

Smoky Mountain Antiquer

A Publication of the East Tennessee Region, AACA



March—April 2017

Volume 52, Number Two



Tracy and Loretta Rollins traveled in style during the March tour to the Oak Ridge Playhouse. The Rollins enjoy driving the back roads in their 1948 Buick.



East Tennessee Region Attends the Oak Ridge Playhouse Production of *The Odd Couple*

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Just one day before the official arrival of Spring, the East Tennessee Region members dusted off their cars and scrubbed their whitewalls for the March excursion to the Oak Ridge Playhouse, and the production of Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*. The event was hosted by Bob and Sylvia Witt.

Celebrating 75 years of continuous operation, the Playhouse presented *The Odd Couple* as part of their anniversary series, that will also include such hits as *Mame*, *You Can't Take it With You*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

The Odd Couple starred Playhouse Managing Director Reggie Law as Oscar, and veteran Playhouse actor Rollin Prince as Felix.

The production remained true to the 1968 script, when a London Broil roast could be prepared for \$9.78 and a bottle of premium wine cost six dollars. The set was also furnished with mid-century décor, complete with a dial phone and a sunburst wall clock.

Laughs continued long after the play, as ETR members traveled to Aubrey's for dinner and fellowship. Sincere appreciation goes out to the Witts for hosting a fun and successful March event!



East Tennessee Region members enjoy dinner in Oak Ridge, following an afternoon performance of *The Odd Couple*.



East Tennessee Region Members Travel Through Time on the Scenic Train Ride to Copper Hill

The massive locomotive idled patiently as 36 club members boarded the Copper Hill Special for a 92-mile round trip through history.

Operated by the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, the excursion follows the scenic Hiawasse River from Etowah, TN to the twin villages of Copper Hill TN / McCaysville, GA. During the trip, the train circled a mountain as it ascended from the river valley. At one point, the track crossed over itself, as it lead the train gradually uphill, making its way to historic Copper Hill.

Notorious as a once-barren area, void of vegetation from the effects of the copper-mining industry that took place during the 19th and 20th century, Copper Hill is now a tourist town, nestled in the lush green Hiawasse River Valley.

The trip was not without adventure. Shortly after the trip began, passengers felt a forward surge as the giant locomotive applied all of its stopping power to avoid colliding with a fallen tree. Immediately, the engineer and crew equipped themselves with chain saws and cleared the tree from the tracks.

The scene would repeat itself several times on the



The engineer of the Copper Hill Special prepares to depart Etowah for the 46-mile trip to the twin villages of Copper Hill TN / McCaysville, GA.



The train made several stops to clear fallen trees, along the way to Copper Hill.



Ruth and Steve West enjoy the scenic beauty of the Copper Hill Special railroad excursion.

way to Copper Hill, as recent rains had caused several large trees to fall across the tracks.

Once in Copper Hill, ETR members enjoyed lunch at several of the village's many restaurants, and browsed the town's shops before returning to the train for the trip back to Etowah.

Perhaps the best part of the trip was the time the group had to visit, talk about old cars, and renew friendships.



ETR Region Members Judge Young Mechanics at the 2017 Top Wrench Competition

By Robert Quillin This year marked the 26th annual Top Wrench competition, sponsored by the Tennessee Air National Guard based at McGhee Tyson Air Base. The East Tennessee Region was represented by Vic Varady, Bob Carter, Tim and Sherry Seay, Tom Trame, John Bennett, and Robert Quillin.

Top Wrench is described as a partnership in vocational and drug-free education. It is a program designed to cultivate racing and mechanical skills among young people in the East Tennessee area.

The Top Wrench program

is funded by area business sponsors and the East TN Foundation. They partner with Lincoln Tech and Tennessee College of Applied Technology to offer scholarships to students, as well.

This year's event was attended by over 500 students representing 14 East Tennessee high schools.

The project coordinator, Master Sgt. Richard Payne, especially thanked ETR AACA members for serving as judges for the mailbox painting and welding competitions.

While there, ETR AACA mem-

bers toured the base and were treated to a demonstration of the base's 1.2-million-dollar air refueling simulator. This equipment allows airmen to practice linking up the refueling equipment just as though they were in an actual plane. This is very cost effective as practice training flights cost approximately \$10,000 per flight.

Participation in the Top Wrench Competition is an excellent way to introduce young people to the antique car hobby. We hope to be back again to support these high school students as they demonstrate their automotive skills.

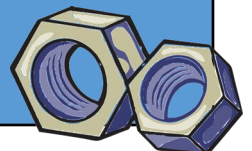


ETR members served as judges in the custom mailbox painting competition during the recent Top Wrench event. Shown in the picture are Tim Seay, Sherry Seay, Tom Trame, Vic Varady, John Bennett, Bob Carter, and event coordinator Richard Payne.



Students prepare to work on this race car as part of the Top Wrench Competition. Top Wrench cultivates automotive skills in a drug-free environment. The race car pictured was provided by Kenny Boatman of British Cars Limited.

**For Information About Regional and National AACA Events, as well
as Local shows and Cruise Ins, Go to WWW.ETR.AACA.COM.**





Listening to Lafayette

By Lafayette Williams, President

As I was driving in the rain recently, I heard an old song on the radio that had a line something like "those were the days, my friend." That song then made me think of another song, "Cherish." Cherish is the word. Remember these songs?

Thinking of our East TN Region car club, these songs seem to fit our purpose. We cherish the days of the 1950's and '60's when these two songs were popular.

It would be interesting to know how many antique cars of these two decades our club members own.

We remembered those days and we "hang on." But by no means do we want to omit a fondness for cars that are even older.

Thinking back on the last decade or so of our club activities, there have been some great days to remember.

Our club has had some special tours, trips and meetings we won't soon forget.

And it's not just the places we visit but it's the friendship of other members who shared these events with us that makes it something to cherish.

Looking forward, it seems like there has been an increased interest in pickup trucks. Recently I was watching a television auction. A pickup truck sold for \$370,000. Somebody had to cherish that vehicle.

How many antique pickup trucks do our club members own?

East Tennessee Region 2017 Calendar of Events

The 2017 Calendar of Events shown below was established during the recent January Planning Meeting, and was compiled by Sandra Quillin. Changes and updates will occur as the year progresses. Keep up with the most recent information on the club website, www.etr.aaca.com.

May 21: Driving tour of the foothills, hosted by Jan and Roger Frazee. See the back page of this issue for details.

June 10: Secret City Festival, hosted by John & Jennifer Payne, Tim & Beth Fisher

June 25: Tour to Chattanooga coinciding with The Great Race, hosted by Vic & Linda Varady

July ??: Tour to Scopes Museum, Dayton, TN, hosted by Art Fensod & Bill Little

August ??: Tellico Village Lakeside Picnic, hosted by Elby and Annie Loyd

September 15-17: Two-night trip to Bardstown/Elizabethtown, KY area; Maker's Mark Distillery, Abraham Lincoln's birthplace, Swope's Cars of Yesteryear Museum and the General George Patton Museum of Leadership, hosted by Tom & Nancy Trame, Len & Linda Royston

October 22: Tour to Brushy Mountain Prison, hosted by Roger & Jan Frazee

November ??: Business Meeting, hosted by Lafayette & Janice Williams

November 11: Veteran's Parade, hosted by Lafayette & Janice Williams

December ??: Christmas Party, hosted by Lafayette & Janice Williams, Bob & Sylvia Witt



This issue's presidential ride is Lafayette's 1961 Chevrolet Impala Convertible.



Thousands of Car Enthusiasts Converge on the AACA Spring Meet in Charlotte

Less than a day's drive from Knoxville, the Southeastern Divisional National Spring Meet is one of the largest annual gatherings of antique car enthusiasts in the world. On April 6 –9, an estimated 200,000 people converged on the Charlotte Motor Speedway for the Charlotte Auto Fair and AACA meet, hosted by the Hornets Nest Region.

Perhaps the highlight of the 2017 Auto Fair was the massive car corral, where collector cars of every description were positioned all the way around the two and one-half mile oval racetrack. The infield of the track was completely filled with flea market vendors hawking new and used car parts and accessories.

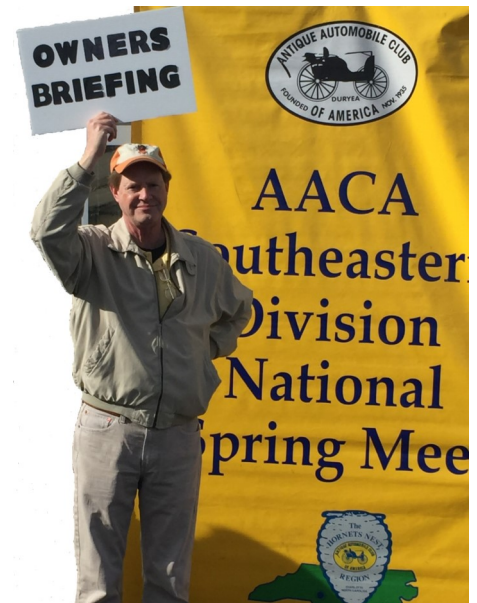
Just outside the front entrance of the speedway, more than 300 AACA show cars were judged, as their owners sought awards for their vehicles. The East Tennessee Region was represented by Rick Lay, who conducted the pre-meet Owners Briefing and also served as a judging team captain. Roger and Jan Frazee were there, showing their '66 Corvair in the HPOF judging class.

The young people of the Hornet's Nest Region were also involved in the meet. One young member, a sixteen year-old girl from The Hornet's Nest Region was assigned to the judging team, and was judging Mustangs.

Among the national dignitaries on hand was National AACA president Tom Cox, who greeted drivers and presented dash plaques to all who attended the event. Cox also addressed the group during the Awards Presentation.



Among the more unusual cars being judged in Charlotte was this beautiful 1967 pink Mustang,



Rick Lay conducted the Owners Briefing prior to judging at the Southeastern Divisional Meet in Charlotte, NC.



This 1934 Chrysler Coupe traveled from Mt. Juliet, TN, to earn its Senior Award at the AACA Spring Meet in Charlotte.

**Show your pride with an
ETR Door Sign!**



Tech Corner: About Capacitors in Ignition Systems

Continued from the January—February Antiquer

By David Sheffey In the last issue, we explored the role of the capacitor, or “condenser” in automobile ignition systems. This issue explains the procedure for testing and troubleshooting capacitors.

Fortunately, there is a rudimentary test to determine the most common capacitor failure, i.e., leakage.

Remove the condenser entirely from the engine, or disconnect the lead wire (positive), or remove the case (negative) from the grounding screw before conducting the test.

Using a Multimeter: Set the instrument to its highest resistance range or Ohm value. Touch the positive and negative probes of the meter to the corresponding terminals of the condenser. Note the reading on the meter’s display. An initial resistance reading simply indicates the condenser is charging. Hold the leads in place for 15 to 20 seconds. An overload (infinity or open circuit) reading should soon confirm the condenser is not leaking. Any lingering resistance reading would indicate a leaking unit which should be discarded.

Remove the leads and reverse their placement to the condenser. At the moment the leads are in place, there should momentarily show a resistance, half that of the initial test, then return to open circuit. If in either test, there is no momentary indication of current flow, the condenser should be replaced.

Using an Ohmmeter: Set the instrument to the highest resistance range, touch the leads together and zero adjust the meter. Touch the red lead to the condenser’s positive terminal and the black lead to the condenser’s metal case. For a non-leaky condenser, the Ohmmeter’s needle should briefly jerk toward the zero mark before drifting toward the infinity mark.

After holding the leads in place for 15-20 seconds to charge the condenser, remove and reverse the leads. The Ohmmeter’s needle should behave the same as before but faster because this connection discharges the condenser.



Measuring the Capacitance of the Condenser: For this test, a capacitance meter (condenser tester) is needed. Touch the meter’s positive and negative leads to the respective terminals of the condenser. Note the meter’s readout. The value should be close to the rated capacitance of the condenser. A 10% deviation is acceptable. Below that, the condenser is technically failing.

An ignition system will likely work with any capacitance value between 0.05 and 0.6 micro-Farad. Too high or too low value may eventually transfer metal from one side of the contact points to the other side leaving a pit or a point on the contacts. Capacity of spark coil condensers ranges from 0.2 – 0.33 micro-Farad. Through research, one may be able to determine the exact condenser capacitance for a specific vehicle. However, when purchasing a new condenser, the actual capacitance specification will likely not be available.

A condenser may absorb moisture over a long period of time, and moisture can cause failure. So it is a good idea to check your traveling spare capacitor occasionally.



Charlie Simpson Puts the Finishing Touches on His 1969 Cadillac

Where does one go to find a rare Cadillac? Where else but Nashville, where the Caddy once ruled as the country music singer's ride of choice.

With the help of Hemmings Motor News, Charlie Simpson located a 1969 Eldorado Biarritz in Music City. The original owner was a restaurateur. However, Charlie got the car from the second owner, who had the vehicle for some twenty years.

It is one of 1,825 built. All were convertibles. The Engine is a 390 cu. in. mill with 325 hp. The paint is an Eldorado-only color of frost gold with parchment interior.

In the two years since Charlie has owned the car, his mechanic has rebuilt the springs, shocks, front end, air conditioning system, top raising mechanism and detailed the engine compartment.

Charlie bought the car to drive and plans to tour in it, with the East Tennessee Region, for many years to come.



East Tennessee Region Receives a New Web Domain, Courtesy of the National AACA

By Roger Frazee The East Tennessee Region website was first established by Rick Lay, in the early 2000s, soon after the World Wide Web became a reality. In later years, Rick graciously consented to let me try my hand at managing the site.

It wasn't long before the National AACA offered free server storage for regional web sites, but obtaining a "domain" or web address was the responsibility of the individual regions and chapters.

As more and more people came to rely on their region's websites for information the AACA became even more involved in providing web assistance to the local clubs.

Now, local regions can enjoy free domain names

and design assistance through the resources of The Higher Information Group, a information technology company contracted by the AACA.

It is because of this generous assistance from our National Headquarters that the East Tennessee Region has a new web address and a new website design. Although the East Tennessee Region is still responsible for putting the website together and keeping it up to date, we now have support, assistance, free unlimited storage, and a free domain name, courtesy of our National AACA organization.

Please visit our new website at www.etr.aaca.com, and let us know what we can do to make this resource more useful to you.



News from the AACA Library and Research Center

By Chris Ritter, AACA Head Librarian

2016 was another great year for YOUR AACA Library & Research Center. Two highlights include receiving the Don O'Reilly collection and the completion of our homebuilt 16mm film scanner. The Don O'Reilly racing collection includes thousands of early NAS-CAR programs, photographs, entrance forms, tally sheets and more. We took receipt of the collection in Eugene, Oregon and needed a 54-foot trailer to get all of it back to Hershey! Work continues on the sorting, cataloging and the eventual digitization of the collection. If anyone is interested in getting their hands dirty with this project, please reach out to library staff.

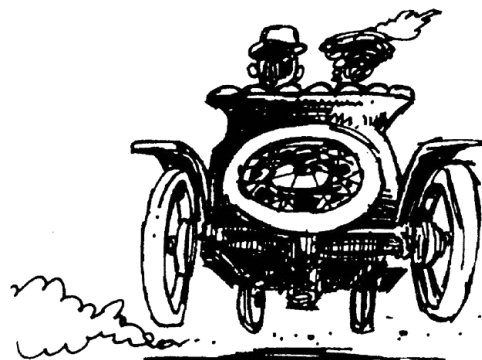
Our 16mm film scanner is a homebuilt unit and we used a crowdfunding campaign to finance the project. With your help we raised more than \$11,000 for the scanner.



The AACA Library's new film scanner allows the library to make digital copies of the club's vast collection of automovie films.

We are currently in the process of digitizing our collection of over 300 films. Once the films are digitized, we are uploading them to our YouTube page where anyone with an internet connection can watch for free. Of course, if you need still need a film on DVD for a region or chapter meeting or event, we'd be happy to supply you with one. As we look into 2017, we are extremely excited to announce that the AACA Library Bookmobile will hit

the road this year! Our 1955 Chevrolet bookmobile originally served the residents of Anderson County, SC from 1956- 1990. It was donated to us in 2012 and underwent a total restoration. After it makes the rounds at AACA events, it will become an amazing ambassador to the old car hobby as it visits schools, parades, retirement communities and (hopefully) a local event near you. Our general reference collection, the heart of the library, continues to grow with over 1-million pieces of sales literature, manuals, ads, photographs and more. In addition, we have close to 6,500 reference books on our shelves. The collection also contains early automotive periodicals such as Cycle & Automobile Trade Journal, MoToR, Motor Age, Autocar and the Commercial Car Journal. You can explore our Online Catalog at www.aacalibrarycatalog.org. The Library is now open six days a week; Monday – Saturday, from 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. We invite everyone to stop by to do research, view the facility and see our 1906 Mitchell, 1929 Harley-Davidson and 1940 Ford. If you can't visit the library in person, be sure take advantage of the 1 ½ hours of free research that every AACA member is entitled to. The Library and Research Center is a wealth of knowledge and we look forward to hearing from you soon!



Smoky Mountain Antiquer

Roger and Jan Frazee, Editors

4535 Deer Grove Way

Powell TN 37849



WWW.ETR-AACA.COM

For Sale: 1931 Ford Rumble Seat Roadster



1931 Model A Roadster w/Rumble Seat Excellent paint and interior. Beautiful Washington Blue color with straw wheels and whitewall tires. Call 865-291-7599 or 865-983-5515 for more pictures and information.

May Event Will Revisit a Favorite Foothills Route

The May tour will be an encore of one of the routes driven during the 2015 Southeastern Divisional Tour. It is being hosted by the Frazees.

The tour will begin at the Oak Tree Lodge in Sevierville, at 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 21st.

We will retrace the route that our 2015 tour guests took, through the back roads of the beautiful foothills of the Smokies.

We will stop for a brief photo opportunity and rest break in Maryville, before traveling on to the Foothills Parkway.

Along the way, we will stop at pull-offs to enjoy the magnificent views, before arriving in Townsend for dinner.

Whether this is your first time on this tour route, or your 100th, we think you will enjoy this opportunity to get your old car out and drive it!