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

April, 2026

It's a Miracle! Free Parking in Hendersonville!

Meeting Tuesday, April 21st—6PM

Mike's on Main, 303 N. Main St., Hendersonville

Thanks to Hulon McCraw, we will have the use of two private parking lots behind and beside Mike's on Main starting at 5:30 PM:

PNC Bank and Church St. Automotive Parking lots

(see map next page)

Notes from President Jane Opliger:

Greetings Members:

My life is a whirlwind right now...preparing to move, planning club activities, & more. My mind is racing and trying to focus on many things, but keeps going back to all the necessary details I must take care of with this upcoming sale of the house, renovating the other house and ultimately moving. Plus staying on track with the tour needs, etc.

Thus, Mike Mucci has prepared the newsletter to report, announce upcoming activities, tour forms to fill out for club members, interesting articles, to read and more. Be sure to read the newsletter in its entirety as it should answer most of your questions.

Feel free to contact me via phone, text, or email--just remember to give me a day or two to respond.

See you at the monthly meeting on April 21 at Mikes on Main, downtown Hendersonville, from 6-8 with free parking after 5:30 at PNC bank and Church Street Automotive.

Thanks, Mike, for all your assistance with getting the news out to the club members.

Jane

Print this page and place in your Windshield

It's a miracle!

Free parking after 5:30 PM for our 6 PM meeting on April 21st at Mike's on Main in Hendersonville!

After many of our members balked at the pay-to-park system in downtown Hendersonville, our "go-get'em" member, Hulon McCraw, worked a deal with two downtown businesses to use their parking lots just a short walk from Mike's entrance.

We thank **PNC Bank** and **Church Street Automotive** for this convenience.

To confirm your authorization to park there, we've created a window sign (condensed version below) to place in your windshield.

We'll also send you a reminder with the window sign attached and we'll have a few copies at the meeting to place in your car.

GSMR
Car club member meeting at Mike's on Main

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS REGION
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Thank you for allowing us to park here!

Hennie's '56 Chrysler originally owned by legendary hot rodder Everett "Cotton" Owens will be on display at Hennie's "garden party" Car Show April 25.

Among Hennie Jacobs' stable of fine Mopars and other makes, one car stands out in his mind. That is this 1956 Chrysler New Yorker St. Regis that belonged to Cotton Owens, the hot rod race driver who re-engineered Chrysler Corp's Hemi engine offerings of the early '50s and turned NASCAR on its heels.

Owens, a South Carolina native, earned the nickname "King of the Modifieds" by claiming over 200 feature wins, including the prestigious Gulf Coast championship race

This 354 cu. in. Hemi-powered New Yorker with PowerFlite 2-speed automatic was rescued from being a "parts car" by Hennie many years ago. The plush interior and dash board are well preserved...and it runs great.

This Chrysler will be on display at Hennie's famous annual car show (dubbed "the garden party" by many attendees), scheduled for April 25th rain-or-shine at his and wife, Yvonne's home grounds at 5922 Old Buncombe Road in Greenville, SC. All makes, models and years of vintage and special-interest vehicles are welcome.

The show runs from 10AM to 2PM with lunch served at noon. There is no charge for entries, but they do ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share and generous donations to benefit Meals on Wheels and the Gideons for their school bible distribution.

Hennie and his family request that participants register by April 8, by e-mailing: **Yvonne.Jacobs43@gmail.com** or **Phone: 864-360-1640 and also, select your preference for lunch—pork or chicken.**

See flyer later in this newsletter for more information.

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.

BlueRidge COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RECAP

Student Meet 'n Greet - Extra

in the Automotive Shop March 30

Too cool to overlook!

What may have been unnoticed in an earlier Recap is highlighted here. First, Mike Scuderi's hot rod '70 Chevelle at left.

And an attention-getting creative tribute to Ghost Busters pictured below.

We just couldn't overlook either one!

Ghost Busters

March 31 GSMR Cruise to Landrum and beyond!

RECAP

March 31st was one of those mild beautiful North/South Carolina days. Six GSMR members met at Ingles Upward Road and headed south on 176 promptly at 11AM, arriving at The BUTCHER'S BLOCK in Landrum, SC where they were joined by another member at noon to enjoy a scrumptious deli lunch and spirited conversation.

Keith and Helga Fisher brought their beautiful T-bird

1878 BUTCHER'S BLOCK

Elaine and Mike Scuderi blasted in their Camaro

David Penney arrived in his sharp Cougar.

After lunch a group headed to the Thompson's Tulip Farm only to discover it was closed until the Spring season. Hey, it was a beautiful drive! (Not pictured above: Carol and Mike Mucci, who came with Annie.)

Join the student cruise-in

Hendersonville High School Students
will be cruising in to the Chick-fil-A on Spartanburg Highway
with their special vehicles from 4:30-6 PM Wednesday, April 8.

Bring your special car share the good times

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APPLE TOUR REGISTRATIONS ARE COMING IN !

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.

See pages 12-14 in this newsletter, or 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

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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

ANNOUNCING
GREAT AMERICAN DOG
CRUISE-INS ARE BACK!
Beginning April 14th from 4 to 6 PM
...and every 2nd & 4th Tuesday
GREAT AMERICAN DOG
808 Greenville Hwy. (S.R. 225) Hendersonville
Plan to enjoy a great dog, burger or lobster roll while you show your special car/truck/cycle and enjoy fellowship with fellow enthusiasts.
Rain threatening? Drive modern!

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS REGION CAR CLUB

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gillsdrywall@gmail.com
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Stacy Buckner
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2520 Spartanburg Hwy
E. Flat Rock, NC
828-393-0524
stcbckn@bellsouth.net

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

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ALL CARS & MOTORCYCLES WELCOME

2026 SCHEDULE

May 9 • Jun. 13 • Aug. 8 • Sept. 12 • Oct. 10
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

CASH AWARDS & DOOR PRIZES
Drawn from *Registered* Participants!

REGISTRATION ONLY $5.00

50/50 Raffle Drawing

Proceeds used to fund:
The Bread of Life · TCM Sharing House · The Haven · Safe, Inc.

For Details Call: 828-553-0622
Check out our FaceBook Page at: Transylvania Cruisers of Brevard, NC

AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour
Great Smoky Mountains Region and Little Detroit Chapter

Apple Harvest Season
Western North Carolina
AUGUST 5-8, 2026

Tour Chairman Contact

Hulon McCraw- GSMR
(cell) 828-606-2918
(email) hcmccraw@gmail.com

Mike Block- LDC
(cell) 770-547-7088
(email) mike@sailparrottales.com

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Thanks to Dawn Dreibus! —Ed.

Can I Join the Paaaaarty ?

Member options for participating in the Divisional Tour

Yes *ALL* members can participate in the tour.

We would love for everyone to Volunteer but understand that sometimes that's not possible but you shouldn't miss out on the fun, here's what that means…….

- Volunteers eat free for the day of the event(s) they are working at.

- Member's cost $50, this is for members that are not volunteering for a specific day but would like to be a part of that day's events. The cost is the same if you just attend one event or do the full day's event list. This cost is per person, per day which will include coffee/donuts, lunch, ice cream and access to the hospitality area at host hotel.
  (This amount covers GSMR/LDC cost per day for items listed above)

- Member's that would like to attend the opening and/or the closing dinner will be a cost of $25 per person, per dinner.

Day 1 - 6th

- Richmind Co/Staton Farm
- Blue Ridge Community College
- Sky Top Orchards
- Broom's Blooms Farm

Day 2 - 7th

- House of Flags/Polk County History Museum
- Carolina Carriage Superstore
- Benson's Memory Lane Automobile Museum
- Parker-Binns Vineyard

Day 3 - 8th

- WNC Air Museum
- Mud Creek Baptist Church
- Matt Cook's Drag Race Facility
- Historic Johnson Farm

Member Tour Participation Registration Form

GSMR Members return form along with payment to Judy Manzanares or Jane Opliger
LDC Members return form along with payment to Judy Swarthout or Mike Block

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Please check the box(s) below for the day or days you wish to participate.

☐ Day 1($50) ☐ Day 2($50) ☐ Day 3($50)

Please check the box(s) below for the dinner(s) you wish to attend.

☐ Opening Dinner($25) ☐ Closing Dinner($25)

Total Amount Due $ _____

Paid by ☐Cash or ☐Check (please check box the applies)

☐ GSMR member or ☐ LDC member
(please check box the applies)

Registration and Payment Deadline Is June 27th

Payment is non-refundable after July 5th

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.)

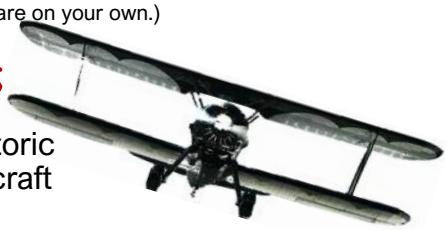
Friday Tour Highlights

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.

PRESERVING THE PAST • ENRICHING THE FUTURE

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