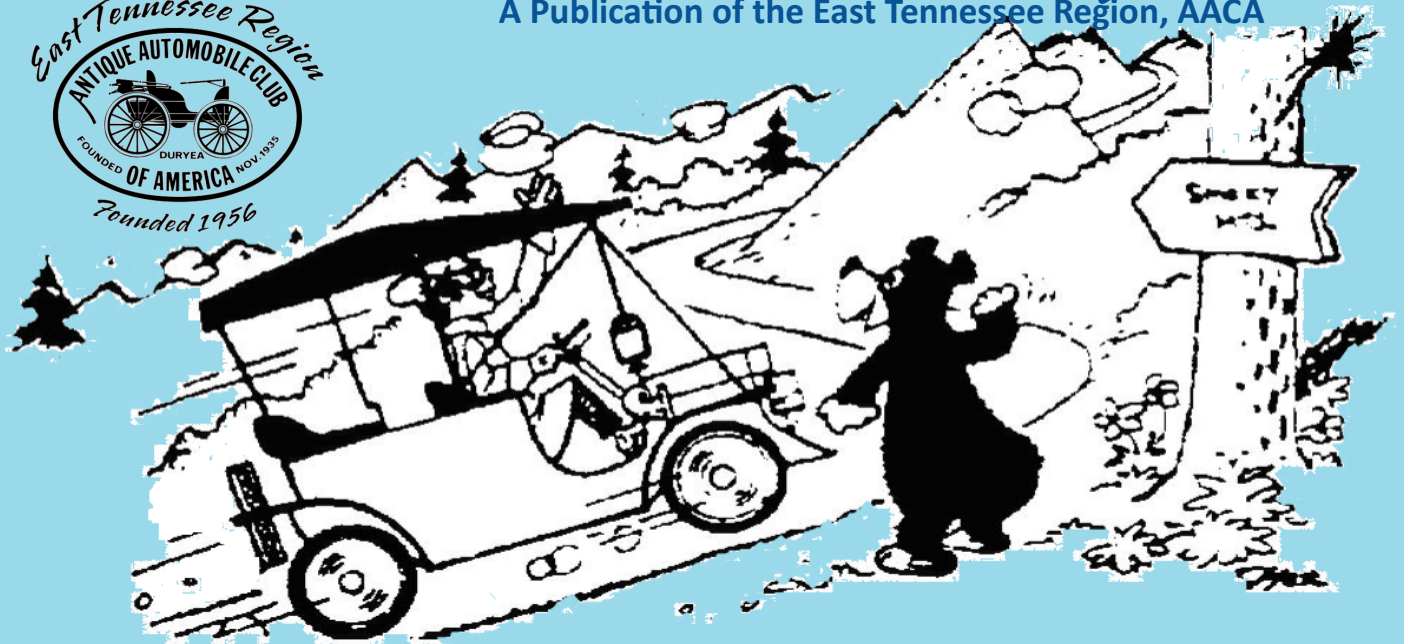


# Smoky Mountain Antiquer

A Publication of the East Tennessee Region, AACA



January—February 2021

Volume 56, Number One



Photo by Keith Bullen

The restoration of Keith and Debbie Bullen's 1955 Chevrolet was completed just in time for the Fall Nationals in Gettysburg.



# Local and National Events

## ETR 2021 Calendar of Events

The 2021 Schedule of Events has not been established yet. Updates will be posted on [www.etr.aaca.com](http://www.etr.aaca.com) as soon as they are available.

## Upcoming Events from Other Organizations

March 19-20:	<a href="#">Spring Corvette Expo</a> , Pigeon Forge
March 24-27:	<a href="#">Ponies In The Smokies</a> , Sevierville
April 15-17:	<a href="#">Spring Rod Run 2021</a> , Pigeon Forge
June 11—13:	<a href="#">Cabin Fever Car &amp; Motorcycle Show</a> , Knoxville Expo Center
June 12:	<a href="#">Historic Rugby Classic Car Show</a> , Rugby TN
August 26-28:	<a href="#">Great Smoky Mountain Jeep Invasion</a> , Pigeon Forge
September 10-11:	<a href="#">Shades of The Past</a> , Pigeon Forge
September 16-18:	<a href="#">Fall Rod Run 2021</a> , Pigeon Forge

## AACA National Events

April 8-10:	Southeastern Spring Nationals - Hornets Nest Region - Charlotte Autofair, Concord, NC
April 15-16:	Annual Convention - AACA National - Philadelphia, PA— <b>New Date</b>
April 20-22:	Southeastern Divisional Tour - King of the Road Chapter - Central Florida
May 20-25:	Founders Tour (1932-1996) - Mountain State Classics Region - Davis, WV
June 2-5:	Eastern Divisional Tour - Eastern Shore Region & Bay Country Region - Eastern Shore of Maryland
June 17-19:	Eastern Spring Nationals - Saratoga Region - Saratoga Springs, NY
July 1—3:	Central Spring Nationals - AACA National - Auburn, IN— <b>New Date</b>
July 11-16:	Vintage Tour (1931 and earlier) - AACA National - Lock Haven/Wellsboro, PA
July 22-24:	Annual Grand Nationals - Minnesota Region - New Ulm, MN
August 13-14:	Western Fall Nationals - Poudre Valley Region - Loveland, CO

### 2021

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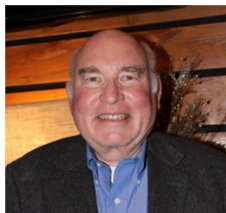
Roger Frazee





# Robert's Ramblings

From President Robert Quillin



By the time you read this, 2020 will be in the rear-view mirror. It is my hope that when the vaccine becomes widely available, we will see a return to "normal." This time last year we were excited about getting ready for our planning meeting in January. Then our thoughts turned to our

"Cabin Fever Therapy Session" in February. For our new members, the "Cabin Fever Therapy Session" has become an event for February each year. This is the time of year that the weather is usually not suitable for touring. Therefore, we like for each member to share a hobby or collection with other members and then have a "covered dish dinner." This has proven to be extremely popular with our members.

As we start a new year, I want to thank Ken Lund and Len Royston for their outstanding two years of service as they rotate off our Board. It is my pleasure to work with your Board and officers because of their knowledge, professionalism and willingness to work.

Currently, I want to welcome our new Board members, Wayne Tudor and Matt Sartin. Wayne has served as a Board member in the past and we welcome his input and help at this time. We will always be grateful to Wayne and his wife Myra for the hard work they performed during our 2015 Southeastern Divisional Tour. Wayne and Myra were always ahead of our tour participants with hot coffee and refreshments when we took rest stops on the tour.

Matt Sartin is relatively new to our club. He is associated with his family business, Jack's Auto Parts in Lenoir City. We were all impressed with Matt's willingness to help and do anything needed for our "Autos Through the Ages" car show in 2018 at the Heritage Center in Townsend. Our club is fortunate to have Wayne and Matt serving on our Board.

Next, I want to congratulate Roger and Jan Frazee for receiving the Jim Gillenwaters Award. Jim Gillenwaters, Jr. was a past president of ETR AACA and club treasurer for 23 years. This

award was established in his honor because of his outstanding service and many contributions to our club. This award is presented annually to the member selected by popular vote of our membership. Jan and Roger certainly deserve this honor with all the outstanding work as co-editors of our club newsletter, *The Antiquer*, and Roger as ETR's webmaster. Wow, folks -- just stop and think how much work goes into these two endeavors!

As we look forward to a new and hopefully much better year, please be thinking about tours and activities that we as a club can enjoy and remain safe. Please inform Sherry Seay or me of any ideas that you may have. As our Board discussed, we only postponed our Christmas Party, so who knows, maybe we can have our Christmas party in July!

Hopefully, the vaccine will put an end to this pandemic soon! I understand that a few of our members have already received their first round of the vaccine. In the meantime, please do your best to stay safe and be planning for a better 2021.

## The *Antiquer* Expands Its Editorial Staff

The editors of the *Smoky Mountain Antiquer* are excited to announce the addition of two new members to the newsletter's editorial staff.

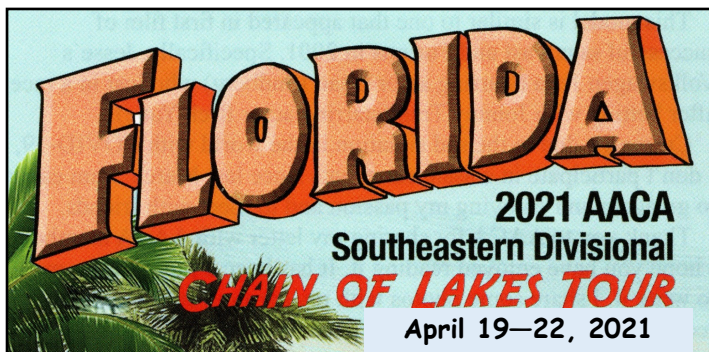
Beginning with this issue, Tom Howard will be serving as The *Antiquer's* liaison to the National AACA. The former president of the AACA, Tom remains very active in the AACA's national affairs and is a member of the National Awards Committee.

His columns will provide the East Tennessee Region with a unique insight into the events and affairs of the National Headquarters in Hershey, PA. We are looking forward to reading Tom's "News from National" reports.

Also joining the *Antiquer* staff is Melissa Johnston. Melissa will serve as a regular reporter for the newsletter and will be providing stories on ETR events and topics of interest to the club.

Melissa has been an old-car aficionado since she was a teenager and can usually be seen at club events in her black 1940 Ford coupe, along with her husband, Mark, and their two sons, Nathan and William.

We are excited to have Tom and Melissa as members of the *Antiquer* staff and look forward to their stories and columns.





## Editors' Corner

From Co-Editor Roger Frazee



First of all, Jan and I wish to express our sincere thanks to the members of the East Tennessee Region for honoring us with the 2020 Jim Gillenwaters Award.

Jim was a friend who always greeted us with a smile and a kind word. We enjoyed attending AACA events with Jim and Jody, and particularly enjoyed seeing them on the Maine Divisional Tour several years ago. Receiving an award that is named for Jim is a special honor that Jan and I will always cherish.

Speaking of divisional tours, we are very excited that the East Tennessee Region will be hosting the 2023 Southeastern Divisional Tour.

What is a Divisional Tour? It is a three-day event, hosted by a region or chapter of the AACA, in which members from across the country gather with their antique cars to enjoy the scenery and hospitality of the area.

East Tennessee is a wonderful setting for a divisional tour. Its magnificent mountains and foothills and its rich history have always made this area a prime destination for visitors. ETR members already know how much fun it is to drive the back roads of East Tennessee in our antique automobiles. A divisional tour allows us the opportunity to share the Tennessee touring experience with other old-car enthusiasts from other parts of the country.

But a divisional tour is about more than driving old cars and visiting interesting destinations. It's about hospitality—the kind of hospitality that is unique to the friendly people of East Tennessee and especially the ETR members.

During the tour dates, April 30—May 3, 2023, ETR members will serve as goodwill ambassadors to approximately 200 AACA guests. Volunteers will assist our guests in getting registered, getting settled in to their hotels and campgrounds, providing coffee breaks along the tour routes, and hosting the hospitality room at the conclusion of each day of touring.

During the next few weeks, we will be soliciting volunteers to serve on the 2023 Divisional Tour Planning Committee. Once established, the committee will meet regularly from now until the tour gets under way in 2023. There are a million details that will need to be addressed between now and the tour date, so the sooner we get started, the better!

We hope you will consider volunteering your time to making the 2023 Southeastern Divisional Tour a national success!

## Sunshine Report

By Sandra Quillin, Sunshine Correspondent



During the month of November, East Tennessee Region well wishes were sent to Ann Bly and George Hodges. Also, in November, a note of sympathy was sent to Sherry Seay to express condolences on behalf of ETR regarding the passing of her brother.

Another ETR note of sympathy was sent in December to Debbie Bullen who lost her mother on Christmas Day. Please inform me of members who need a note of well wishes or a member who loses a loved one so that I can send a card from ETR.

I have also sent a note on behalf of ETR to Loretta Rollins whose mother has been receiving treatments for cancer but recently suffered a double stroke. After an 18-day stay in the hospital, Loretta's mother was just moved to a Maryville rehab facility. I know that our members will be keeping these members in their prayers and thoughts for the daily struggles they are encountering.

Many thanks go out to those members who helped to prepare and distribute 330 Christmas cards to eight area nursing homes. I know that the families of those residents appreciate our efforts to bring a little cheer to their loved ones!

Even though we have struggled this year to have a "normal" Christmas, we have tried to keep the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts and activities. Because our ETR Board cancelled our Christmas party, we shared a list of Christmas light displays and encouraged charitable contributions rather than a gift exchange or food drive. To date, ETR members have contributed \$550.00 to be donated to *Connecting Hearts*, a division of Meals on Wheels. These funds will be utilized by *Connecting Hearts* to purchase individual packets of food items for their recipients to keep on hand when they cannot receive meals due to bad weather. Checks are still being mailed and an updated total amount will be shared with members in the future.







## East Tennessee Region

# AACA Board Meeting Minutes



By R.G. Lewallen, Secretary

### OFFICERS:

President: Robert Quillin, Present  
 Vice President: Tim Seay, Present  
 Secretary: RG Lewallen, Present  
 Treasurer: Charlie Simpson, Present  
 Tom Howard, Past President, Present  
 Jan Frazee, Newsletter Editor, Present  
 Roger Frazee, Newsletter Editor, Present  
 Sherry Seay, Events Coordinator, Absent, excused

### Board:

Ken Lund, Director, Present  
 Len Royston, Director, Present  
 Victor Varady, Director, Present  
 JW Weeks, Director, Present

GUESTS: Sandra Quillin, Sunshine Representative, Present  
 Sherry Lewallen, Guest

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President, Robert Quillin, at 6:35 PM. Roll call was conducted and all members were present on the zoom bridge and all board members were accounted for, as noted.

**MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The September 15, 2020 Board Minutes were previously sent to the board by RG Lewallen, Secretary. Motion was made to accept the minutes as written, seconded and motion carried.

**President's Report:** Robert Quillin thanked everyone serving on the board this year for their support and assisting with the unusual year with Covid-19.

**Vice President's Report:** Tim Seay had nothing new to report.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Charlie Simpson, Treasurer, previously sent out the financial report as of October 30, 2020. The motion was made to accept the treasurer's report, the motion was seconded and the motion carried.

**ANTIQUER REPORT:** Roger Frazee stated they have asked Tom Howard to start an ongoing article for the Antiquer concerning things going on in our National AACA Club that would benefit our club members. Tom will start this on our next Antiquer publication. Roger stated that they are still looking for someone to step up and take the job of Editor of the Antiquer for next year. Everyone complimented Roger and Jan on their work on the Antiquer.

**WEBMASTER REPORT:** Roger Frazee said there is nothing new to report on our web page at this time.

**EVENTS COORDINATOR REPORT:** Sherry Seay had previously emailed the recent events:

On 9/18/20, the Talley Ho Inn in Townsend held a car show for "orphans" organized by Jim and Barbara Payne. More than 60 vintage automobiles were on display. There were 21 members in attendance and they brought 5 vintage cars.

On 9/26/20, a tour to Vonore and Sweetwater was hosted by J.W. and Pat Weeks. The group left Maryville and drove 21 miles to Vonore on backroads. The stop in Vonore was for the 19th annual car show held at Vonore Baptist Church. This is a fundraiser for needy children in the

area. There were approximately 60-70 cars on display, including 13 cars from the club. The tour continued on backroads for 18 miles to Sweetwater where members had lunch and shopped. There were 14 cars and 25 members that participated on the tour with another 5 cars and 7 people coming on board at Vonore.

There were 3 members of the club (Robert & Sandra Quillin and Ken Lund) who took cars to Trinity Hills Assisted Living to participate in their "Good Ol' Days" festival on 10/2/20. The residents thoroughly enjoyed seeing Ken's 1967 red Cadillac and the Quillin's 1957 red Thunderbird and 1977 Mercedes SL.

On 10/17/20, an impromptu tour, hosted by Robert & Sandra Quillin went to Seven Islands Birding Park with a side trip through the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery on John Sevier Highway. There were 9 members and 5 cars that participated.

There have been numerous shows, Cars & Coffee events and cruise-in opportunities that members have participated in during this time as well.

**Special AACA Fall National:** Tom Howard reported that he, Rick Lay and Charlie Simpson, as well as Beverly and Robbie Gray, Keith and Debbie Bullen, RG & Sherry Lewallen, and new members Victor and Diana Weals attended the special Fall National at Gettysburg, PA on November 7th. This Fall National was set up at Gettysburg after Hershey was canceled. The AACA had precautions in place to protect against the spread of Covid-19, such as taking temperatures before entering the show. Everyone was asked to wear a mask and most people did adhere to this rule. There were over 615 registered vehicles and this was a successful and safe national event.

**Old Business:** None

**SUNSHINE REPORT:** Sandra Quillin's report was sent out earlier and cards were sent out as listed below:

Get Well: cards were sent to Richard & Maggie Crawford, Bob Edgemon, Tim & Sherry Seay, and Ann Bly, Ann Bly. Sympathy cards were sent to John Milligan's family, Jerry Guthrie (loss of brother), and Sherry Seay (loss of brother)



## 2020: A Successful Year for the East Tennessee Region

Not many good things can be said about the year 2020. But in the wake of adversity, the East Tennessee Region remained vibrant and, with everyone's help and positive attitudes, put together another successful year for the club and the antique automobile hobby.

- The Annual January Planning Meeting resulted in a full calendar of ETR monthly events and tours and the February Cabin Fever Therapy event was a huge success with ETR members enjoying the displays of hobbies and interests of other members. Then, scheduled tours and events were scrapped due to the virus, and impromptu tours became the norm. Thanks to Robert and Sandra Quillin, Art Fensod, Bob Edgemon, and Pat and JW Weeks for organizing these tours.
- Eleven new member families joined the club. We look forward to getting to know these new members in the future: Chris and Betty Henry, Jill and Buster Goodman, Gene Gregory and Kathy McCandless, Gail and Albert Leitch, Jan and Nelson Lawhorn, Colson Lakin, William Holman, Cindy and Nelson Creech, Nancy and Jack Smith, Diana and Victor Weals, Katie and Craig Witsoe.
- Several East Tennessee Region members attended national events during the year. Some served as judges and others displayed their cars and even brought home First Junior, Senior, and Grand National awards.
- The first ETR Automotive Technology Scholarship was awarded to Colson Lakin, a graduate of Halls High School, who is attending Lincoln Technical College in Nashville. A one-year membership in the ETR and AACA was also awarded to Colson.
- The East Tennessee Region applied to the AACA to host the 2023 AACA Southeast Divisional Tour and was granted interim approval by the AACA Board of Directors at their virtual meeting on November 12, 2020. During the coming weeks a 2023 Planning Committee will be established. Hosting a national tour is an ambitious undertaking for our club and will provide all members an opportunity to be involved.
- Your ETR Board was able to successfully conduct all six Executive Board meetings as required by the bylaws. Only the January meeting was held in person. Your board members had to adjust their skills for discussion and decision making to conference calls and zoom calls. The ETR now has a Zoom account which can be used for virtual meetings.

## ETR Welcomes New Members Katie and Craig Witsoe and Family

Katie and Craig Witsoe live in Knoxville. Craig is currently the CEO of ELO Touch Solutions, Inc. He has held that position since 2012. Katie is associated with the UT Children's Hospital and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



**The East Tennessee Region welcomes Craig and Katie Witsoe, along with their children: Connor, Ian, Matthew, and Anna.**

In commenting on joining the ETR, Craig said, "I have been a Cadillac and Lincoln enthusiast for many years, since purchasing a 1964 Cadillac Fleetwood 60 Special in 1993 and finishing the restoration a couple days before using it for our wedding day in 1995."

"Katie has been putting up with old cars for nearly 30 years. A mechanical engineer by training, I've restored four cars myself but have also enjoyed finding low-mile originals."

"We first moved to Tennessee when our youngest son was a St Jude patient in 2008. He always loved old cars, and the 'Cars' movie, and the hobby is one way we keep his memory. We have a daughter and son both in UT engineering, one son at Elon University, and one son at Knoxville Catholic HS. Lately 2 of our boys have been reviving a 77 Chevy C10 and a '59 Glaspar runabout. Lots of great learning and keeps them working hard to earn money for parts."

The Witsoes are also members of the Cadillac Lasalle club and the Lincoln Continental Club. Ken Lund invited Katie and Craig to become members of the East Tennessee Region.





## Two New Board Members Elected for 2020

Because the 2020 November Business meeting was cancelled, it was necessary to elect this year's officers remotely. In an e-mail vote conducted last November, the slate of officers and board, recommended by the nominating committee, was ratified without a dissenting Vote.

The officers for 2021 are: Robert Quillin, President, Tim Seay, Vice President, Tom Howard, Immediate Past President, RG Lewallen, Secretary, and Charlie Simpson, Treasurer.

Two new directors will join the East Tennessee Region Executive Board in 2021. Replacing Ken Lund and Len Royston, who have each completed their two-year terms on the board, are Matt Sartin and Wayne Tudor. Matt and Wayne will join directors Vic Varady and JW Weeks, who will be serving the second year of their terms.



**Matt Sartin (left) and Wayne Tudor will be joining the 2021 Board.**

Sherry Seay will continue to serve as the Events Coordinator. Jan and Roger Frazee will continue, in the interim, as Newsletter editors, and Roger Frazee will continue as Webmaster.

Sandra Quillin will continue to serve as the board-appointed Sunshine Correspondent for 2021.

The 2020 nominating committee consisted of Tom Howard, Jan Frazee, and Roger Frazee.

This is expected to be a very busy year for the board as it tackles projects like planning for the 2023 Divisional Tour, a possible repeat of the Summer Autos Through the Ages event, deciding the future course to take regarding the Automotive Technology Scholarship, and deciding when it is safe again to hold in-person meetings and events.

The board meets every two months during the year, and all board meetings are open to any member who wishes to attend. The first meeting date is yet to be announced. Watch the club website, [www.etr.aaca.com](http://www.etr.aaca.com), for updates.

## ETR Receives Approval to Host 2023 Divisional Tour

In a letter received from the AACA Vice President of National Activities, Mark McAlpine, the East Tennessee Region's application to host a Divisional Tour in 2023 was approved.

The 2020 Executive Board submitted the application to host a divisional tour on April 30—May 3, 2023. Plans are to center the tour in Oak Ridge, with daily excursions to nearby destinations.

In the approval letter Mr. McAlpine wrote "Please thank members and leadership of the East Tennessee Region for their continued support of the AACA and the antique automobile hobby we love."

During the tour, AACA members from regions and chapters across the country will be treated to the beauty of East Tennessee, learn about the rich history of the area, and enjoy the gracious hospitality of the East Tennessee Region.

The tour will be limited to approximately 100 cars (about 200 guests). East Tennessee Region volunteers will be hosting the tour opening and closing ceremonies, daily coffee breaks along the tour routes, and a hospitality room each evening.

Planning for a national tour of this size requires hours and hours of planning by dozens of ETR volunteers.



**ETR Members hosted over 200 AACA guests during the 2015 Divisional Tour.**

During the next few weeks a mail and email notification will be sent to all members, soliciting volunteers to serve on the 2023 tour planning committee. The committee's tasks and objectives will be modeled after the 2015 Divisional Tour, which the East Tennessee Region also hosted.

All ETR members are urged to participate in the tour planning and hosting process. The club needs the experience and expertise of its long-time members and the fresh ideas and energy of the new members!



# News From National

## New AACA Headquarters Building Ready for Occupancy



Photo Courtesy of AACA Library and Research Center

### AACA's New National Headquarters in Hershey PA



By Tom Howard, East Tennessee Region's National Affairs Correspondent

Goodbye 2020!! Even though 2021 will be off to a rather limited beginning of improvement, with the continuing availability of the vaccine and eventually a return to the what will be a new normal, we surely can look forward to a better life for all this new year.

Yes, 2020 was a challenging year for everyone, especially for those of us who look forward to participating in our antique vehicle hobby. As postponements and cancellations of ETR activities became the norm while the year progressed, I know we all missed gathering with our friends and enjoying our old cars together.

As this scenario continued with our region and most others in the country, the same was true with AACA on a national level. At the beginning of 2020, the national activities calendar included the annual convention in Philadelphia, eight national meets and six national tours. At year's end, only the annual convention and three meets were completed. Now, the 2021 national calendar is full of planned activities and hopes are high for completion of them all.

However, on a much more positive note, 2020 will be remembered as the year that the Antique Automobile Club of America national headquarters and the AACA Library & Research Center completed and occupied a brand new facility in Hershey, undoubtedly one of the most ambitious single projects the club

has ever undertaken. After forty-nine years of club and library operation in the beautiful historic building on Governor Road, it was apparent that we had totally outgrown the space. Thus in about 2015 a several year relocation project began considering several alternatives. In 2018 a perfect existing building in a wonderful location became available. After an almost eighteen month complete interior redesign and construction, with several work interruptions due to the pandemic, the old building was sold and the move was completed in November. Although with many finishing touches still to be completed, the building is not yet scheduled to be open to the public, but as members of the National Awards Committee ETR Region members Rick Lay and I were fortunate in early December to attend a meeting there and be part of the first group to tour the building. We absolutely came away with a feeling of amazement that this outstanding facility would represent AACA going forward.

As this year continues, through this column in each issue of the *Antiquer* we plan to bring our members additional news about the building and other national activities. Currently, the first national activities for the year are scheduled in April. Until then, stay safe, remain healthy and look forward to spring!

**AACA LIBRARY  
& RESEARCH CENTER**  
"America's Automotive Library"

A world-renowned resource for the collectible vehicle community.  
Setting the standard in celebrating, collecting, preserving and sharing automotive legacy.





## Keith and Debbie Bullen Finish their Chevy Restoration and Capture a First Junior at Gettysburg

About a year ago, Keith and Debbie Bullen purchased a disassembled 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air from a neighbor whose husband had passed away. After eleven months of searching for parts, and many hours of hard work, they captured a First Junior Award with the car at the Fall Nationals in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.



**Keith Bullen pauses for a photo with his '55 Chevy during his preparation for the Gettysburg Fall Nationals.**

Keith and Debbie had lived close to Jim Leach, who began the restoration of the car more than forty years ago. But they didn't know the Leaches personally and had no idea that the project was sitting in their garage. Had Keith known, he surely would have been there helping Jim with the restoration.

That is because Keith is no stranger to 55 Chevrolets. He has owned five of them over the years and currently has two in his stable. "All of them have been Bel Airs," Keith said.

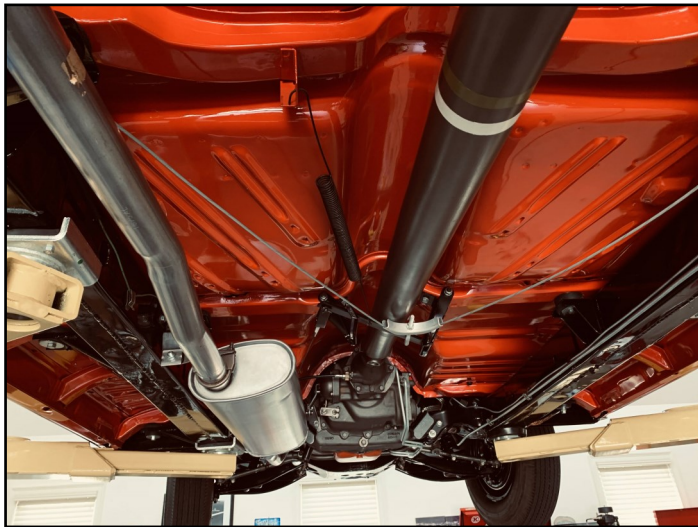
Eventually, Keith learned about the car from a friend and approached Mrs. Leach. Having had the car in her garage for such a long time and knowing the hours that her late husband had put into the project, she had developed a strong emotional attachment to the Chevy. But she knew that Keith would give the car a good home and complete the project her husband had begun. So, after a little negotiation, the two struck a deal and Keith brought a trailer by and proceeded to load the pieces and parts that had become a part of the family to the Leaches. It was evident that Mr. Leach was actively involved in the restoration of the car when he died. Keith said "His tools were still lying in the floor."

"She cried when I took the car away," Keith said. "Because of

that, the car will mean more to me than any car I have ever had."

Jim Leach's intention was to make the car a "resto-rod." To that end, he had discarded the original 265 cubic inch engine and the Powerglide transmission. He had also equipped the car with front disc brakes.

Fortunately, Mr. Leach chose to keep the original two-tone red and white color scheme and the original interior when he painted the body, back in 1975. That 45 year old paint job still looks brand new, because the car never left the garage. Not long after Keith and Debbie acquired the car they met and became friends with RG and Sherry Lewallen and Robbie and Beverly Gray, who own two '57 Chevrolets between them. The Lewallen's and the Gray's cars inspired Keith to restore his project to original condition, rather than to "hot-rod" it.



**The bottom of Keith and Debbie's Chevy looks just as good as the top.**

Thus the search for original parts began. Keith located and purchased a 265 engine, and later came across another 265 which still had the Powerglide transmission attached. He enlisted the Atomic Speed Shop in Oak Ridge to rebuild the engine and tranny, while he worked on reassembling the car.

Most of the upholstery was done when Keith bought the Chevy. All that remained were the door panels, which Charlie Alexander took care of.

Once the engine and transmission rebuilds were complete and the door panels were finished, Keith was able to complete the

*Continued on next page*



## Keith and Debbie Bullen's Chevy Project

*Continued from previous page*

assembly of the '55 Bel Air. Finishing touches and a final inspection were done with the car on a lift in RG Lewallen's garage. Next stop, Gettysburg!



Debbie and Keith Bullen receive their First Junior trophy from AACA President Jim Elliot.

The Bullens had attended a couple of AACA national meets in the past, but had never shown a car at a National prior to trailering their Chevy to the fall meet in Gettysburg. They experienced the excitement and the anxiety that everyone goes through when the AACA judging team approached their car. Soon the judging was over and the wait began. How did they do? Will they be awarded their First Junior, a Second Junior, or even a Third Junior? The next few hours would seem like an eternity as the judges tabulated the scores prior to the Awards Ceremony.

At last the time came to hand out the awards. When the MC got to Class 32, ('55 – '57 Chevrolets, excluding Corvettes) he eventually arrived at the moment the Bullens had been waiting for. They did it! Keith and Debbie would be bringing home First Junior Honors for their red and white 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air.

Keith said he plans to visit Mrs. Leach soon and show her the completed project, which he finished in honor of her husband, Jim, who began the restoration so many years ago.

## ETR Members Dominate Tri-Five Class Judging at Gettysburg

Three members of the East Tennessee Region traveled to the Gettysburg Fall Nationals with their Tri-Five Chevys in tow.

In addition to Keith and Debbie Bullen's red and white '55 (see story at left), Beverly and Robbie Gray took their black and white '57, and RG and Sherry Lewallen participated with their '57 Bel Air.



The Gray's black and white '57 sits beside the Bullen's red '55 on the Gettysburg showfield.

When the judging was over and the awards were handed out, the Bullens received a First Junior trophy, the Grays received the Preservation Award, and the Lewallens took home a Repeat Preservation Award.

On their way back home, the Grays learned that their Chevrolet was chosen to compete for a national award. "We got a phone call from a national judge telling us that our car had been nominated," Beverly said. "He explained that out of approximately 1300 cars that are shown throughout the year, only 190 are chosen as candidates for a national award and fewer than 100 cars receive an award."

The call was followed by an official letter from the AACA National Headquarters. Although, in the end, the Gray's car was not selected to receive a national award, they feel honored to have been considered for it.

Congratulations to the Bullens, the Grays and the Lewallens for proudly representing the East Tennessee Region at the Gettysburg Fall Nationals. Tri-Fives Rule!







# ETR Members Enjoy a November Tour to Fort Loudon State Park

*Editor's Note: Melissa Johnston and Sandra Quillin each submitted articles on the Fort Loudon Tour. The following is a compilation of their stories.*

With the crisp cool smell of fall in the air and the bright sun shining, East Tennessee AACA, along with a few other local car clubs, joined up for a scenic cruise out to the Fort Loudon State Historic Park.



*Photo by Robert Quillin*

**It was a beautiful November day as the East Tennessee Region toured to historic Fort Loudon.**

The event was organized by Robert and Sandra Quillin, and was the final "Impromptu Tour" of 2020.

It was a great drive with the leaves still falling on 411 and 129, but we were smart and avoided the Dragon's Tail. A few cars met up with us along the drive as well and added to the fun.



*Photos by Robert Quillin*

**Nathan Johnston (left) and William Johnston are two of the East Tennessee Region's younger members.**

This made for a good turnout on a beautiful Saturday afternoon and we got all of our motors warmed up and running.



*Photo by Robert Quillin*

**Masks were the order of the day, as ETR members Sandra Quillin, Tom Howard, and Art Fensod visited during the Fort Loudon Tour.**

Once we arrived at the park, everyone was able to wander around each other's cars and chat, go down to the Little Tennessee River and explore the historical site of the park. Twenty-one members spent the afternoon visiting with other members that they had not seen in months! Our purpose for the afternoon, "get out of the house". However, the group seemed to most enjoy just talking to someone other than their spouse! An enjoyable cruise in an antique car is probably some of the best medicine a person can take to combat COVID-19 fatigue. It is always good to get out and relax.

Fort Loudon Park, itself, is a great piece of history to learn from and explore, not unlike the history each of our cars hold.

On the way out of the park, Robert Quillin flagged down a couple driving a restored 1989 Bronco II.

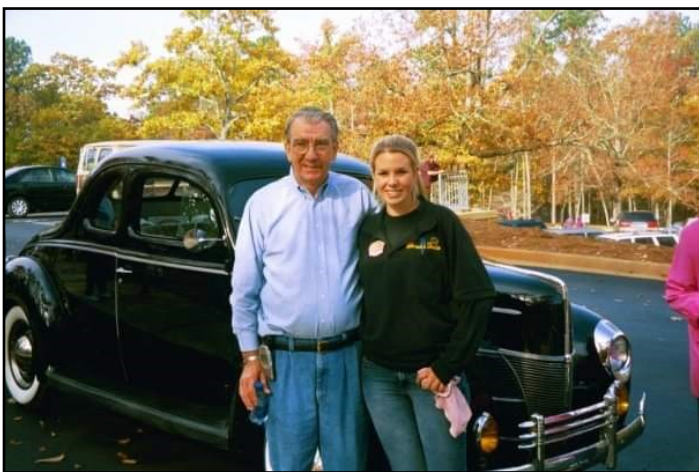
Robert has a 1986 Bronco II that he wants to restore so he wanted information about restoration parts. After a 10-minute roadside discussion, the Bronco owners swapped information and later Saturday evening, they spent 40 minutes in a phone call talking restoration and the possibility of the 1989 Bronco owner becoming a member of the East Tennessee Region!

**Last holiday season, ETR members donated \$550 to Connecting Hearts, a division of Meals on Wheels!!!**



## Melissa Johnston Talks About Her '40 Ford, Her Dad, and Her Love for Old Cars

In 2003, I ran the Great Race from Livonia, Michigan to Daytona Beach, Florida with 5 Men & a Shoebox. From then on I was hooked on antique cars and especially Flatheads. I quickly became involved with the Early Ford V8 Club and when I joined the club they were working on restoring a 1948 F1 truck to raffle off for a local charity. I jumped right in on the project truck too.



Restoring Melissa Johnston's 1940 Ford was a father-daughter project.

My dad, Johnny Logan, told me for my 16th birthday that I could have the car of my choice. I wanted a 1940 Ford Coupe, like he had at that age. I think he was a bit surprised but agreed after telling me, "If you're going to drive it, you better know how to fix it." Boy was he not kidding. My father, Johnny Logan, grew up in Atlanta and worked at a service station while in high school. He bought his first 40 when he was 12. He would drive it to school and to work, where he learned to fix it, hot rodged it and raced it too. That was very common in the 50's and so that is how we decided to build my 1940 Coupe-like the hot rod it would have been back in the day.

When my 1940 Ford Deluxe Coupe was purchased, we really were just buying the body and frame. As soon as it made it home, my dad was working on a wiring diagram to convert it to 12 volt and make the fog lights turn signals. Just as he said, if I was going to drive it I was going to have to work on it and I was elbow deep in grease learning every step of the way. Next came the motor pull and it was rebuilt by the late well known Putt Smith, the transmission was rebuilt as well and we replaced all the brakes. Not long after the running gear was put back in and she was back on the road. The interior was redone and most of the mole hair style was replaced.

By the time we had gotten this far, the 40 had a 59AB block in it

bored 80 over with Offenhauser Heads, Holly Carb, a Mercury crankshaft, Lincoln Zephyr Transmission, it was 12 volt and ran like a dream. My dad had one wish still, he had always wanted a Columbia rear-end when he was younger. Clarence Haven gave Tom Cristenberry a call and Johnny, Clarence, Putt and another friend came up here to Maryville and bought a Columbia rear-end. My dad and I had the dream of the 40 Coupe built with a two speed rear-end to top it off.

In 2009 we went on a coast to coast car cruise called Cruise America- Savannah, Georgia to Monterey, California. It was a 26 day, 17 state and 7,503 mile tour following Route 66 out to CA then back to GA. This was the funnest trip I have ever been on!

After Cruise America, we made a few more modifications to the 40, changing over the rear disc brakes, putting an electric fuel pump on it, temperature gauges on both sides of the block and a radio with a sound system in the car.

While I was busy with work, school and traveling back and forth between Georgia and Tennessee, my Dad would drive the 40 every morning to a local restaurant and have breakfast with some old car friends. He really took advantage of me not being home much and kept those wheels rolling. When he passed in 2017, at his memorial service there was a parking lot lined with Flatheads.

This car has never sat for long. It has 70,000 miles and a million memories put on it since I got it for my 16th birthday and still has many more to go. Mark and I now continue to keep working on it and keep it in shape. We spent the week of my birthday this year replacing the flooring and there is still a never ending to do list for it, as there is for all antique cars. Like my dad always told me, "If you are going to drive it, you better know how to fix it."



Melissa Johnston works under the dash of her 1940 Ford Coupe.





## Moonshine Haulers Rule at the 53rd Annual Festival in Dawsonville GA

*By Melissa Johnston*

The 53rd Annual Mountain Moonshine Festival filled the town of Dawsonville, Georgia during the fourth weekend of October this year and was a hit!



**The Johnston's '40 Ford Coupe on display at the Moonshine Festival**

The Nascar Hall of Fame's parking lot was filled with a variety of cars for the show- both classics and customs from all generations. This year, the true Moonshine Haulers had a designated parking area at the top of the museum's hill where all the 1939's and 1940's gathered together. Many of these Fords have seen quite a few Moonshine Festivals over the years, including the Haven's and Johnston's Fords.

Along with all the beautiful cars was a swap meet and fair with plenty of food, vendors and entertainment. Thankfully this year the rain decided to hold off until into the late afternoon Saturday and did the same on Sunday.

This is a great show, not only for the history of hauling Moonshine and backroads racing, which is how NASCAR came about; but also for the charity that it benefits KARE for KIDS.



**True moonshine haulers were featured at the festival.**

## Kids find Lots of Surprises As They Explore Buttons and Knobs in Old Cars

*By Wayne Tuck AACA Executive Vice President*

Features we find take for granted cars can be a new discovery for today's kids.

I still laugh to myself every time I think about the time my youngest grandson came out to the garage for a visit with grandad. I was working on my 1952 Hudson at the time and put him in the front seat. The first thing he noticed was the size of the steering wheel. I'm sure he had never seen a car without power steering. This was a new discovery for him. He was even more surprised with the window crank handles. How many kids today have never seen crank down windows? Not only a crank down window, but crank open vent windows.

Most of today's youth have never seen a vent window. He spent the next half hour working his way around the interior cranking windows up and down. We found an entire new world of things he never knew existed. A cigar lighter? That is known as a power outlet today.



**An antique car can be a source of wonderment for today's young people.**

You mean you need to push down the buttons individually to lock the car? You need a key to unlock it? Ash trays? Turn the knobs to change the radio station? Where are the seat belts? What is that button on the floor? No padding on the dashboard? Now let's take a look at an even older car. A tassel on the string that pulls the shade down over the back window? You mean you need to put your arm out the window to signal a turn?

That lever on the left controls the spark advance? What is a spark advance anyway? Step on a floor pedal to start it? All you need to do to get their attention is show it to them.

Kids are even more thrilled if you take them for a ride. Let's all do something to pique their interest. The future of the old car hobby depends on it!



# Paul Galvin Put a Radio in a Car and Gave Birth to an Electronics Mega-Company

*Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission from Motorola Solutions Archives. "Sound in Motion" Sue Topp, Certified Archivist, Manager, Heritage Communications & Archive, Motorola Solutions*  
[https://www.motorolasolutions.com/en\\_us/about/company-overview/history/explore-motorola-heritage/sound-motion.html](https://www.motorolasolutions.com/en_us/about/company-overview/history/explore-motorola-heritage/sound-motion.html)

*Thank you, David Sheffey, for recommending the Paul Galvin story to the Antiquer*

Even the Great Depression couldn't stop Motorola founder Paul V. Galvin. When he learned about technicians fitting home radios into automobiles, he recognized the potential of the new technology. Galvin engaged a team of talented engineers to

installed in most popular automobile models.

**Design challenges:** Galvin engaged a team that combined the talents of Lear and Galvin Manufacturing radio engineers. In addition, young Elmer Wavering, who later was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame, joined the effort. The team faced difficult technical problems: overcoming electrical interference, finding space in the car for large radio components, and building it sturdy enough to endure rough roads. Galvin encouraged them to keep working to find a solution. In May 1930, Galvin announced plans to drive his Studebaker automobile from Chicago, Illinois, to Atlantic City, New Jersey, U.S.A., a distance of about 850 miles (1368 kilometers). He intended to demonstrate the new radio at the Radio Manufacturers Association Convention in June. With only one month left to complete a working model, the team worked day and night.

A few days before Galvin departed, the crew successfully built a radio that received a clear signal with the car motor running. By squeezing some radio parts inside and others under the floor, the radio fit into the car. Although rough roads from Chicago to New Jersey tested the radio to its limits, it withstood the journey.



Advertising, as on this car radio demonstration vehicle in 1932, helped to make Motorola a familiar brand name.

build and install one of the first commercially successful car radios in the world. Motorola created a new market and ultimately became a global leader in communications technologies. **Difficult times:** Paul V. Galvin and his brother Joseph started the Galvin Manufacturing Corporation in Chicago in 1928 to manufacture battery eliminators. These electronic devices enabled battery-powered home radios to operate on household electric current. But in 1929, a stock market crash devastated the U.S. economy and the battery eliminator was becoming obsolete. The Galvins needed a new product for their small business to survive.

A radio parts company founded by William P. Lear was located in the same factory building as Galvin Manufacturing Corporation. Lear technicians, including chief production engineer Don H. Mitchell, were experimenting with radio technologies. Despite the worsening economy, the markets for automobile and radio technologies were growing rapidly. Paul Galvin realized that consumer demand would continue. He decided Galvin Manufacturing could develop an affordable radio that could be



A Motorola car radio installation diagram (circa 1930) showed batteries, spark plug suppressors and the antenna, in addition to the radio components.

**Public showing:** Galvin Manufacturing Corporation wasn't registered for the June 1930 Radio Manufacturers' show, and Paul Galvin had no display booth or appointments with prospective customers. There was no money in the company's budget for marketing. Instead, Galvin parked his car at the entrance to the Atlantic City pier and *Continued on next page*





# Paul Galvin Put a Radio in a Car and Gave Birth to an Electronics Mega-Company

*Continued from previous page*

boosted the radio's volume with loudspeakers to attract attention. With his wife, Lillian, helping to demonstrate the radio, he encouraged show attendees to take a look. When visitor traffic was slow, he went inside the hall to convince people to come outside for a demonstration.



This reproduction of Motorola's first car radio, 1930's model 5T71, included (left to right) a radio receiver, tuning control and speaker.

Galvin returned to Chicago with enough sales orders to ensure that the company would survive to face the next challenges: sales, manufacturing and installation on a large scale.

**Birth of the Motorola brand:** Paul Galvin wanted a brand name for Galvin Manufacturing Corporation's new car radio—something memorable. He created the name "Motorola" to suggest sound in motion (from "motor" and the then-popular suffix "ola"). The Motorola brand name became so well-known that Galvin Manufacturing Corporation later changed its name to Motorola, Inc.

**A commercial success:** The car radio installation continued to challenge the engineers. Elmer Wavering remembered, "If somebody bought a new car and decided to put in a car radio, they'd get a real shock. They saw us go in and rip out the brand new headlining in the car, drill holes into the floor for our batteries, and rig up a whole complicated electrical system with a network of wires." With every installation, the team gained experience.

Paul Galvin and Elmer Wavering traveled around the United States selling radios and teaching new dealers how to install them correctly. With business growing, a fleet of Motorola sales and service trucks with factory-trained sales engineers soon

supported radio dealers with sales, service and installation. Due to determination and innovative engineering, the Motorola model 5T71 radio became one of the world's first commercially successful car radios. With sales that first year reaching internationally to Mexico, the Motorola car radio connected thousands of people with news and entertainment in their "second home"—the automobile.

## Board Meeting Minutes

*Continued from page 5*

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Annual Business Meeting:** After much discussion, due to the increasing counts of Covid infections, the motion was made and seconded to cancel the annual business meeting this year. This motion carried. Robert Quillin will send out notification to the membership of the cancelation and ask for floor nominations for board members which would be forwarded to Roger Frazee. Roger Frazee will then send out the notification of any additions to those nominations that have been selected by the nomination committee, and forward those out to the membership by November 17<sup>th</sup>. All ballots would then be received by November 25<sup>th</sup>. The ballots will then be tabulated by the Nomination Committee and secretary.

**Christmas dinner:** After much discussion, due to the increasing counts of Covid infections, the motion was made and seconded to cancel this year's Christmas dinner. This motion carried. It was suggested that we may try to do a driving tour around Christmas to view some Christmas decorations and may do a drive-by donation, dropping off donations to a charitable organization, similar to last year. Tom Howard will get with Rothchild's to cancel this dinner and receive our deposit that was made earlier this year.

**2023 Divisional Tour:** Jan Frazee reported that the Double Tree Hotel in Oak Ridge has agreed to be the host hotel for the Divisional Tour in 2023. The Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Express have also agreed to hold rooms for this event. With all three motels participating, we have a total of 135 rooms reserved for those out of town participants that will be attending. The next step will be to put together a tour committee to plan this event. We do have confirmation from AACA National for this event and we will plan on presenting to all our members early next year.

The dates for this Divisional Tour will be April 30, May 1, 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

### Adjourn:

Charlie Simpson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

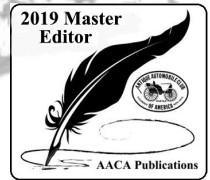
Respectfully submitted,  
R. G. Lewallen, ETR Secretary

## Smoky Mountain Antiquer

Roger and Jan Frazee, Editors

4535 Deer Grove Way

Powell, TN 37849



*Photo by Robert Quillin*

Tracy and Loretta Rollin's 55 Oldsmobile is parked along Fort Loudon Lake during the November Tour. The Rollins purchased the car two years ago in Pennsylvania. They are hoping to drive it along Route 66 this summer.