

Smoky Mountain Antiquer

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Tom Howard & Susan Baker welcome participants to July 18th Autos Through the Ages

ETR AACA wanted to thank you for your participation in the 8th annual “Autos Through the Ages” car show at the Heritage Center, Townsend, July 18th! The show field consisted of 167 “Autos Through the Ages” on display with more than 550 guests in attendance. We had 48 members and guests who helped set up for the show, who worked during the show in registration, parking, and food delivery; and who helped take down the show. It is quite a feat to accomplish each year and we look forward to engaging in this endeavor again for the **ninth annual “Autos Through the Ages” car show at the Heritage Center, Townsend scheduled for July 17, 2027.**

To host this show, we begin the process in early May by contacting all ETR members, all previous participants, and sending invitations to 12 car clubs in the East Tennessee area. Our faithful supportive sponsors of Steve West (West Chevrolet), Jerry Hodge (Twin City Dealerships) and Blount Partnership have continued to give ETR AACA the financial support to provide free lunches and drinks, etc. throughout each of these annual shows! In 2026 we gave free coffee, donuts, bottled water, lunch and ice cream to anyone who brought a car to display in our show. Show participants also received a free ticket to the Heritage Museum thanks to the Heritage Center.

During each show, we have a membership tent which encourages participants who are not ETR AACA members to consider joining our club. We have materials from AACA available as well as copies of our ETR AACA Tours and Activities for the previous two years and copies of our newsletter, *The Smoky Mountain Antiquer*. Throughout the show, our club “ambassadors” are sharing the rewards of being an ETR AACA member. The July 18th show netted ETR AACA a total of 12 new memberships!!

by Sandra Quillin

SAVE the DATE:

Autos Through the Ages, July 17, 2027, Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center

July 18, 2026 “Autos Through the Ages” Photos

Photos by Ed Barrett





Brandon Adkins brings Talledegas from Tellico Plains to Autos Through the Ages





Tim Masten displays his 1966 Corvette at the July 18th Autos Through the Ages

Local and National Events



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ETR AACA Calendar of Events

September 10: Breakfast, Horn of Plenty, Middlebrook Pike

September 12: Tellico Village @ The Neighborhood - Sweetwater

September 24: Tour of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (limited to 20 members)

September 27: ETR AACA 70th Anniversary Picnic - RiverView Family Farm

October 8: Breakfast TBD

October 31: Fall Foliage Tour - Sequatchie Valley

November 12: Breakfast TBD

November 15: ETR AACA Business & Organizational Meeting TN Bank

November 17: Smith-Wesson Tour (limited to 20 members)

December 11: Breakfast TBD

December 19: ETR AACA Christmas Party, Knox County Baptist Assoc.

Upcoming Events from Other Organizations

September 17-19: Fall Rod Run, Pigeon Forge, Le Conte Center

Foothills Mall Cruise-In: Friday evenings April – October

Sept. 4-5 | Hotrod Nationals – 3179 Wears Valley Rd Sevierville, TN 37862

September 24-26 | Okteenerfest 2026 – Townsend, TN, Porsche 914

September 25-26 | Smoky Mountain Truck Fest – Sevierville Conv. Center

October 16-17 | Cruise the Smokies Fall Rod Run – Cherokee, NC

October 23-25 | The Sparks Show, Sevier County Fairgrounds, Sevierville

Harper's Cars 'N Coffee – Sun. Oct. 26, 8 – 11 am, West Town Mall

AACA National Events

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

September 21-26, 2026 – Revival AAA Glidden Tour (Pre-1943) – Dover, DE

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

First I would like to say welcome to all our new family members. So far, I think that we have had a great car show season. Our monthly breakfasts have been going great. Unfortunately I have been unable to attend, but everyone I have spoken with seems to have enjoyed the breakfasts.

Our Autos Through the Ages was a great show this year. I would like to say thanks to all those who came out to help. In my opinion, this was our best show yet! Three reasons it was the best...no rain during the show, everyone had a cheerful spirit, and we had 167 wonderful cars! As always, Frank Graffeo and the Heritage Center staff were excellent hosts again this year!

During the Autos Through the Ages show, we gained some great new members and made wonderful new memories. I so enjoyed getting to talk to members, participants, and spectators at the show. Also we had a great mixture of original and modified, plus American and foreign cars. There was truly something for everyone.

I would like to remind everyone about the 70th Anniversary picnic. It will be held at the picturesque RiverView Family Farm owned by our own AACA family member, Janice Williams. The event will be held on Sunday, September 27th. If you have any ETR history and would like to share it at the Anniversary picnic, please contact Linda Royston at lgroyston@yahoo.com or me.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone to keep sharing your car stories. I love reading your stories and hearing you tell your stories. I cannot wait to see you all at the Anniversary picnic.

News from National

Tom Howard, National Affairs Liaison

As I sit down to write my news for this issue I am wondering where the great year of 2026 has gone. Then I review the AACA calendar of events that have taken place and I can see that this has been a very busy year for your national club activities. There have been nine very well attended Nationals and two tours through August with two more tours in September - the Founders Tour in Williamsburg, VA and the AACA hosted Glidden Tour in Delaware.

It seems like a short time ago that we returned in February from the great AACA Convention in Virginia and now it is only five weeks until our annual October trip to Hershey. The Hershey Nationals have always been special for AACA members nationwide as well as many from overseas. This year I am celebrating sixty years since the first time I attended and have not missed many since. The Hershey meet with the large flea market and a fantastic vehicle show on the last day has always been a five-day event but years ago our family started making it a full week stay and still do. Pennsylvania is a beautiful place in the fall!

As it has been for AAA National events, it has also been another successful year for your AACA world class library. Donations of automotive materials of all kinds are regularly received and appreciated. AACA members are continually contacting or even visiting the facility to make use of the materials stored there for enjoyment, education or even assistance in restorations. Planning is well underway for the annual Hershey AACA library sale on Tuesday, October 6 of duplicate materials and books.

Another AACA topic that continually comes to mind through the year is our wonderful publication *Antique Automobile*. I still look forward to receiving each issue and have a hard time putting it down until I at least look through all the pages. Then reading everything lasts all month. I usually carry the current issue in my briefcase until the next issue arrives. From the great articles to the in depth coverage of our events complete with color pictures make it alone worth the price of our annual dues. Our congratulations to Editor in Chief West Peterson and his assistant editors and contributors for a top tier publication.

Now until the next issue when I can tell you about another great Hershey experience if you did not go, have a great fall season.

Cars generally built before 1970 have mechanical point ignitions. When properly installed and set they are usually good for about 10K miles without further adjustment or maintenance. The first question is why bother with Electronic Ignition? Some of the big advantages are:

- (1) Once properly adjusted and timed they are basically set for life. I still check mine periodically just to be sure.
- (2) The wear on the distributor bushings is virtually nonexistent. Nothing touches the magnetic element which replaces the regular distributor cam.
- (3) The condenser is eliminated.
- (4) If you use the kit's new ignition coil you get a hotter spark. This means less plug fouling and better mileage.
- (5) If there is a failure it is just as easy to replace the electronic switch as installing mechanical points.

Before you jump in and buy a unit, there are some things to consider. First, are you considering converting from a 6 volt to a 12 volt negative ground system? If so, do this first because the little electronic box in the kit and ignition coil are set for either a 6 volt positive or a 12 volt negative ground systems. FS and Petronix offer conversion kits designed specifically for your manufacturer and model. I have installed several systems with excellent results. The unit in my Model A Ford has worked without fault or adjustment for over 12 years. Typical costs are less than \$200 and sometime less. If you need help or further advice on this feel free to contact me.

Tony Gardner, Vice President

To Celebrate ETR AACAs 70th Anniversary.... 70th 70th 70th 70th 70th 70th 70th

The Anniversary Committee asks for your help! ETR's Webmaster Ed Barrett is in the process of building a running photo slide show of past club events. We are requesting photos to include these milestones.

- Founding Meeting November 1956
- Hillbilly Homecoming
- Glidden Tour to Asheville
- Oak Ridge Spring National in 1991
- Southeastern Fall National, Oak Ridge, September 10-12, 1998
- Southeastern Divisional Tour, Maryville/Alcoa, April 13-16, 2003
- Thunder Road 50th Anniversary Celebraton, June 20-22, 2008
- 50th Anniversary
- Moonlight and Mountain Mist, Seerville, May 4-6, 2015
- Secret City Divisional Tour, Oak Ridge, 2023
- Autos Through the Ages

To Help...send digitized photos to elbarrett92@gmail.com or US mail photos to Ed Barrett, 3207 River Bank Way, Knoxville, TN 37922. Put your name and event on back of photos so they can be returned to you at the 70th celebration. SEND as soon as possible! If you have questions, text Ed at 865-805-2490.

Your 70th Anniversary Committee





ETR Members Make a Special Donation to the Lane Motor Museum

If the cute little red truck pictured above looks familiar, it is likely that you participated in last year's ETR tour of member Ed Barrett's garage. For that event, Ed's neighbor Andy Singer was kind enough to display his 1974 Fiat 850T truck for the enjoyment of those on the tour. Dr. Singer's Knoxville medical practice specializes in allergies and immunology. Andy and his wife Jamie recently joined ETR during the club's annual "Autos Through the Ages" show where they displayed their 28,000 mile 1962 Pontiac which has been in their family since new. The Singers recently made the decision to donate the little Fiat to the very unique and interesting Lane Auto Museum in Nashville. "I was a little sad at first until I saw the enthusiasm the museum staff had for the truck and all the other vehicles there. It is a really cool place," said Andy. The Singers have a number of other vehicles in their personal collection that they enjoy and occasionally show.

The little red truck is based on a Fiat 850 platform and was constructed in Italy by the firm Carozzeria Coriasco. It was formerly owned by Tom Harper and was displayed in the showroom of his Knoxville Fiat/Alfa Romeo dealership. According to Andy it was most likely used as a farm truck in its former life before restoration.

The Lane Motor Museum is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization formed in October 2002. It is located in the former American Bread Bakery in Nashville. The collection encompasses over 500 American, European and Asian cars of unique and unusual design. Included are military, amphibious, competition and prototype vehicles, motorcycles, auto art and memorabilia. At any one time there are approximately 150 vehicles on display with the balance of the rotating collection stored in the facility's basement. For more info about the museum check their website at: www.lanemotormuseum.org.

Congratulations and thanks go to Andy and Jamie Singer for their generous and "very cool" donation to a special Tennessee museum!

Ed Barrett, ETR Webmaster



Lane Motor Museum (from their website) 702 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN, 37210
<https://www.lanemotormuseum.org/> +1 615 742 7445 Established in 2002, the Lane Motor Museum in Nashville began with the donation of 70 vehicles from avid car enthusiast, Jeff Lane. Since its inception, the LMM has come to acquire over 300 unique and rare automobiles to the delight of visitors. Housed in the former Sunbeam Bakery, this large, 40,000 foot warehouse perfectly showcases one-of-a-kind vehicles like a 1975 Maserati Bora which can go 0-60mph within six and a half seconds and tops out at 165mph.

Members met at Foothills Mall and drove 42 miles through backroads of Blount, Loudon and Monroe counties as they traveled parallel to the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains and Cherokee National Forest. We drove alongside Tellico Lake turning to drive into Monroe County and then to Loudon County before we returned to Monroe County. The scenery was very pleasant and the lake views were very beautiful. All driving routes were two lanes except for US 411.

After the drive, we stopped at **Benton's Smoky Mountains Country Hams** in Vonore for shopping and for an excellent tour of the processing of the meat at Benton's. The business was started in 1947 by the late Albert Hicks, a dairy farmer who began curing and selling country hams out of a painted block building. The owner of Benton's, Allan Benton, leased Albert Hicks' business in 1973 and later moved the business to Madisonville. Allan and his son were out of town for the day of our tour, but manager Tommy was all about sharing the wonderful story and business ventures of Benton's Smoky Mountains Country Hams. Tommy explained that they process the hams (dry curing) just exactly as our forefathers many years ago. The business kept the century-old Appalachian dry-curing process. Every Monday, they receive a shipment of 400 hams. Once the hams arrive, they begin the process of rubbing the hams with their special recipe of salt, brown sugar, pepper and sodium nitrite. He shared the steps for curing the hams; warming the hams, cooling them, moving them to the cold room and then on to hot smoking with real hickory wood in a cast iron wood stove. Benton's sell unsmoked or hickory smoked hams. Tommy shared how and where the distribution of the finished products are available to customers throughout the US and several other countries. Our members commented on how interesting and informative the discussion was during the tour. Members also discussed how they have seen Benton's bacon and other Benton's products on menus in restaurants in New York City and other cities.

From Benton's we traveled one-fourth mile to Countryside Restaurant for an enjoyable early evening meal on the patio. Everyone was very complimentary of the driving route, the tour at Benton's and the meal at Countryside. If any member who did not attend the tour would like a copy of the route to take on your own, contact Sandra Quillin.

Sandra Quillin, Editor

Photos from Countryside Restaurant and Benton's Country Hams *by Robert Quillin*





Our members were very impressed with the tour of the processing and storage area of Benton's as well as the excellent presentation and question answering from our tour host, Tommy.



After the tour, our members shopped at Benton's before heading to Countryside Restaurant for an early dinner.



New members and long-time members enjoyed visiting together as they enjoyed the meal and tour. Even though it was a warm day, most of our group enjoyed dining on the patio at Countryside Restaurant – great food choices and the cooking and service were super too!



Len Royston assists Liz Burns into the “Beast” with daughter Beth Burns. The Beast was Dallas Burns favorite car, a 1969 Cadillac DeVille.

ETR members and guests gathered at *The Burgers* in Lenoir City for lunch and a good time in the cool restaurant. We enjoyed great food and fellowship and convinced a guest to join ETR AACA! We drove a 12-mile backroads route heading to the Tic Toc Ice Cream Parlor in Loudon. Along the drive, we saw the Tellico Dam whose construction was stopped by the US Supreme Court in the late 70's when a small fish, the Snail Darter, was discovered there. The Snail Darter was an endangered fish. The dam flooded the former capital city of the Cherokee Indians, Chota. On Vonore Road, we saw Pound Creek Mill which was built in the early part of the 1800's. A bit further along the route, we saw General Longstreet's Crossing where Confederate Lieutenant General James Longstreet's tactical river crossing occurred at Huff's Ferry on the Tennessee River.

...and yes, we enjoyed our final stop on the tour at the Tik Toc Ice Cream Parlor in downtown Loudon. The impressive historical Loudon County Courthouse and water fountain in the center of town were beautiful scenery on such a hot day.

Matt Sartin, Sandra Quillin

Photos by Martha McCluen



Downtown ... Loudon, Tennessee





As a retired Chevy dealer, I have had many older Chevrolets. As I write this I think back over 40 plus years I have not known 10% of Chevy dealers who really cared for collector cars. I have had 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's but my favorite are the 50's. I went to my first Tri-Five Convention in Boling Green and then attended several more. I have had as many as fifteen vehicles but I am now down to five. Let me tell you about my Tri-Fives.

I started looking for a Nomad and asking around. I heard about one in West Virginia. I called and saw pictures and talked about price and went to look at the Nomad with a friend, Greg Kern. Nice owner had a lift in his garage, so we got a good look at it and then took it for a ride. We agreed on a price and he took my check, holding the title until it cleared and I drove it back to Tennessee. It was all original except a/c, wheels, and tinted glass. I added cruise control and back up camera for traveling. I have enjoyed driving it over 10,000 miles. I went on a Hot Rod Power Tour from Cape Canaveral to Detroit and back to Tennessee with brother-in-law and friend. Then drove back to Detroit to the Woodward Dream Cruise with three friends, also in conjunction with Hot Rod Power Tour. We drove it to the first Tri-Five in Boling Green, Kentucky. Nearly 80 Nomads were at the show that year. I took the car to many cruise-ins and spent hours of enjoyment with my Nomad and high school friends.

In 2012 I was in Lebanon, TN for an AACA meet with my blue 1957 Chevy convertible on the show field. Pulling up next to me was a Colonial Yellow 1957 Bel Air convertible, a true beauty. We talked during the meet and I gave him my business card and I told him if he ever wanted to sell it to give me a call. I have done this many times and never heard from them. Seven years later, after I retired, my son, who now is the dealer, got a call from a guy in Kentucky who said his Dad wanted to buy his car. When he said it was a yellow 1957 I got his number and called Brian Burkhead. He said his Dad bought this car in 1981, did a ground up restoration, drove it for 40 years and got an AACA Grand National Award. His father had died and he wanted to sell it. He priced it and I asked if it was in the same shape as when I had last seen it. A friend and I drove up and trailered it back to Tennessee. I have since driven it to the Tri-Five in Boling Green and sold the Blue 1957. The Colonial Yellow color is just different enough to really draw attention. It has been to local shows and parades.

Last year, I found my 1956 convertible to complete my Tri-Fives. It was in a recent frame-off restoration with a rare, padded dash, factory A/C, and a unique color combination of copper and beige. I had a beautiful turquoise and white 1958 Impala Coupe with a 348CID V8 and 4 BBL. all original that I traded. The '56 is a joy to drive and show.

I have a 1984 El Camino and a 1965 Malibu SS convertible. My son is a fourth generation Chevrolet dealer since 1931 and a lot of cars have come through our hands, but the Tri-Fives are unique and timeless!

Steve West, ETR AACA Member

70 years since the beginning of the ETR AACA club... The following is taken from the article “A View of ETR AACA History” published in the 2026 January-February Vol. 61, No. 1, issue of the Smoky Mountain Antiquer.

“In the months following the 1956 Hillbilly Homecoming, more and more people looking for antique cars or searching for parts contacted Charles and Kenneth [Coulter]. 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.”

WHAT: ETR AACA 70th Anniversary Picnic

WHERE: RiverView Family Farm, 12130 Prater Lane, Knoxville, TN 37922

WHEN: Sunday, September 27, 2026 at 2 p.m.

Our 70th Anniversary picnic will be here before you know it – Sunday, September 27, 2026. At 2 p.m. we will enjoy a picnic lunch of fried chicken furnished by the club as well as sides and desserts prepared by ETR members. As soon as lunch is finished, we will enjoy highlights and stories from the past. Memorabilia/items, supplied by members, will be on display for your enjoyment. Look for yourself on “Pictures from Over the Years” running on the TV monitor.

Members – here’s what you need to know and do before the event:

- **RSVP to Linda Royston at lgroyston@yahoo.com or 865-765-1660 to let us know if you are attending and the number in your party.**
- **Information to include with your RSVP:**
 - **What side and/or dessert you plan to bring.**
 - **Do you wish to display car club related items and the amount of table space you will need.**
 - **Do you wish to briefly share an interesting experience(s) during the program if so, let us know so we can allot time for you.**
- To add to the festivities, you may wish to wear period clothing and drive your antique car.
- If you have pictures you wish to share to run on the TV monitor, please email digitized pictures to Ed Barrett at elbarrett92@gmail.com or mail pictures to Ed Barrett, 3207 River Bank Way, Knoxville, TN 37922. Be sure to include your name and event on the pictures so they can be returned to you at the celebration.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 27.

Your 70th Anniversary Committee



70th Anniversary Celebration and Picnic at the RiverView Family Farm Event Center

OFFICERS

President: Matt Sartin, Present
 Vice President: Tony Gardner, Present
 Secretary: Susan Baker, Present
 Treasurer: Susan Weeks, Excused absence
 Past President: Bob Witt, Present
Antiquer Editor: Sandra Quillin, Interim, Present
 Webmaster: Ed Barrett, Present
 Events Coordinator/Sunshine Rep: Sandra Quillin, Present

Board

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

Call to Order: Matt Sartin, President, called the meeting to order at 6:44 pm.

Roll Call: Susan Baker, Secretary, called role as noted above.

Approval of May Board Minutes: Tim Seay moved to approve the May Board Meeting minutes; Tony Gardner seconded. The motion passed with none opposed.

Financial Report: Susan Weeks, Treasurer, sent a report to Matt Sartin, which consisted of copies of the bank statements for our accounts. She also had questions about who had signature authority on the CD. Per the By-laws, the Treasurer and President are to have signature authority on all financial accounts. Matt will check with Susan Weeks to clarify what access needs to be established.

Antiquer Report: Sandra Quillin continues to publish the *Antiquer* Newsletter, and is always looking for articles from members.

Sunshine Report: Sandra Quillin sent cards as follows:

<u>Get Well:</u>	<u>Sympathy:</u>	<u>Thank You Notes:</u>
Lou Puma 5-21-26	None sent	Jerry & Frances Hodge Garage Tour 5-31-26
Linda DeFord 5-21-26		Don Bunch Garage Tour 6-6-26
Jean Lund 6-22-26		
Lou Puma 6-22-26		
Richard Crawford 6-22-26		

Webmaster & Facebook Reports: Ed Barrett received an email from Debbie Nolan at AACA with criteria for the AACA Chapter Website and Chapter Newsletter award competitions. Ed will review the criteria to see if he can enhance our website. He will also review criteria for the *Antiquer* evaluation and share with Sandra Quillin. Ed has posted pictures from the monthly breakfasts. He does monitor the website and removes inappropriate postings. Ed plans to get copies of photos and documents from the East Tennessee Region chapter history that Jerry Hodge had displayed in his basement. Matt Sartin suggested that Ed contact Jerry Hodge at the Autos Through the Ages event to discuss making historical photos of ETR events he has available for possible use on our social media sites and for 70th anniversary activities.

Events Coordinator Report: Sandra Quillin

Autos Through the Ages is Saturday, July 18. We have 150 cars registered, which is the most ever. In addition to the lunch, Sandra Quillin plans to serve ice cream.

Upcoming events include a Country Roads tour and dinner on Saturday, July 25. On September 25 we will have a Tour of Watts Bar facility; attendance will be limited so she will do a drawing from members interested in attending.

Sandra & Robert Quillin presented 2 membership applications. These were approved effective July 18, 2026 so they will be current through 2027 with others from Autos Through The Ages.

Old Business:

Merchandise sales: Tim Seay has a catalog from a local company for apparel and other merchandise. We could sell items for our 70th Anniversary and/or with our regular ETR AACA logo. The company can create an on-line store. A “swag committee” of Tim Seay, Sylvia Witt and Tony Gardner will review the catalog and make some recommendations.

70th Anniversary Celebration: Sylvia Witt reported on plans for the 70th Anniversary event. She has contacted the woman who has the ETR history items, and hopes to get access to these items to display for the event. We will gather on September 27 at Riverview Family Farm. ETR will provide fried chicken and attendees will bring potluck items. Will also ask members to bring some personal car or other collection items to display.

Christmas Party: Sylvia Witt has researched several options for the Christmas Party. She recommends that we rent the East Tennessee Baptist Center for the event, to be on Saturday, December 19. We will get access to the room on Friday, Dec 18 to set up. The meal will be catered with approximate cost \$23.10. per person with tax; not including gratuity. We will supply decorations and sound system. We will also be responsible for cleanup after the meal. Charge for the room is \$150.

Matt Sartin moved, and Ed Barrett seconded, that we hold our Christmas dinner at Baptist Center, on Saturday, December 19, to be catered. We will charge \$30 per person with the club covering the room charge and any additional expenses for decorations. The motion passed with none opposed.

The meeting adjourned 8:48 pm. **The September 8th Board Meeting will be held at TN Bank, 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Baker, ETR Secretary

Breakfast at The Gourmet’s Market and Cafe, Knoxville – August 13, 2026

What a great breakfast and good time when 29 members met for breakfast at the Gourmet’s Market and Café. Whoops, no one took photos but trust me, we looked really good and ate very, very well. This was a new spot for most of our members so we can recommend it to others who have never been there. Several of our group told me that we need to come here again – I bet we will!





Tim Seay's 1957 Ford Custom & 1962 Hydrodyne boat – Autos Through the Ages, 7-18-26

***Celebrate 70 years of ETR AACA – September 27
RiverView Family Farm***
