

Smoky Mountain Antiquer

A Publication of the East Tennessee Region, AACA



January—February 2026

Volume 61, Number 1



2026 ETR AACA Board of Directors – L to R: Tim Seay, Susan Weeks, Robert Quillin, Sandra Quillin, Tony Gardner, Jerry Mauch, Susan Baker, Matt Sartin, Sylvia Witt, Bob Witt (Not pictured, Ed Barrett)



Local and National Events

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2026 Officers & Board

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ETR Calendar of Events

January 15, Monthly ETR Breakfast, 10 a.m. First Watch, Lovell Rd.

January 25, 2026: Annual ETR AACA 2025 Planning Meeting, TN Bank, Maryville

Upcoming Events from Other Organizations

March 19-21: Chevys in the Smokies. LeConte Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

March 23-28: Ponies in the Smokies. Sevierville Convention Center, TN

April 16-18: Spring Rod Run 2026: LeConte Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

May 14-16: Grand National F-100 Show. LeConte Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

June 4-6: Pontiacs in Pigeon Forge. LeConte Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

September 17-19: Fall Rod Run 2026. LeConte Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

AACA National Events

February 5-7, 2026 – Annual Convention– Westfields Marriott, Washington Dulles, Chantilly, VA

March 26-28, 2026 – Winter Nationals – Cartersville, GA

April 9-11, 2026 – Southeastern Spring Nationals – Charlotte, NC

April 23-25, 2026 – Annual Grand Nationals/Western Spring Nationals – Las Vegas, NV

May 28-30, 2026 – Eastern Spring Nationals – Indiana, PA

June 11-13, 2026 – Southeastern Fall Nationals – Oak Ridge, TN

June 15-19, 2026 – Sentimental Tour – Mechanicsburg, PA

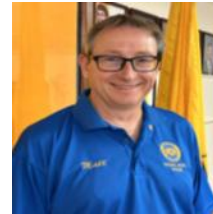
July 23-25, 2026 – Central Spring Nationals – Green Bay, WI

August 5-8, 2026 – Southeastern Divisional Tour – Flat Rock, NC

September 9-14, 2026 – Founders Tour (1932-2001) – Williamsburg, VA

September 20-26, 2026 – Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre-1943) – Dover, DE

October 6-9, 2026 – Eastern Fall Nationals – Hershey, PA – hosted by Hershey Region



The President's Corner by President Matt Sartin

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First, Gayla and I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that it is 2026. I am so energized with all the excitement that is in store for 2026 and ETR AACA. As you know, this is our 70th anniversary year. That is exciting in itself; however, ETR will be planning some great events.

January 25th we will hold our club's Planning Meeting for scheduling our tours and activities for 2026. As this year is in first gear, "let's burn rubber" and "get on it" at get 2026 off to another great start by sharing your thoughts and ideas with the club members.

The other day, I was at Mom and Dad's and found a picture of me and my best friend Jody at my first national car show. Jody and I are still best friends! I would love to see your pictures from the past so please keep sharing your car stories. I will be sharing pictures throughout the year.

In closing, let's dedicate this year to having fun, and honoring the past while creating great new memories.



News From National by Tom Howard, National Affairs Liaison

Another delightful Christmas and New Year's celebration has become history and 2026 has arrived. As always, a new year brings special resolutions to be accomplished and creates opportunities to experience and enjoy. For antique vehicle hobbyists and members of the great organizations built around our hobby, we look forward to the many activities provided for us.

Certainly when reviewing the 2026 AACA national events calendar, AACA is prepared to offer a full slate of activities to enjoy. With fourteen nationally sponsored events in ten states there should be something for all members to enjoy. Beginning with the National Convention in Chantilly, VA (a suburb of Washington, D.C.), followed by Nationals in Puerto Rico. We will then travel to Nationals in Georgia, North Carolina, Las Vegas and Pennsylvania. All of these events take place before summer even begins.

In addition, there are four AACA sponsored tours this year including the Sentimental Tour in Pennsylvania, a Divisional Tour in North Carolina, the AACA Glidden Tour in Delaware and the Founders Tour in Virginia.

I hope many of our ETR members will take advantage of these great events. I look forward to meeting many of you along the way.

ETR AACA 2026 Dues (\$25) must be paid by January 31
Send check to Susan Weeks, 110 Talah Way, Loudon, TN 37774

Randy Moats, longtime member of ETR AACCA, wrote this article in 2003. This update was made in 2015. Randy passed away in 2018.

Our Origins

In 1953, several members of the business community in nearby Maryville, Tennessee, were searching for a way to promote Blount County to tourists and raise funds to build a civic center and auditorium. After much consideration, it was decided to hold a festival celebrating the life and lore of past settlers. It would be called "Hillbilly Homecoming" and would be a week-long affair with top-name country music stars performing nightly, along with crafts and local exhibits of all kinds each day.

As the time came near for the first Hillbilly Homecoming, the event committee decided to locate an "old" car to carry country and western singer Roy Acuff and other entertainers from the airport to Maryville. After inquiries were made locally, the committee discovered there was an old car stored in the barn at Coulter's Florist, one of the oldest, family-operated businesses in Maryville. Thus, contact was made with brothers Charles and Kenneth Coulter concerning use of the car.

The 1916 Ford Model T touring car had been purchased new by the two brothers' Uncle Newt and had not been cranked, much less driven, since 1946. After some persuasion, the brothers agreed to get the old T running in order to haul the guests to the festival.



EAST TENNESSEE REGION

The 1953 Hillbilly Homecoming was a huge success, attracting more than 3,000 spectators. In fact, it was so successful that it was made an annual festival. The event committee noted that entertainers Roy Acuff and Pee Wee King were very complimentary about their special ride in the Coulter's Ford.

When Charles and Kenneth got the call for use of the '16 T again the next year, they knew some work was going to have to be done on the car in order for the old Ford to be more presentable. This being in the days before reproduction parts and tires, the brothers enlisted the help of a local Firestone dealer to locate original 30 x 3 front tires. After additional light maintenance, the old T was once again pressed into service as the official guest transporter for the second Hillbilly Homecoming. The car was given a police escort through downtown as locals gathered and cheered. After seeing the crowd's reaction, plans were made to add a parade with floats, bands and even other antique cars, if they could be found, to the annual festival's activities.

By the time the 1955 Hillbilly Homecoming came around, Charles and Kenneth had done extensive work restoring the '16 T. Additionally, Kenneth had purchased and restored a 1927 T roadster for the parade. Word about the use of antique cars in the parade spread to A. L. Christenberry of Knoxville. A.L. contacted Bud Campbell and C. B. Neubert, and they all agreed



Our Origins continued on page 5

Matt Sartin with his 1969 Chevy SS in 1988

to participate with their old cars as well. The addition of these cars to the parade was such a success that many locals began searching for old cars on their own.

As the 1956 Hillbilly Homecoming approached, people from all over East Tennessee began contacting the Coulter brothers, wanting to be included in the parade and festivities. By this time, Charles and Kenneth both had car fever and had purchased several vehicles. Coulter's "Ford Haven," as it was called by locals, had expanded to nine cars. The brothers spearheaded the 1956 parade and used all of their vehicles along with other cars from the area. Bud Campbell, Ralph McCall, C. B. Neubert, Emory McCampbell and Captain Marvin Hempbell were just a few of the participants in that year's parade which boasted a total of 39 antique cars. As in past years, the Hillbilly Homecoming was a huge success, but it was obvious that the newly expanded antique car parade had stolen the show. Not only that, but interest in antique cars had spread like wildfire.

In the months following the 1956 Hillbilly Homecoming, more and more people looking for antique cars or searching for parts contacted Charles and Kenneth. Seeing the rise in interest, the brothers decided it was high time for an antique car club to be formed in East Tennessee. After spreading the word, they scheduled an organizational meeting, which was held in the truck garage at Coulter's Florist on November 19, 1956.

On the day of that first meeting, the brothers secured the loan of about 50 folding chairs from a local funeral home and set them up for the meeting. That night a crowd of more than 100 people attended. Kenneth was selected as the region's first president and 72 people signed up as charter members. The next day, the Coulter's mailed the application for charter to AACA national headquarters. The East Tennessee Region was granted its charter on February 2, 1957.

In the years since, the East Tennessee Region has been involved in many events, both locally and nationally. The club participated in the Hillbilly Homecoming until its demise in 1967, hosted the Gatlinburg Invitational Car Show for many years in the 1960s and 1970s, hosted the 1969 and 1985 Glidden tours, hosted AACA national meets in 1967, 1972 and 1998, and hosted the 2003 AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour. Additionally, several club members have served nationally in different capacities. Four members have served as past AACA presidents: Harold Coker (1972), Jerry Hodge (1973), Tom Howard (1998) and Bo Croley (2006). Several members have also served as national board members in the past. Many members have been extremely active in the national judging program, including one of the founding members, Charles Coulter, who judged more than 200 national meets.

Now, as the East Tennessee Region once again welcomes friends and fellow hobbyists to the area, the club hopes to live up to the high standards set by Charles and Kenneth Coulter and the other charter members of our club.

—Randy Moats, ETR AACA Club Historian



Dave & Beryl Hermanson

Congratulations!

We are pleased to share that the AACA Publications Committee has selected 2025 Antiquer Editors Dave & Beryl Hermanson as recipient of a 2025 Master Editor Award. Dave and Beryl have already made plans to attend the Annual Convention February 5-7 in Chantilly VA. and the Hermansons look forward to accepting this award at the National Awards Banquet.



Don't Forget To Check ETR's Facebook Page and Website

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Members are reminded that ETR has its own Facebook page and website. The Facebook page is something that members can peruse and on which they can post info, photos, etc. Did you take some photos at the club's last cruise, dinner or show? If so, you can share them with others via the Facebook page. Perhaps you would like to share some info about an upcoming car show or cruise-in with other members, even if it's not "club sponsored." You are free to post a copy of the flyer on our Facebook page to spread the word. Perhaps you would just like to wish everyone a good day or express appreciation for something. Our Facebook page can be a source of helpful information about items of interest to our community; it is just another means of communicating. Creating an account and becoming a user of Facebook is easy. As the club's "webmaster" I monitor the items posted to ensure that the content remains informative, fun, appropriate and relevant to the club's vision and purpose. Having a Facebook page and account costs the club (and members) nothing.

How You Create a Facebook account

1. Go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and click **Create New Account**.
2. Enter your name, email or mobile phone number, password, date of birth and gender.
3. Click [Sign Up](#).
4. To finish creating your account, you need to [confirm your email or mobile phone number](#).
5. To go to the club's Facebook page type "East Tennessee Region AACA" in the search box in the upper left.

The club's website (www.easttennesseeregionaaca.com) also serves multiple purposes including sharing information about the club including a gallery of photos of club events and members activities. You will also find a link to ETR's newsletter "The Antiquer" which provides all sorts of information including details on upcoming events. The website also serves as a resource for non-members who may be searching for an automobile-based organization in the area to get involved with and enjoy. Officers are listed along with their email contacts. How to join the club is also detailed on the website for potential new members. The website is also managed by the club's webmaster (a much loftier sounding title than is justified by my actual computer capabilities!). The website is hosted by Site123.com with an annual fee of around \$150.00 paid to the host to reserve our "domain name" and keep the site up and available to the public.

By all means take a few moments to check out and utilize both our Facebook page and website.

By Ed Barrett, Webmaster





During December I have sent a note of cheer on behalf of ETR to Lou Puma who had a heart stent implanted in December. Lou has been progressing well and undergoing physical therapy.

During November, nine of our members spent 4 – 8 hours preparing previously used Christmas cards for our distribution to nursing home patients this Christmas. Thanks to the contribution of used cards to the club, we recycled **1,132** cards to residents of 9 area nursing home. Check out our distribution list...

Foothills Transitional Care and Rehabilitation, Maryville, 105 cards sent

Fairpark Nursing & Rehabilitation, Maryville, 75 cards sent

Lyons View Health and Rehab Center, Knoxville, 172 cards sent

Legacy Health Care (Shannondale), Knoxville, 150 cards sent

NHC Healthcare at Fort Sanders, Knoxville, 135 cards sent

Beverly Park Place Health & Rehab, Knoxville, 160 cards sent

Island Home Park Health and Rehab, Knoxville, 80 cards sent

West Hills Health and Rehab, Knoxville, 115 cards sent

Ben Atchley Tennessee State Veterans' Home, Knoxville, 140 cards sent

*****Please remember to give your used Christmas cards to Sandra Quillin for the ETR ladies to recycle for Christmas 2026.***

For a sunshine activity during the season of Thanksgiving, we encouraged members who are interested in helping the Mission of Hope in clothing students in Appalachia to bring a pair of new jeans and/or a new long sleeve shirt for a boy or girl, size - Kindergarten through 8th grade. Thanks to our members, 30 contributions were collected at the Business meeting and delivered to the Mission of Hope Warehouse for distribution. Our members have great hearts!! If you know of an ETR member who needs a card or call, please contact Sandra Quillin at quillin1@bellsouth.net or 865-591-9456.



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***January 25, 2026 Annual ETR AACA 2026 Planning Meeting TN Bank 2 p.m.
1311 W. Lamar Alexander Pkwy. Maryville 37801***



Donations by ETR AACCA Members made to Connecting Hearts ... 12-19-25 Christmas Party

Individual Servings:

Soup (10.5 oz.): 24 cans
Soup (19 oz): 3 cans
Soup (18.6 oz.): 4 cans
Mac 'n Cheese (individual servings): 56
Cereal Bars: 80
Tea bags: 50
Apple Juice (individual pkg.): 8
Pop tarts: 8
Individual fruit cups: 202
Individual jello cups: 12
1 oz. pkg. raisins: 6
Ind. pkg. Cracker & cheese/p. butter: 163
6 oz. pkg. truffle crackers: 1
Oatmeal or grits (individual servings): 112
Individual pkg. cereal: 3
Pudding (5.5 oz.): 12
Pudding (3.5 oz): 60
Mashed potatoes (1.5 oz. cups): 8
Rice (serves 18): 1
Ramen noodles (serves 1): 6

12.5 oz. can of chicken breast: 3
Tuna (7 oz. cans): 13
Tuna (4.5 oz. cans): 1
Tuna Salad kit (feeds 1): 5
Tuna pouch (feeds 1): 42
Vienna Sausage (4.6 oz.): 12
Beef-a-Roni (feeds 1): 8
Chef Boyardee for one: 8
Hamburger Helper for one: 6

6.6 oz. Goldfish crackers: 1 bag
Individual cookie pouches: 6
Rice Krispy treats (feeds 1): 8
Oreos (feeds 1): 4

For Pets:

Dog food (3.5 oz. pouch): 12
Cat food (3 oz. tins): 5

Other: Christmas Ornament: 1

Feeds more than one:

24 oz. jar pancake syrup: 1
16 oz. pkg. pancake mix: 2
Fudge brownies (serves 6 - 17.6 oz. box): 1
Cake Mix (15.25 oz. box): 1
Mashed potatoes (4 servings): 8
Mashed potatoes (serves 11): 1
Muffin mix (feeds 6): 3
Stove Top Stuffing (feeds 6): 2
Red Beans & Rice (feeds 3): 3
Tex Mex Skillet Classics (serves 5): 1
Cheeseburger skillet Meal (serves 4): 1
Hamburger Helper (serves 4): 3
Pasta & tomato sauce (serves 5): 1
Luncheon meat (12 oz. can): 1
Corn Starch (1 lb. box): 1
Fruit cocktail (15 oz. can): 2
Tomato sauce (15 oz. can): 1
Green beans (14.5 oz. can): 2
Green beans (15.5 oz. can): 2
Green beans (28 oz. can): 3
Corn (14.5 oz. can): 2
Corn (15. oz. can): 4
Chili beans (15 oz. can): 2
Tomato soup (23 oz. can): 1
Soup (18.8 oz. can): 3
Chili (15.0 oz. can): 3
Carrots (14.5 oz can): 2
Diced tomatoes (10 oz. can): 1
Baked beans (28 oz. can): 2
Baked beans (22 oz. can): 1
Fried apples (20 oz. can): 1
Mixed vegetables (8 oz. can): 2
Mixed vegetables (15.5 oz. can): 2
Popcorn (package of 3): 1
Granola (11 oz. bag): 1
Chicken Broth (32 oz. can): 1
Cheese (8 oz. spray can): 1
Olives (12 oz. jar): 1
Cashews (2 lb. 14 oz can): 1
Apple butter (28 oz. jar): 1

Christmas Hand Soap (pump bottle): 1

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE “GRAY GHOST”

by Tim Seay



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Antique and classic car enthusiasts have one special vehicle that stands out from the rest. Often it's one that they have had or wanted when they were younger. For me, that special vehicle is a 1940 Ford Deluxe Coupe.

I inherited the passion for 40 Ford Coupes from my father. He loved 40 Fords so much that he drove one as his daily driver until well into the 1950's. In fact, when I was born, I was brought home from the hospital in a 1940 Ford Coupe.

As a child building model cars, I created many different 40 Fords and dreamed of one day owning a real one. When I was twelve, I convinced my father that we should get an antique car to work on together. So began my love affair for old cars.

Dad acquired a 1930 Model A Coupe which we immediately started to restore. But before we finished the Model A, we discovered a 1955 Thunderbird and started restoration of it as well. By the time I turned 16, my appetite for old cars was out of control. The desire to own a 1940 Ford Coupe had been ever present and Dad got a lead on one that was available in Mascot. We drove to a small farm and met an elderly man who said that he might sell his 40 Coupe that was in the barn.

I could hardly wait to pull back the barn door and my heart was pounding like a jack hammer when I first laid eyes on the old Ford. It was resting quietly in the stall of an old tobacco barn with tobacco sticks and other items laying on and all around it. It was covered with a thick layer of dust that had taken years to accumulate.

The owner, probably in his 80's at the time, told us that the engine had overheated (typical for flathead V8's) and seized. The old man had obviously driven the car long after he should have retired his driver's license because every corner of the car had dents and scrapes. Some poles in the barn had fallen and dented the roof. When I swept away some of the dirt, I could tell that the old man had painted the entire car (which was originally maroon) a light gray color using a brush and oil-based porch paint.

The old Ford's derelict condition did not discourage me. I was confident that Dad and I could restore it to its former glory in short order. Dad struck a deal with the old farmer and we made arrangements to bring the old car home. So in 1968, my relationship with this 1940 Ford Deluxe Coupe, that I named the "Gray Ghost" began in earnest.

The first order of business was to get the car running. Dad and I pulled and disassembled the engine only to discover a cracked engine block. We sourced another block and the necessary NOS parts to completely rebuild the engine. We begged and eventually convinced Paul "The Ghost" Gose to build the engine for us. Paul Gose was a championship dirt track racer known throughout the region and was renowned for building fast and reliable flathead V-8's. While waiting for the engine, attention was given to the other mechanicals, brakes, fuel, electrical, etc.

When I graduated high school in 1970, the 55 T-bird restoration had been completed, and as I began college at UT, full attention was given to making the 40 Coupe roadworthy. In 1972, as a sophomore at UT, I began driving the “Gray Ghost” as my daily driver. I quickly learned why my father loved 40 Ford Coupes so dearly. They handled nicely, performance was impressive (even by modern standards) and the driver’s view looking out over the pointed hood made me feel like the little Ford could carry me to endless horizons.

I logged many happy miles behind the wheel of the “Gray Ghost” during college (remnants of the UT commuter parking pass can still be seen on the bumpers) making it easy for me to ask cute college co-eds if they would like to ride in my old car. The “Gray Ghost” became a trusted friend to explore the backroads while making believe I was Robert Mitchum in Thunder Road or filling that cavernous trunk with camping gear for a mountain outing.

College led to a career and in 1981 I accepted a job that required me to move to San Francisco. So once again the “Gray Ghost” was retired to the barn on my farm in Louisville, Tennessee to rest peacefully awaiting my return home someday.

The California job led to a job in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and the little 40 Ford waited patiently for it’s time to be on the road again. Dad died in 1990 and career changes finally allowed me to return to Tennessee in the mid-nineties. By 2000-2001 I was missing my old friend the “Gray Ghost” and thoughts of making the little Ford roadworthy again began to haunt me.

In 2007, I asked long-time friend and mentor, Tom Christenberry to help me get the 40 Ford on the road again. Tom is a great lover of 40 Fords, and has owned and restored too many to count. He literally wrote the book on 40 Fords published by the Early Ford V-8 Club.

So, in the spring of 2007, on a rainy Saturday morning, Tom and his friend Dennis Christopher and I pulled open the barn door to reveal the “Gray Ghost” covered in dust, patiently awaiting renewed interest after 26 years of sleep. I could almost hear my old friend saying, “I knew you would come back for me”.

Tom and Dennis started meticulously checking the mechanicals from stem to stern. Miraculously, due to proper preparations before we stored the car, the engine fired up and ran smoothly. All the glass was replaced due to fogging, a Columbia Two-Speed rear end was added for highway drivability and dual exhaust with “Smitty” mufflers were installed for that classic flathead V-8 sound.

After more than a year in Tom’s capable care, the “Gray Ghost” was ready to embark on new adventures. We began enjoying local cruise-ins and attending area shows and the little Ford’s originality and patina appearance always drew lots of attention. In fact, I had to create a story board explaining that the “Gray Ghost” was not a “Rat Rod” but had earned the patina honestly over many years of wear and tear.

In 2009 my wife Sherry and I drove to Dawsonville, GA to attend the Moonshine Festival and car show which began in 1967. Cars that would have been used to transport moonshine were on display and there was the largest number of 40 Fords that I have ever seen assembled in one place. We have attended the Moonshine Festival every year since and the “Gray Ghost” has won many awards there.

In 2010 and 2011, Sherry and I drove the 40 Ford to Frankenmuth, Michigan which is about 90 miles north of Detroit. We attended the “Auto Fest” which is a long running show hosting more than 3,000 cars. In 2011, I was dressed as a moonshiner with faded overalls, white shirt, floppy hat and boots to compliment the display of our moonshine hauling car. A roving reporter televising the show interviewed me and asked why

I would drive my old car all the way from TN to Michigan and wind up in the car show. I was quoted on camera saying that "I had a load of moonshine to haul to Detroit and decided that I wanted to see what was happening in Frankenmuth". Everyone laughed and we had a great time at the show.

On June 20, 2014 a group of old car "nuts" were gathered at the Shoney's Restaurant on Rutledge Pike in Knoxville preparing to travel to Rogersville to tour the "Memory Lane" village. Robert Quillin approached me and commented that he had seen that little gray Ford at various places around town for some time. He asked if I would like to join the East Tennessee Region of the AACA. I thanked him for the invitation and replied that the condition and appearance of my old car would probably not fit in with the beautifully restored AACA cars. Robert smiled and said that my car, regardless of its appearance would certainly be welcome. In fact he said you don't even need to own an old car to be a member. So Sherry and I joined and over the years, we have served the club as officers and board members. The fellowship with other club members has enriched our old car experience.

Over the years my collection of antique and classic cars has grown and I now own two other fully restored 40 Fords, another Deluxe Coupe and a rare Sedan Delivery. So the "Gray Ghost" doesn't get to go out as often as it used to, but it is still my pride and joy and will always hold a special place in my heart after 58 years of ownership.

So as the sign in my driver's quarter window reads, "If you see this car on a trailer, call 911. Chances are it's being stolen!". If you see us driving the "Gray Ghost", give us a "thumbs up". By Tim & Sherry Seay



"THE GRAY GHOST"

First, let's review ETR's Tours and Activities for 2025:

				Attendance:
January 19	Planning Meeting	TN Bank	Matt Sartin	30
February 1	Cabin Fever Therapy	KCAB	Robert & Sandra Quillin	36
March 22	Murder Mystery Dinner	TN Bank	Matt & Gayla Sartin	40
April 12	Backroads: "Spring At Last" Tour		Roger & Jan Frazee	16
May 10	Tour & Lunch at Wayne Lequire's-Maryville		Wayne LeQuire, Pam Kagley	67
June 14	Cruise-in First Baptist Lenoir City		Matt Sartin	25
June 14	Moonshine Rod Run	Newport	Ben Curtis	23
July 19	Autos Through the Ages-GSMHC Townsend	ETR AACA		100 members, 569 guests
August 17	Garage Tour: Janice Williams; Ed Barrett	ETR AACA		61
September 26	Train ride to Farner, TN	Etowah, TN	Charlie Simpson, Tom Howard	48
October 12	Fall Foliage and Picnic - RiverView Farm		Janice Williams, The Quillins	56
October 18	Cruise to Cumberland Gap	TN, VA, KY	Tim-Sherry Seay; The Quillins	28
November 16	Annual Business Meeting	TN Bank	Matt & Gayla Sartin; The Quillins	30
December 19	Christmas Party	Rothchild's	Tom Howard, Sylvia Witt	86

Other Events:

January 29	Melton Hill Dam Tour	Robert & Sandra Quillin	15
August 25	Amazon Tour	Tim Seay, The Quillins	32

Monthly Breakfasts:

February Breakfast	Feb. 13	First Watch, Lovell Rd., Knoxville (Gardners)	21
March Breakfast	March 13	Vienna Coffee House, Maryville (Quillins)	29
April Breakfast	April 10	Carmichael Inn, Loudon (Varadys)	26
May Breakfast	May 8	Angie's Kitchen, Loudon (Mauchs)	19
June Breakfast	June 12	Maple Street Biscuit Company, Knoxville (Seays)	20
July Breakfast	July 10	The Flying Biscuit (Janice Williams)	22
August Breakfast	August 14	First Watch, Lovell Rd., Knoxville (Susan Weeks)	29
September Breakfast	September 11	Don DELFIS Pancake House, Farragut, (Lunds)	23
October Breakfast	October 9	Scrambled Jakes, Northshore Dr. Knoxville (Witts)	19
November Breakfast	November 13	Don DELFIS Pancake House, Farragut, (Lackos)	28
December Breakfast/Lunch	Dec. 11	Apple Cake Tea Room, Farragut (Witts, Quillins)	29

For activities and tours in 2026....

We have scheduled our **Annual Planning Meeting for 2 p.m. Sunday, January 25 to be held at TN Bank, 1311 W Lamar Alexander Parkway, Maryville, 37801.** During this meeting, members will determine the activities and tours in which our club will participate in 2026. Be certain to attend so that we can plan activities in which you wish to participate. The only event that we have scheduled at this time is our eighth annual "Autos Through the Ages" car show at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center, in Townsend, Saturday, July 18.

Please look through the ideas for 2026 tours and activities as generated at the November 16, 2025 Business Meeting – see [Page 13](#) of the Antiquer. We will discuss these suggestions as well as any others generated at our Planning Meeting to build our Tour and Activity Calendar for 2026. We look forward to seeing you there!

Overnight Tours:

Cartersville, GA , March 26-28, Savoy Museum, National AACA Meet

Fall Creek Falls

Tail of the Dragon, trip to Fontana and dine at Tapoco Lodge

Mount Airy, NC, home of Mayberry

Roanoke, VA D-Day and Transportation Museums

Cumberland Falls at Sterns and Corbin, Kentucky

Franklin, TN to home of Otis Johnson, huge car collection

Allen Jones collection in Cleveland, TN

Late October, Dawsonville, GA: Moonshine Rod Run

Helen, GA

Cumberland Theatre in Crossville

Day Tours:

April 21 University of Tennessee Veterinary School Open House, Picnic after at UT Gardens

No date Johnson University – Senior Day, display cars, have dinner on campus

No date Morristown – Tour to the National Weather Station, possible drive to Cherokee Lake

No date Honest Charlie's at Coker Tire in Chattanooga

No date Visit to Seven Islands Park in South Knoxville

No date Mystery Tour – Drive to unknown destination, only the host knows the destination

No date Tour the Foothills Parkway and have lunch

No date Picnic to Ft. Loudon State Park and visit the historical site, attend a Re-enactment

No date Murder Mystery Dinner

No date Meet as a group to have dinner and see a play in a Downtown Theater in Knoxville

No date Weeknight cruise-in at a restaurant with a large parking lot

No date Weeknight cruise-in at a large parking lot with a food truck

No date Greeneville, TN Farmer's Daughter for lunch, visit car museum in Greeneville

No date Pumpkin festival in Allard, lunch at winery in Jamestown

No date Tour to Smith and Wesson Factory in Blount County

No date Technical sessions for the guys; ladies have a separate event

Continue monthly breakfasts and consider 1 or 2 Saturday afternoon lunches or dinner



Reid Raithel shows off his 1969 Chevrolet Camaro



Sheriff Sherry Seay rides off on a call in her 1957 Ford

**EAST TENNESSEE REGION AACA
Business Meeting Minutes
Sunday, November 16, 2025**

OFFICERS

President: Matt Sartin, Present
Vice President: Tony Gardner, Present
Secretary: Susan Baker, Present
Treasurer: Susan Weeks, Absent
Past President: Bob Witt, Present
Antiquer Editor: Dave and Beryl Hermanson, Absent
Webmaster: Ed Barrett, Present
Events Coordinator/Sunshine Rep: Sandra Quillin, Present

Board

Director: Jerry Mauch, Present
Director: Robert Quillin, Present
Director: Tim Seay, Absent
Director: Sylvia Witt, Present

Members present: 30

Call to Order: Matt Sartin, President, called the business meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

Matt Sartin introduced the Officers and Board of Directors who were present at the meeting, as noted above.

Financial Report: No financial report was given, as the Treasurer was absent.

Secretary Report: Susan Baker, secretary, reported that we have added 30 new members so far this year.

Report from AACA National: Tom Howard, AACA National Affairs Liaison, reported that the AACA National conference will be in Washington, DC, in February 2026. The AACA will have 14 National Shows and Tours in 2026 – from Las Vegas, to Puerto Rico, to Hershey, Pennsylvania. The 2025 Fall Meet in Hershey had a big crowd and 947 cars registered for the Car Show, which were more than in the past few years. The Flea Market at the meet is getting smaller; and some vendors don't come anymore. The meet did have a good-sized car corral, where cars are offered for sale. The AACA Winter Nationals Meet will be in Cartersville, GA, March 26-28. Tom mentioned that club members should consider attending this meet.

Nominating Committee Report: Bob Witt presented the Nominating Committee Report. As defined in the Bylaws, the nominating committee is elected by the membership. The Nominating Committee was Bob Witt, Robert Quillin, Sandra Quillin, Sylvia Witt, and Tim Seay.

The Nominating Committee asked the current officers to repeat again. The 2026 Slate is:

President: Matt Sartin
Vice President: Tony Gardner
Secretary: Susan Baker
Treasurer: Susan Weeks
Past President: Bob Witt
Webmaster: Ed Barrett

BOARD

Director: Jerry Mauch new 2-year term
Director: Robert Quillin new 2-year term
Director: Tim Seay, continues with 2nd year of 2-year term
Director: Sylvia Witt, continues with 2nd year of 2-year term

Events Coord./Sunshine Rep: Sandra Quillin *Antiquer* Editor: VACANT

Vote: The slate passed, with none opposed.

Matt Sartin announced that the club is looking for a new *Antiquer* editor. Any volunteers please contact Matt or other Board Member.

Christmas Party: The Christmas Party is Friday, December 19, at 6:30 pm, at Rothchild Center. The cost is \$25 per person for ETR club members. ETR club subsidizes the cost for our members. Members can bring guests at the full price of \$42 each. Reservation and payment are due by December 6.

Planning Tours and Activities for 2026: Sandra Quillin led the discussion for planning tours activities for 2026. Sandra compiled a list of past events and ideas and handed these lists out to each table.

The floor was opened to suggestions from members on tours and events they would like for 2026. Suggestions included the following:

- Impromptu dinners: someone can suggest a dinner spot where we can meet
- Have an informal Cruise-in at drive-in type restaurant on a week-day evening ~ 5:00 pm. Have several a year in different locations (i.e., North, South, East, West)
- Technical seminars such as “how to tune 40s/50s/60s ignition system.” These seminars could be paired with event appealing to ladies
- Continue Monthly Breakfasts – Need people to volunteer for each month
- March Event– go to the Cartersville, GA, Winter National Meet at Savoy Museum, March 27-28 (car show on Saturday, March 28)
- Visit Old Car City, in White, GA, Barnsley Gardens in Adairsville, Ga
- April - UT VET School Open house – April 11, with picnic in Gardens following
- Johnson University Senior Day
- Visit National Weather Station in Morristown, TN & drive to Cherokee Lake, with Ice Cream Stop/ lunch
- Tour of Honest Charley and Museum in Chattanooga
- Roanoke, VA D-Day museum and Transportation museum (overnight)
- Fall Creek Falls – have new lodge and restaurant (overnight)
- Cumberland Falls in Corbin, KY – “Moonbow” (overnight stay)
- Franklin, TN – car collection of Otis Johnson,
- Mystery tour – only hosts know route before starting
- Greenville, TN – Farmers Daughter, other shops, visit City Car Museum in Greenville
- Alan Jones car collection in Cleveland TN
- Foothills Parkway drive with picnic lunch
- A smaller Autos through the Ages – perhaps at TN Bank in Oak Ridge
- Saturday afternoon – cruise in and dinner at restaurant
- Dogwood Trail drive and picnic
- Smith & Wesson Tour
- Douglas Dam tour
- Cumberland Playhouse (overnight)
- Moonshine Festival in Dawsonville, GA
- Card/game day
- Drive to Fort Loudon State Park with Picnic
- Attend Civil War reenactment at Fort Loudon
- Pumpkin Festival in Allardt, TN
- Saturday afternoon – cruise in and dinner at restaurant
- Chili and soup cooking contest
- Tail of the Dragon
- Mount Airy, NC – overnight visit

- Seven Islands Birding Park
- Dinner and movie at the Regal Theater
- Murder Mystery dinner

Sandra will summarize these suggestions. The membership will discuss further and determine our schedule at the January Planning meeting.

East Tennessee Region 70th Anniversary Event: The ETR club will celebrate its 70th Anniversary this summer. Matt Sartin has appointed Sylvia Witt and Linda Royston as co-chairs to plan a Gala Event. Sylvia and Linda asked for suggestions, which included:

Showcase club memorabilia;

Have event where members dress in period clothing appropriate for their cars;

Combine with Hillbilly Homecoming in Maryville, where club started

They also asked for input on timing – considering early May or October.

Matt Sartin presented an idea to have a commemorative knife from Case, with the ETR AACA logo, numbered editions, designed and made to sell. Matt will get a mock-up to show at future meeting. Several members had interest about the cost. Matt will get an estimate. We would also send one to the AACA Museum. More discussion on this event at January meeting.

The Business Meeting concluded and members signed Christmas Cards for residents at nine area nursing homes.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Baker, ETR Secretary



Steve West's 1958 Chevrolet Belair



Herb Weise's 1958 Edsel Pacer Convertible



Donations loaded to deliver to Connecting Hearts
in the Quillins' 1992 Chevy Astro Van



John & Barbara Rigby's 1974 Reliant Scimitar GTE



ETR Monthly Breakfast December 11 - Apple Cake Tea Room, Farragut - 29 attending





Fords displayed at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center for Melissa Johnston's Memorial Service:
Charles Alexander's 1956 Ford Town Sedan, Robert Quillin's 1949 Ford Custom, Tim Seay's 1940 Ford Coupe,
Jack Smith's 1950 Ford Coupe, and Sam Stubbs' 1949 Ford F-1

Don't Forget...

Be sure to attend the ETR AACA Planning Meeting, Sunday, January 25, 2 p.m., TN Bank, 1311 W Lamar Alexander Pky. Maryville, 37801. We will be planning our ETR AACA TOURS and ACTIVITIES for 2026!

