (843) 790-7573
Email: BWood@HiltonHeadCP.com
7 Lafayette Place, Suite B
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
HiltonHeadCapitalPartners.com

LDC JUNKYARD TOUR

March 18-- Wednesday.

- Breakfast 7:30 am
  Chow Hound
- Leave 9:00 am
  to Sundell
- Arrive for lunch
  between 12:00 & 1:00 pm
  Depot Restaurant
  in Lattimore

Our generous supporters help us keep things rolling

Let them know we appreciate them!

ARSENAL
PEST MANAGEMENT
866-650-PEST
email - bryan@thepestbomb.com
With 3 offices to serve you.
Mills River, NC - Greenville, SC - Seneca, SC

Mike's on Main Street

Serving Breakfast and Lunch
303 North Main Street
Hendersonville
828-698-1616
Open Daily at 8am
Free Parking on Sundays

AFFORDABLE
GOLF CARTS
OF SALUDA
SALES & RENTALS
828-674-5752
828-490-5127

McGRAW'S
GARAGE
Sam McGraw
Tony Gifford
6054 Sugarloaf Rd.
Hendersonville, NC 28792
"We Maintain Vintage Vehicles"
Phone (828) 685-7500
mcgrawsgarage@gmail.com

March 31 GSMR Cruise to Landrum and beyond!

We'll Meet at Ingles parking lot on Highland Lake Rd, Flat Rock at 11AM and take US 25 to SC 11, then Hwy. 14 to Landrum.

BUTCHER'S BLOCK 1878

Arrive at **Butcher's Block** in Landrum around noon for a great deli lunch.

After lunch we'll backtrack about 10 minutes to **Thompson Family Farms** u-pick tulip farm in Campobello, SC

THOMPSON Family Farms

(sorry, Tiny Tim won't be tip-toeing through them!).

$10 admission, $1.25 per tulip stem U-pick.

For more information or to sign up, Contact Pres. Jane: tjhotrodpt@aol.com

Antique Automobile Club of America Southeastern Spring Nationals

April 11, 2026 at Charlotte AutoFair

Hosted by Hornets Nest Region, AACA
Meet Email: hornetsnestregionaaca@windstream.net

Our generous supporters help us keep things rolling

Let them know we appreciate them!

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD

Some quick facts about GSMR/LDC's trip to Bryson City for the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad adventure:

TOUR IS RESTRICTED TO GSMR/LDC MEMBERS & GUESTS

9:30 AM Friday, April 17 Leave from Laurel Park Ingles parking lot w/lunch stop at Highlands Smoke House and over night at Stonebrook Lodge, Bryson City
10:30 AM Saturday, April 18 Board for "First Class" Train excursion with lunch served on train. Over night at Stonebrook Lodge, Bryson City
9 AM Sunday, April 19 Return route to be selected.

Tour will go on—Rain or Shine! (Barring severe weather)
Drive modern or antique/special interest—your choice

Reserved cost for two nights at Stonebrook Lodge (Fri-Sat) is $265.62 for king or double queen room.

First Class seating and lunch on the Nantahala Gorge train excursion is approximately $125 per person.

If you plan to go, you need to make your own reservations at the Lodge and the train office as soon as possible so we can all sit together. Reservations are on a first-come basis.

Reserve hotel: 828-488-1616 (Mention Car Tour group)
Reserve train 1-800-872-4681
So that we may sit together as a group on the train, mention order # 443321587
...and let us know you have signed up! (mikmuc7885@gmail.com)

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS REGION AND LITTLE DETROIT CHAPTER

Visit aaca.org for AACA national news and events

Visit gsmr.club for GSMR local area news and events

Or simply scan QR code

Our generous supporters help us keep things rolling

Let them know we appreciate them!

PIGGY'S *Ice Cream* & HARRY'S *Grill & BBQ*
A taste of old fashion Hendersonville!
Owners
Jeff Thompson
Sallie Thompson
828-692-1995
102 Duncan Hill Rd.
Hendersonville , NC 28792

BOYD
Chevrolet | Buick
LES BOYD | PRESIDENT
OFFICE (828) 693-3461 DIRECT (828) 233-3438
FAX (828) 693-0091
lesb@boydautomotive.com
1875 Spartanburg Hwy. Hendersonville, NC 28792

Our generous supporters help us keep things rolling

Let them know we appreciate them!

Morrow Paint and Body

Greg Morrow
Marty Morrow

Free Estimates

603 East Prince Road
Hendersonville, NC 28792
Bus 693-1106
Fax 693-7052
Email: morrowpaintandbody@yahoo.com

Do you know of a business
That could benefit from exposure in this space for practically peanuts?
Put them in touch with:
Hulon McCraw: hcmcraw@gmail.com
or
Chris Magnet: magnet.chris@gmal.com

Appalachian Detail
828-435-3976
3250 Asheville Hwy., Hendersonville, NC 28791
appdetail@att.net

Gtechniq Accredited Ceramic Coatings
3M PPF Installer + Auto Detailing

Coleman McCraw
Owner/Operator
JZM TIRE & AUTO
jzmtire@gmail.com (828) 674-1997
www.jzmtire.com
6518 Brevard Rd. Etowah, NC 28729

Ask the Man Who Owns One

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

Balboa
Caribbean
Cavalier
Clipper
Executive
Four Hundred
Hawk
Mayfair
One Sixty
One Twenty
Panther
Patrician
Six
Station Sedan
Super Eight

Thanks to Dawn Dreibus! —Ed.

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.)

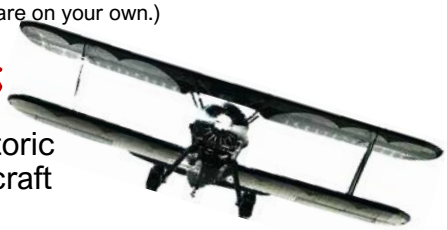
Friday Tour Highlights

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.