



SIDELIGHTS



The Official Publication of the Illinois Region
AACA's Oldest Region—established 1946



September 2025

Volume 77 Number 9

COMING SOON.....

Thursday, September 11th - AACA GENT'S LUNCH, 11:30am. Village Squier- 125 Washington St. West Dundee, IL 60118. **See page 18.**

Saturday, September 13th - ILLINOIS REGION BOARD MEETING hosted by Waukegan-North Shore. 10:00am. State Bank of the Lakes, Grayslake, IL. **See page 19.**

Upcoming EVENTS

September 11 -GENT'S LUNCH-11:30am,
Diamond Jim's Gas Grill, East Dundee, IL *See*
page 18.

September 13 - ANNUAL REGION BOARD MEETING - Hosted by Waukegan-Northshore, 10:00am, State Bank of the Lakes, *More information on page 19.*

Oct 16-18 - Illinois Region Fall Tour. Hosted by Des Plaines Chapter. Champaign-Urbana Area. *See pages 20-22.*

November 2 - Waukegan-North Shore RUN TO Brighton.

November 8 -REGION BOARD MEETING

NATIONAL NEWS

For more information on National and other events see aaca.org

2025 Nationals & Tours

September 7-12, 2025 - Revival AAA Glidden Tour® (Pre-1943) - Owensboro, KY (VMCCA Hosted) - mistergreatrace@gmail.com

October 7-10, 2025 - Eastern Fall Meet - Hershey, PA - hosted by Hershey Region AACA - 717-566-7720 - [click here for brochure](#)

October 18-22, 2025 - Central Divisional Tour - San Antonio to Gonzales, TX - hosted by Texas DFW Region - 214-498-0531

October 23-25, 2025 - Central Fall Nationals - Galveston, TX - hosted by Gulf Coast Region AACA - 832-693-4008 - [click here for brochure](#)

Other Events of Interest

September 7 - St. Patrick's Residence Classic Car Show. *See page 23.*

October 25 - Dundee Township Historical Society Historically Haunted 4th Annual Car Show. *See page 24.*





ILLINOIS REGION

The Illinois Region serves northeastern Illinois. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of odd numbered months at various locations.

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Please contact Andy with questions about membership and/or address corrections. Annual dues are \$23 for both individual and joint memberships. Membership in the National AACA is an absolute prerequisite for membership in the Illinois Region.

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All materials should be submitted by the 20th of the month or sooner.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Through 2025

Dan Sobczyk
Jerry Bodden
Bibiana Garcia

Through 2026

Chris Schurrer
Rick Shaw
Dale Woosley

Through 2027

Humberto Garcia
Rose O'Halloran
Richard Nelson

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Chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at member homes.

Waukegan-North Shore President: Dan Helgren
847-533-0349 danhelegan@aol.com

Chapter meetings are held the second Friday of the month September through May (excepting December) at State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Dr., Grayslake, IL 60030

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

We are now approaching the autumn of the old car season but there is still plenty of time for enjoying our beloved cars.

We have the fall tour coming up and it sounds like quite a busy and interesting tour. Hope Chris allowed time for us to sleep. Make sure you make your hotel reservations. (Don't know if we need a room with all the activities Chris has planned, but just in case make your reservation.)

Big thanks to Bill, Ed, Joanna and Bev for a wonderful picnic sponsored by the Waukegan/North Shore Chapter. They always do a great job of making sure there is plenty of food and treats.

Coming up on 9-13-25 is the next board meeting and it will be sponsored by Waukegan/NorthShore. More information regarding time and location will be in the newsletter.

This is a great time for you to consider running for the Board of Directors and becoming more deeply involved in the functioning of the club. Think about it,

Also, this last weekend, August 25, was the Geneva Conkurs. If you have not attended the show, you are missing one of the premier shows in the area. The display of vintage vehicles they have on display is incredible. Every year they feature a different make or type of vehicle. This year the featured cars were Volkswagen and chain driven cars. The array of cars was magnificent. Please put it on your calendar for next year.

Until next month,

Dan

Hard to
believe but. . .



IT'S APPLE
TIME!

Come on Ladies and Gentlemen, send in your best apple recipe. Apple pie is the most obvious, but there must be other ways to use apples in the fall.

We are waiting for something unusual and yummy. So put pen to paper and send your recipe and a picture, if you have one, to Laura at aaca.sidelights@gmail.com

Thanks,
Bob Markert

Car Show Flashback

First, I would like to thank members and friends of the Illinois region of the AACA for volunteering, attending, and supporting the 74th annual region car show. It was refreshing to have an adequate number of volunteers for Saturday night's set-up and the show itself on Sunday. We had enough volunteers so that no one person or group of people were overworked.

Next, I would like to thank the village of Carpentersville, the public works department, village officials, along with Greta Salamando the community engagement coordinator, and member and trustee Humberto Garcia. Without their efforts we would not be able to enjoy the beautiful facilities at Carpenter's Park. We would also like to thank our food vendors the Lions Club, Knights of Columbus and No Manches Mexican Grill. Finally, we would like to thank Bill and Joanna Vroman for their creation of the Nash Rambler model and kits which proudly represented our featured car.

Unfortunately, my grand expectations for a better showing than last year were impacted by weather in the surrounding areas. Half of our pre-registered cars did not show up and I received numerous calls that morning that others who had intended to attend were staying home due to torrential local storms and not able to attend. This led to a total of ten fewer cars than last year. Even though our numbers were down, we had many rare and spectacular cars make a strong showing.

Despite the lower turnout due to weather and a few technical difficulties we encountered, we anticipate next year's 75th anniversary show will be an event to remember! Details to follow.....

Jim Sikora

Show Manager

jamessikora@att.net

AACA Region Chapter Event:

Written by: Anna Nelson

All Aboard!!!

The time of year for the Vintage Transportation Extravaganza, where they invited car owners to display their vintage cars with all their transportation exhibits. This year the event took place August 3, 2025, same weekend as always, except the Grand Dominion moved their event up a week. Sad to say, I have not learned to be in 2 places at one time. The weather was perfect, low 80's mild breeze and partly sunny, for our Waukegan/North Shore, Illinois Region AACA members. Chris Schurrer started our journey to Union at the IHOP in Crystal Lake to the event.



At the event, we set up in our usual space. Enjoyed socializing and partaking in the attractions.



AACA Region Chapter Event (Vintage Transport cont...)

The 34th year for the Vintage Transportation Extravaganza, with many other car owners displaying their cars.



AACA Region Chapter Event (Vintage Transport cont...)

The guests enjoyed viewing the cars and riding the antique trains, giving them a glimpse of the past. There were different modes of transportation to explore and to enjoy.



AACA Region Chapter Event



Sycamore Steam Show

Written by: Anna Nelson

The morning started at the Freeze in Grayslake, Chris Schurrur led our group using the original route from 1993, since then there are just a few more streetlights added, with Paul Maurer and Richard Nelson following. This year we went to the Sycamore Steam Show on August 9, 2025. Temperatures topping in the 90's, thank goodness for plenty of shade and a gusty breeze, for the tractor exhibits, antique car exhibits, vendors, and guests to enjoy.



Since Chris drove his antique car, he was allowed to exhibit his car in the antique car section. There were many tractors displayed of all different makes and years. A large number of vendors, with a vast variety of merchandise to sell. Parents found activities to participate with their children or secretly enjoy the child within themselves. A steam tractor demonstration on sawing wood. The second using a steam tractor with a thresher. Several steam tractors were driving around the grounds making sure their tractors are working for the parade.

AACA Region Chapter Event (Sycamore Steam cont...)



Tractors different styles and different years.



Vendors - above /Parents having fun - below



AACA Region Chapter Event (Sycamore Steam cont...)



Wood cutting demonstration above / Using a tractor with a thresher below



Warming up the tractors to get ready for the parade.

AACA Region Chapter Event (Sycamore Steam cont...)

We found our favorite spot to view the parade. Set up our lawn chairs in the shade and enjoyed the breeze which made staying tolerable from the heat. Oh! Look a steam roller.



Vintage tractor, brand new umbrella system, one way of staying cool.

AACA Region Chapter Event (Sycamore Steam cont...)

I can do one better, take a vintage tractor turn it into a car and buy an umbrella system.



I know it is hot out, but now I am seeing a pink tractor. Hey honey, wait, I want one!



Hey, I can drive this tractor with no hands, well if you can, so can I, and I am towing a wagon.



Dad, Let me drive. I can drive asleep behind the wheel. I think the heat is getting to all of us.

AACA Region Chapter Event (Sycamore Steam cont...)



How old do you need to be to drive a tractor?



This time they added vintage trucks to the end of the parade.

Oh! by the way, when you find the other BOB, let us know!

AACA Region Chapter Event

It's Picnic Day!



Written By: Anna Nelson

Lightning and the rain have stopped! Checking the forecast for the rest of the day, good no more rain for the day of August 17, 2025. Loading up the car and heading to the McDonald's in Grayslake to meet the rest of the members of the AACA Waukegan / North Shore car club for a driver's meeting. As we started to gather, before the driver's meeting the main conversation was last night's storm adventures. This year heat and storms has not been helpful to our car club events!



Richard held the driver's meeting, going over the details of the ride through scenic roads of Wisconsin back to Illinois and then to the picnic grounds. Joanna and Bill Vroman, Ed and Bev Armatys, Mary and Ron Wisniewski and Mar Robinson arrived before to set up and prepare the food for the members to enjoy. The food spread included burgers, brats, hotdogs, coleslaw, potato salad, chips, and beverages. Members provided side dishes and desserts.



The best part after the drive is enjoying a good meal, sitting, and socializing with our friends.

AACA Region Chapter Event (WNS Annual Picnic cont...)



Dan Helgren thanked everyone for coming to the picnic. Thanked the members for setting up the picnic area. Bill Vroman for the route information and Richard Nelson for making the adjustments so we are not riding through road construction and leading the route. Dan Helgren and Chris Schurrer discussed future events, that we can look forward to. Great way to end the event. We made it with no rain!!!





Cruise on over to the
The Gent's Lunch

Thursday, September 11th @ 11:30 am

We will be talking about a very exciting event
So come on over and have a good time with
"The Guys" and bring a friend.

Village Squier
125 Washington St.
West Dundee, IL. 60118

Please R.S.V.P. to Humberto Garcia
847-800-5124 and let him know if you will be
attending.



The next meeting of the Illinois Region Board is Saturday, September 13th @ 10:00am at the State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake. This is a great time to consider running for the Board of Directors and becoming more deeply involved in the functions of the club. We hope to see you there.

Directions to the State Bank of the Lakes: From the intersection of IL Route 120 and US Route 45, go north on Route 45 to Center Street, turn left (west) on Center Street to Commerce Drive, then left on Commerce Drive. The bank is the first building on the right. Park on the south side of the building by the main entrance, then take the stairs or elevator to the basement and enter our meeting room.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FALL TOUR AND “C-U” IN CHAMPAIGN – URBANA! OCTOBER 16 – 18, 2025



The place to be this fall is the home of the Fighting Illini; Urbana, Illinois. We, at the Des Plaines Valley Chapter, have been hard at work bringing together a tour that will be enjoyed and fondly remembered for decades to come! We are confident because we had a good head start, visiting for the 30th anniversary of the participant's favorite tour in 1995. We will be revisiting many of the gems that made this tour still talked about today, but have also made this rendition our own, with new stops, expanded touring, and more adventure!

Keep a lookout for further information on some of the places we will visit in the near future!

But first thing's first, let's talk about the hotel. We will be staying at the Comfort Suites, at **2001 N. Lincoln Av. in Urbana, ILL.** We have secured a rate of **\$114.00 + tax for each night.** They are ready to book now, by calling **(217) 328 – 3500 & asking for the Illinois Region A. A. C. A.** room rate for the dates listed above. **Rooms must be reserved by Sept. 22, 2025;** but reserve today to make sure you lock in your lodging for the event!

But we hear you, "What do we get at the hotel?" Each room comes with a microwave, refrigerator, flat screen TV with full cable, safe, & even an iron if you get a bit rambunctious.

The hotel itself offers a 24 hour pool, hot tub, fitness center, business center, and wireless internet. Most importantly, wake up ready to start the day each morning with an full breakfast buffet, and relax into the evening with fellow members in our nightly hospitality room.

Did I mention, every hotel room is a **SUITE**? Because we know when you think of the best lodging experience, you think Des Plaines Valley!

Can't wait to "C-U" this October 16 – 19, 2025 !!!

THERE'S MORE IN MONTICELLO



Paxton isn't our only happening town on the tour. Our other day will have us bound for Monticello. We are first met with the sprawling Monticello Railway Museum to explore over 100 pieces of railroad equipment in the steam & diesel eras. From there it's down State Street, that great street of stately homes to downtown.



Once in downtown it's time to once again explore the different restaurants and shops. Just a few moments and it's clear, Monticello has an artistic flair to it, with many unique places to experience. Prairie Fire Glass Shop, which makes all sorts of items, from pendants to ornaments to vases and more, will be doing glass blowing demonstrations (weather permitting) during our visit in town. It is a must see during our visit! Just a stroll away is also Out of the Blue Polish Pottery & Gifts, a destination for Bakeware, Bowls, Plates, and more all decorated with the traditional Polish style of pottery artwork; throughout Central Illinois & Indiana.



But it's not just art that can be found in Monticello, also in the Courthouse Square one will find Hartfield Book Company, an independent bookstore that boasts a wide selection for all ages and interests. They also have gifts for your favorite bookworm, even if that is yourself. And of course, another lovely ice cream parlor can be found. It's the dueling Ice Cream Parlors between Paxton and Monticello, and you are the judge!

ALL THIS, ONLY ON THE FALL TOUR! OCT. 16 – 19, 2025
GET YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DONE EARLY! AVOID THE RUSH IN WINTER!
RESERVE YOUR ROOM – COMFORT SUITES – URBANA, ILL – (217) 328 – 3500.

EVERYTHING HAPPENS IN PAXTON



One step into Downtown Paxton and it will be clear; this isn't a sleepy town. With its country downtown charm, downtown Paxton boasts a variety of shops from end to end of the several block district. Of course, the first visit in town will be for the wonderful Royce Baier Automobile Collection. This collection is the culmination of over 70 years of collecting, showcased along an old town storefront façade. It's not just cars, within the same building is Simply Pat's Hats & Things. Pat Milchuck creates her hats right here in Paxton since the 1980's and has customers throughout the world. Each item is custom made, and one of a kind. Pat will be on site ready to showcase her masterpieces of cloth. And that's still not all! Inside the building is an ice cream parlor. Any time is a good time for ice cream!



And that was on the edge! Just a quick drive is downtown proper. A stroll down Market Street will have everyone find something they fancy. Gift stores like the Paxton Mercantile full of fun gifts, with many being made locally, Ruby Jewel Antiques for all those treasurers from times gone by, and Hudson's Drugstore. That quintessential drug store of old, with a large collection of Hallmark products. They are celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year.

AND THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF WHAT PAXTON HAS TO OFFER!

COME SEE THESE AND MORE ON THE FALL TOUR. OCTOBER 16 – 19, 2025.

RESERVE YOUR ROOM – COMFORT SUITES – URBANA, ILL – (217) 328 – 3500.

St. Patrick's Residence Classic Car Show



Want to show off your classic car and put a smile on someone's face? Here is your chance. Bring your classic car to the St Patrick's Residence car show on September 7th and bring back old memories for someone special.

When September 7, 2025
Grandparent's Day

Where St Patrick's Residence
1400 Brookdale Rd
Naperville, IL

Time Arrive at noon with your car
Show 1:00-3:00

Admission Free!! To reserve your spot
RSVP to Diann Kohley by 8/31 at
Thekohleys@sbcglobal.net



**Entertainment
Included!**



**Refreshments
Furnished!**



*Raymie's Lunch 4PM
RSVP*

630-880-7253

For more information contact **Diann Kohley** at
thekohleys@sbcglobal.net

or call/text 630-880-7253



**St. Patrick's
Residence**

NURSING and REHABILITATION



Dundee Township Historical Society

HISTORICALLY HAUNTED FOURTH ANNUAL CAR SHOW



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM • AWARDS AT 2:00 PM
426 HIGHLAND AVE, WEST DUNDEE

\$20. per car / Dash plaques for the first 50 cars

All proceeds will benefit the Dundee Township Historical Society.

TROPHIES For cars
25 years & older

- Best car by the decade
- Spookiest car
- Best of show
- Best Halloween costume

For more information contact
Humberto Garcia 847-800-5124



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FOR SALE!



1940 Ford Cnvt. DeLuxe Street Rod Dark Green, fuel injection Chevy engine, original steel body, auto trans, interior has been redone and new seat frame sand springs. 1940 original engine. Paul had this car done. \$45,000 obo. Call Jean Marcotte 815-472-3403



Two (2)1928-1929 Fenders. Asking \$150 for the pair. Pickup in Yorkville, IL. Please contact: Tom Baumgartner 630-209-0287 twjbrunner@aol.com

Wanted brass sidelights, stationary farm engines, gambling machines, Dave Kolzow 815 246 4545.

1966 Chrysler 300 Convertible. Silver/Black top and interior. Low miles. Newer Top and tires. Auto, A/C, Buckets. Nice Driver quality. \$18,500 OBO. Contact: Dan Sobczyk 847-977-0595 or dansobczyk@yahoo.com Pictures on request.

DRIVE-ON AUTO / TRUCK RAMP - Ideal for car washing, detailing, oil change, lubrication, undercar maintenance. Some call this setup a teeter-totter lift.

Drive on and when tip point is passed the ramp's front legs rotate downward to touch ground. Then the rear legs are manually lowered to have a stable three-point lift.

INCLUDED: Optional wheel sets for easy movement. Optional sliding tool tray for most widths, Optional steel wheel blocks
Overall length of bed is 15½ feet, Width of bed is 18 inches, Maximum width of ramps is 90 inches to outer edge, mounting wedges (removable) 36" x 18"; when installed, makes overall length 17 feet. Move yourself, no shipping. Located in Woodstock, IL. More photos available.

Price: \$350 obo Email: wdstk101@gmail.com Kelly McClain



Early Studebaker Bros. carriage, wonderful original 1500, 2 1939 Sears Handyman tractors, Dave Kolzow 815 246 4545.

1912 Sears 2-cylinder motorcycle, well restored, Dave 815 246 4545

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FOR SALE! (continued...)

WAYNE SCHOOL BUS - INTERNATIONAL CHASSIS

\$2,999.00 ALL OFFERS CONSIDERED!!

B-4 185" Wheelbase

Your chance to build your own Model A bus!!

Purchased 4 Wayne school buses and have restored one.

For Sale: **3 bodies and one International Harvester B-4 185" wheelbase chassis.** All the bodies are apart and in crates. Title available. Contact me for added details.

Picture is of our finished bus - you are buying parts!

Jordon Beller

b1932@hotmail.com

630-653-2277

