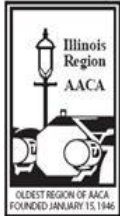




# SIDE LIGHTS



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



June 2026

Volume 78 Number 6



*Happy Father's Day*



**COMING SOON.....**



**Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> Region Board Meeting**  
Somonauk Library, 700 Lasalle St. Somonauk,  
IL. 10:30am. Coffee, donuts and lunch will be  
provided.



**Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> - AACA GENT'S  
LUNCHEON**, Noon @ Emmett's- 128 W. Main  
St. West Dundee, IL **See page 20.**



**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> - GIRCCCA's 58<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Father's Day Classic Car Show @ Oak Brook  
Center, Oak Brook, IL. **See page 21.****



# Upcoming EVENTS

**June 13 -REGION BOARD MEETING** - Hosted by Silver Springs - Somonauk Library, 700 Lasalle St. Somonauk, IL. 10:30am. Coffee, donuts and lunch provided.

**June 18 -GENT'S LUNCH**-Noon, Emmett's Brewery, West Dundee, IL **See page 20**

**July 4 -Happy Birthday America Classic Car Show.** Carpenter Park, 10-2pm. **See page 22.**

**July 19 -ILLINOIS REGION CAR SHOW.** Carpentersville, IL. **See pages 23 & 24.**

**August 2 - Waukegan-North Shore ILLINOIS RR MUSEUM TRANSPORTATION EXTRAVAGANZA TOUR & SHOW,** Union, IL.

**August 8 - Waukegan-North Shore SYCAMORE STEAM SHOW,** Sycamore, IL.

**August 9 - Waukegan-North Shore SUMMER PICNIC.** **See page 25.**

**August 30 - Waukegan-North Shore GRAND DOMINION CAR SHOW,** Mundelein, IL

**Sept 12 -REGION BOARD MEETING**

**Sept TBD - Illinois Region Fall Tour.**

**November 1 - Waukegan-North Shore RUN TO Brighton.**

**November 6 - Waukegan-North Shore Ladies "Show and Tell" Lunch @ McAlister's, Gurnee.**

## NATIONAL NEWS

For more information on National and other events see [aaca.org](http://aaca.org)

### 2026 Nationals & Tours

#### June

11-13 – Southeastern Fall Nationals – Oak Ridge, TN – hosted by Volunteer Region

15-19 – Sentimental Tour – Mechanicsburg, PA – hosted by Oakland-Pontiac Worldwide Region

#### July

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

#### August

5-8 – [Southeastern Divisional Tour](#) – Flat Rock, NC – hosted by Great Smokey Mountain Region & Little Detroit Chapter

19-22 – [Annual Grand Nationals / Zenith Awards](#) – Allentown, PA – 717-534-1910

#### September

9-14 – [Founders Tour](#) (1932-2001) – Williamsburg, VA – hosted by Historic VA Peninsula Region

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

#### October

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

## Other Events of Interest

**June 21<sup>st</sup> GIRCCCA's 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Father's Day Classic Car Show - Oak Brook Center, Oak Brook, IL. See page 21.**

**HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY US ROUTE 66. Slide/Lecture Program presented by Barbara J. Barrett. See page 32.**



## ILLINOIS REGION

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

### MEMBERSHIP:

Andy Voss  
245 E. Willow Ave. Apt.518  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
Cell 630-605-8392  
Email: [andyjanevoss@aol.com](mailto:andyjanevoss@aol.com)

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.

### OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT:

**Dan Sobczyk**  
822 Bannock Road  
East Dundee, IL 60118  
(H) 847-428-0247  
Email: [dansobczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:dansobczyk@yahoo.com)

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

**Humberto Garcia**  
3720 Rolling Hills Rd.  
Carpentersville, IL 60110  
Home: 847-428-3730  
Email: [hgbejar@aol.com](mailto:hgbejar@aol.com)

#### SECRETARY

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8268 Twombly Road  
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265 N. Waukegan Rd.  
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(H) 847-234-2394  
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**Chris Schurrer**  
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(H) 815-344-3775.

### WEBMASTER:

**Bill Vroman**  
Email [joannanbill@yahoo.com](mailto:joannanbill@yahoo.com)  
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(H) 630-941-8812  
Email: [aaca.sidelights@gmail.com](mailto:aaca.sidelights@gmail.com)  
All materials should be submitted by the 20th of the month or sooner.

### BOARD MEMBERS:

**Through 2026**  
Chris Schurrer  
Rick Shaw  
Dale Woosley

**Through 2027**  
Humberto Garcia  
Rose O'Halloran  
Richard Nelson

**Through 2028**  
Dan Sobczyk  
Anna Nelson  
Bibiana Garcia

## CHAPTER CONTACTS

**Des Plaines Valley** President: Lee Nelson  
815-729-0366 [l-n522@juno.com](mailto:l-n522@juno.com)

**Fox Valley** President: Dan Sobczyk  
847-428-0247 [dansobczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:dansobczyk@yahoo.com)

**Silver Springs** President: Jim Olson  
815-786-4646 [GrandmasterJ65@gmail.com](mailto:GrandmasterJ65@gmail.com)

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

**Waukegan-North Shore** President: Richard Nelson  
773-914-8576 [RNELSON2701@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:RNELSON2701@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

*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,

Here it is the beginning of June and, for the most part, the start of the car season. It was a long winter, but we made it.

I hope you were able to join the Spring tour, that is why the newsletter is a few days late. The hope was Laura, our esteemed newsletter editor, could include some photos from the tour and perhaps a writeup about the tour.

It sounded like a wonderful tour. Regretfully, prior commitments would not allow me to attend. Hoping all that attended had a wonderful time.

So now is the time for cruise nights and car shows. As you probably know the AACA will be having a National Meet in our area not too far away in Green Bay, WI. If you have not attended an AACA sponsored event, now is the time. The Central Spring National show will take place on July 22 - 26. It really is a great experience and to see many antique vehicles in great surroundings.

Not only is there the car show, but they will also have tours of local places of interest. At this event, there will be a tour of Lambeau field, home of the Green Bay Packers. The tours I have been on have been very interesting and in-depth tours.

Also, this summer our region will be hosting the 75<sup>th</sup> Illinois Region Car Show. This year, the cars of the members will be the stars of the show. The show will take place in Carpenters Park on July 19, 2026.

If you have not registered for the show, contact Bob Wenderski and if you have any questions, contact Jim Sikora.

Until next month,

Dan

## Region News:

### Why is our Car Show important to us?

Our car show gives our members the opportunity to bring their cars together and to appreciate unique styles of vehicles with the ability to compare how technology has changed over the decades. The educational value of sharing our hobby cannot be underestimated in our rapidly advancing era. I have found that younger children all the way through high schoolers are often curious to see the vehicles we know as common in the antique collector world. As an example, during COVID times when schools did teacher parades for graduation, our little Corvair was the hit of the parade tucked between silver and grey SUVs. It also had the best horn!

While the days of graduation parades are over, yeah! The car show is important because it is an excellent excuse for members just to get together who normally do not get to see each other on a regular basis to socialize and reconnect. Many visitors find that visiting our show triggers positive memories that are known to have positive health benefits, so we are in fact contributing to improved mental and physical health through reminiscing and physically walking through our wonderful show. We also see families attending, showing their children what the cars used to look like and sharing some of their favorites. We overhear families sharing stories of their road trips and even start to remember our own experiences. Our car show is a valuable tool for sharing automotive history with the public.

This year's car show will be at Carpenter's Park in Carpentersville Illinois on July 19, 2026. To volunteer for this year's car show contact [jamesikora@att.net](mailto:jamesikora@att.net) or (708) 691-9854.

Jim Sikora



# Save the Date

## AACA Central Fall Nationals

### August 25-29, 2027



The contract with Holiday Inn Crystal Lake, in Crystal Lake Illinois was signed March 31, 2026.

It is official, the deposit has been paid to secure the Central Fall Nationals. Now it is a reality and moving forward!!!

The committee has been established: Rose O'Halloran, Andy Ibata, Bill Vroman, Beverly and Edwin Armatys, Len Woelfel, Jerry and Joan Bodden, Dan Sobczyk, Richard and Anna Nelson, and Humberto and Bibi Garcia.

We are excited to share, the car show, awards, and banquet, will be on the hotel grounds. Italian Festa dinner event will be at the hotel. This is great that we were able to keep many activities at one central location!

*Humberto Garcia, Richard Nelson, and Anna Nelson*

# ACA Chapter Region Events:

## All Aboard!

### Dust Off Tour

Written by: Anna Nelson

This Waukegan/North Shore Chapter Dust Off Tour is about an adventure of exploring sites with train themes and some sites just for fun, through Lake county.

We gathered at the Grayslake McDonald's May 3, 2026, Harld Flood gave an overview of the route and a history lesson of why Route 120 Belvidere was once called "Old Plank Road".



Metra – Milwaukee District North train



Harold Flood



Overview meeting at McDonald's in Grayslake



Chris Schurrer and Humberto Garcia catching up

We started following our tour sheets, which lead us to Caboose Park, in Lake Villa. You guessed it, there is a red Soo Line caboose in the play area of the park, how quaint. It was to be a drive through which turned into a stop. We gathered around and took some memorable shots.



TOP- members cars in Caboose Park, Lake Villa  
RIGHT- the Caboose  
RIGHT 2<sup>nd</sup>-Harold Flood and John Zolot



continued

# AACA Region Chapter Events: (WNS Dust Off Tour cont...)

All Aboard! Dust Off Tour - continued



Lehmann Mansion – car photo shoot

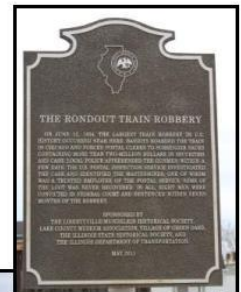


Continued the route to the Lehmann Mansion, in Lake Villa. A great Photo opportunity, allowed Carroll Flood to take photos of our cars in front of the mansion.

Off to Rondout, as we travel through some roundabouts, and passed by the Pyramid House in Wadsworth to get to Lake Bluff. The Milwaukee North Metra train line, old stop called Rondout was the place of the last Train Robbery in the United States, in 1924 (great trivia fact). We circled the train robbery location, what perfect timing as a Milwaukee North Metra train passes through. Several of us stopped across the street to take a picture of the historical plaque describing the train robbery.



LEFT - site of train robbery  
 RIGHT - plaque about the train robbery  
 BOTTOM - Milwaukee North Metra train passing by



continued

# AACA Region Chapter Events: (WNS Dust off Tour cont...)

All Aboard! Dust Off Tour - continued

Now, onto Lion's Park, Mundelein to do a quick circle through the park. Surprise!, what do we see an Old Burlington Caboose next to Fort Hill Heritage Museum located in the park, that is tucked away in a subdivision off the beaten path. Who knew!

Continuing to our next stop the North Central O Gaugers Model Railroad Club, Inc., the club members had the opportunity to play with the trains. President Richard Nelson presented an appreciation certificate to Bob Larson, Hank Hahn and Rip Peterson, thanking the Model Train Club for hosting us.



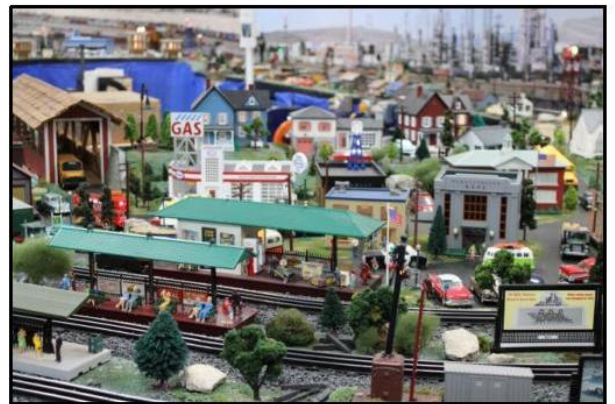
Lion's Park - Caboose



Rail layouts inside the Model Railroad Club



Richard Nelson, Bob Larson, Hank Hahn and Rip Peterson



continued

# AACA Region Chapter Events: (WNS Dust Off Tour cont...)

All Aboard! Dust Off Tour - continued

Some walked, others drove around the building to Tighthouse Brewery in Mundelein, to enjoy some Pizza from Emil's and cold drinks. Did you know they even have a beer called Box Car, how fitting to tie all this together. Richard Nelson gave a short speech, thanking everyone and hoping they enjoyed the tour. Carroll passed out the pictures that she had earlier taken of all the cars in front of the Lehmann Mansion.

Thanks to Carroll and Harold Flood for organizing and creating the route for this year's Dust Off Tour, and letting us know how much train history there is in Lake County.



ABOVE - Ron and Mary Wisniewski car in front of Tighthouse Brewery



LEFT - Members in line for Emil's Pizza

Right and Below - Members enjoying their drinks and food



# ACA Chapter Region Events:

## Fox Valley Dusts Off Two World Class Museums.

By Pat Markert

Photos by bib Garcia & Chris Schurrer

The Fox Valley Chapter took a lovely dust off tour on Saturday May 16. The group began the tour at the St. Charles Motorcycle Museum at 1317 E. Main St. in St. Charles.



←  
This greets you as you enter the museum.

↓  
On to the collection!



## AACA Region Chapter Events: (Fox Valley Dust Off Tour cont...)



Owner, Andy Koczvara, entertains some of the members, including Dan Sobczyk, Bibi & Humberto Garcia, Dale & Cheryl Woosley, about how he acquired some of his treasures.



Dale Woosley and Bob Markert discuss some of the interesting vehicles.

Humberto & Bibi Garcia watch one of the machines being moved outside.



# AACA Region Chapter Events: (Fox Valley Dust Off Tour cont...)

## THE BELLER MUSEUM



Presenting the beautiful Beller Collection! This is an amazing group of antique cars and trucks, many of which Jordan Beller did not want restored. He wanted the real thing, cars and trucks who were used by people and told the story of those lives.



Dale Woosley and Don Schreiber chat with Jordan Beller, the owner of the collection.

## AACA Region Chapter Events: (Fox Valley Dust Off Tour cont...)



Al Moody and Chris Schurrer listen to one of the fascinating stories of how the collection came to be.

The Beller Museum docent, Terry McGinnis, tells Dan Sobczyk and Don Schreiber all about this 1932 Ford.



L to R: Jeff DeZitter, Chris Schurrer, Dan Sobczyk, docent Terry McGinnis, Humberto Garcia and Bibi Garcia say good bye.

Afterwards the group repaired to Doc Watson's BBQ in Romeoville for more good food and good friends. A good time was had by all.

# AACA Chapter Region Events:

## 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Silver Springs Auto Show & Flea Market

May 24, 2026 at the Sandwich Fairgrounds

By Andy Voss



Featured Show Vehicle – Vern Fagerberg's '79 Dodge

It was a great day for the Car Show and Swap Meet! The day began at 6:00 A.M. with some rain, but the weather soon cleared with plenty of sunshine.

The show featured a host of antique cars and trucks that filled the entire show field at the fairgrounds.

Music and commentary was provided by 3-D Sound Company personnel, who entertained the crowd and helped with announcements, car trivia, lottery prize give-a-ways, etc.

For the kids there was face painting and games that included matchbox car prizes. There were also lottery prizes for a few lucky car owners. The first 250 registered show-car owners received a goodie bag with a plate and dash plaque, both with an image of the featured show vehicle, which was a very nice 1979 Dodge W-150 pickup truck (40,000 miles, 408 cu. in. 500 H.P. engine) owned by Vern Fagerberg. Vern is a member of the Silver Springs Chapter that hosted the show. He is a long-time racing enthusiast.

# AACA Region Chapter Events: (Silver Springs Car Show cont...)

There were lots of swap meet vendors who filled a large area adjacent to the car show field. The local 4-H Club was on hand to provide breakfast. Later in the day there were plenty of food trucks available to satisfy everyone's need for food and drinks.

Besides Silver Springs members, there were a number of other volunteers from other Illinois Region Chapters who were a big help. Thank you to all who served and attended!



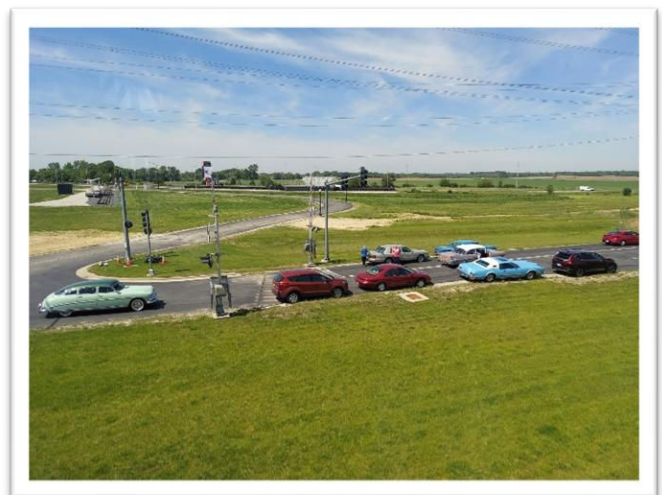
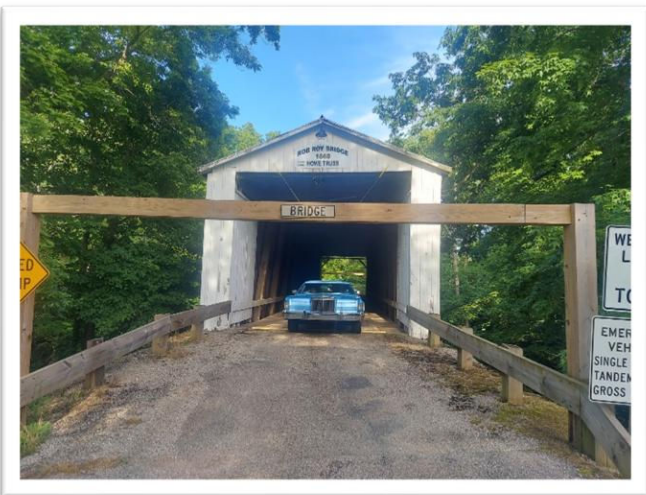
**AACA Region Chapter Events: (Silver Springs Car Show cont...)**



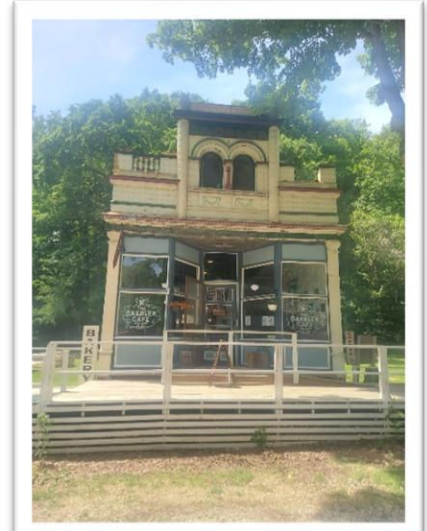


The Illinois Region Spring Tour is now in the History Books. A recap of the tour will be in the next issue of Sidelights.

But for now, here are a few teasers of the tour provided by Humberto Garcia.



# Region Event: (Spring Tour Teaser cont...)





Cruise on over to the  
**The Gent's Lunch**  
Thursday, June 18th @ Noon

So come on over and have a good time with  
"The Guys" and bring a friend.

Emmett's Brewery  
128 W. Main 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.

**58<sup>th</sup> Annual Father's Day Car Show**  
**Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026**  
**Oak Brook Center**  
**10:00am - 6:00pm**



Come spend Father's Day at the 58th Annual Father's Day Car Show at Oakbrook Center Mall located at 100 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook, IL. 60523

View a curated show spanning 100 years of automotive history featuring some of the rarest and most special cars in the world.

Enjoy music by the Revolution Big Band Orchestra 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The show is by the Greater Illinois Region of the Classic Car Club of America, For information Contact Russ Rodriguez at [russarod@gmail.com](mailto:russarod@gmail.com)

**Happy  
Birthday  
America  
Car Show**

**\$20  
REGISTRATION  
PER CAR**

**4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY  
10 AM - 2 PM**

**CARPENTER PARK  
300 CARPENTER BLVD,  
CARPENTERSVILLE, IL  
60110**

**LIVE MUSIC  
FOOD & DRINKS  
AWARDS**



**The Illinois Region  
of the Antique Automobile Club of America**



**75th Annual Car Show**

**July 19, 2026 \* Carpenters Park  
300 Carpenter Blvd. Carpentersville**

**JUDGED CARS: Must be 25 years or older (2001)  
DISPLAY ONLY: cars through 2023 and slightly modified  
are welcome**

**Open 9 am to 2 pm**

**Awards given out at 1 pm.**

**FEATURE CAR: 75 YEARS OF OUR MEMBER CARS**



**See our beautiful venue at Carpenters  
Park in Carpentersville at 300 Carpenter  
Blvd.**

**There is no entrance fee for visitors.**

Questions? Contact  
Jim Sikora (Show Manager)  
708-691-9854 jamessikora@att.net or  
Bob Wenderski (Registrar) 847-226-7591 bsw60045@comcast.net



**RAIN OR SHINE THE SHOW WILL GO ON**

# 75th ILLINOIS REGION AUTO SHOW MEMBERS

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Class #</td> <td style="width: 85%;">Description</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Production Vehicles 1890's thru 1939</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Production Vehicles 1940—1949</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Production Vehicles 1950-1959</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Production Vehicles 1960-1964</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Production Vehicles 1965-1969</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Production Vehicles 1970-1979</td> </tr> </table>	Class #	Description	1	Production Vehicles 1890's thru 1939	2	Production Vehicles 1940—1949	3	Production Vehicles 1950-1959	4	Production Vehicles 1960-1964	5	Production Vehicles 1965-1969	6	Production Vehicles 1970-1979	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">7</td> <td style="width: 65%;">Production Vehicles</td> <td style="width: 20%;">1980-1989</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Production vehicles</td> <td>1990-2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>Sports Cars (including Corvettes and Thunderbirds)</td> <td>thru 2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>Imports</td> <td>thru 2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>Trucks &amp; Military Vehicles</td> <td>thru 2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>Display Only (non-judged)</td> <td>thru 2023</td> </tr> </table>	7	Production Vehicles	1980-1989	8	Production vehicles	1990-2001	9	Sports Cars (including Corvettes and Thunderbirds)	thru 2001	10	Imports	thru 2001	11	Trucks & Military Vehicles	thru 2001	12	Display Only (non-judged)	thru 2023
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12	Display Only (non-judged)	thru 2023																															

Judging starts at 10:30 am.  
 Cars must be registered and parked in their **correct** class prior to that time.  
 Slightly modified, customized, concept and newer cars are FOR DISPLAY ONLY.

## Advance Registration Form

Advance Registration Deadline: **July 14, 2026**

Please PRINT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Auto Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Body Style \_\_\_\_\_ Colors \_\_\_\_\_ Class # \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Carrier \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fees:** All judged vehicles must be 25 years old (2001) and older.

Check one only:

Pre-Registered

Day of Show

	Judged	Display Only		Judged	Display Only
MEMBERS	\$15.00 _____	\$10.00 _____		\$30.00 _____	\$20.00 _____
WORKERS	\$10.00 _____	\$8.00 _____			

**All workers must be pre-registered to receive the discounted price. NO EXCEPTIONS**

Make checks payable to: Illinois Region  
 Sign below and mail to Bob Wenderski, 265 N. Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045

**NOTE: A current auto insurance card and a working fire extinguisher are MANDATORY in all vehicles.**

I, the undersigned, release the Illinois Region AACA, the National AACA and their officers and members from liability, damage and injury, personal or otherwise that might be incurred in connection with this show. I have purchased liability and property damage insurance for all vehicles I bring to this show. This is a commitment on my part to participate in the Annual Auto Show of the Illinois Region AACA. The Judges' decisions are final and not subject to review. I have read and agree to this disclaimer. The form MUST be signed and dated.  
 No alcoholic beverages allowed \* All fees are nonrefundable. \* **No FOR SALE signs**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2026 Waukegan/North Shore AACA Summer Picnic and Tour Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>



You are cordially invited to participate in the 2026 AACA Waukegan / North Shore Summer Picnic and Tour.

Our tour will start at a new location: Panera Bread 254 E. Rollins Rd, Round Lake Beach.  
It will cover 50 leisurely miles of back roads in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin ending at the Lake County Hastings Lake Forest Preserve Shelter A.  
Drivers Meeting is at 10:30 AM

The Picnic includes Burgers, Brats, Dogs, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Chips and soft drinks.  
You are welcome to bring a dish to pass. Last names beginning in A-M bring side dishes  
Last names beginning in N-Z desserts

The Forest Preserve allows alcohol in the pavilion so BYO if you're interested.

The 2026 Picnic / Tour cost is \$10 per member & family and \$15 for guests.  
Make your check out to Waukegan/North Shore AACA .  
Please post your check along with the number of people attending by August 1<sup>st</sup> so we have time to shop.

Number of Members/family \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Send your payment to: Bill & Joanna Vroman  
27753 W. Bayview Dr.  
Ingleside, IL 60041



# Ladies Of The AACCA Illinois Region

**Happy Car Show Season Ladies!**

**With the car show and vacation season upon us, we have decided to temporarily put the lady lunches on hold until the fall season!**

**This will allow us plenty of time to enjoy the nice weather and cars!**

**Please join us for our next ladies lunch September 25<sup>th</sup>!**

**I will be sending a flyer with more information and reminders closer to the date.**

**Hope to see you all there! Have a happy and safe summer!**



**Route 66 100th Anniversary  
1926 - 2026**

*DON'T MISS  
2026 - HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY US ROUTE  
66 - AN IN-PERSON SLIDE/LECTURE  
PROGRAM PRESENTED BY*

**Barbara J. Barrett, MPA, CAE**, an History Edutainment (Educational Entertainment) Speaker who makes automotive, architectural, manufacturing, music, and world history “come alive” in a fascinating and entertaining way. She has presented programs for C-SPAN American History TV, the Studebaker National Museum, the Gilmore Car Museum, community colleges, church groups, private clubs, public libraries, & senior living communities to name a few. She holds a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree from the University of Illinois and a Master in Public Administration (MPA) degree from Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL.

*Program Description:*

**Happy 100th Birthday US Route 66** – Join Barbara J. Barrett and “Get Your Kicks on Route 66” as she celebrates the attractions and allure of the “Main Street of America” from its controversial birth in 1926 to its centennial this year, 2026. Beginning in Chicago, *the official start of “The Mother Road,”* you will discover how and why Route 66 was established while exploring the roadside culture & appeal of this open road. You’ll visit vintage motels such as the Blue Swallow in Tucumcari, NM and the Wigwam in Holbrook, AZ; gawk at odd roadside attractions like the Gemini Giant in Wilmington, IL, the Big Blue Whale of Catoosa, OK, and the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, TX; and savor classic American road food served at family owned restaurants like the White Fence Farm in Romeoville, IL, the Cozy Dog Drive-In in Springfield, IL, or the Big Texan Steak Ranch in Amarillo, TX along the more than 2,400 miles of Route 66 before reaching the Santa Monica Pier – the terminus or “End of the Trail.”

May 9, 2026                      Wilmington  
Pub Library  
Wilmington, IL 1:00 PM

May 13, 2026                      Geneva  
Pub Lib Dist.                      Geneva, IL  
1:30 PM

June 18, 2026  
Crestwood Pub Lib Dist.  
Crestwood, IL 6:00 PM

July 8, 2026  
Downers Grove Pub Lib  
Downers Grove, IL 1:00 PM

July 18, 2026  
Bloomington Pub Lib  
Bloomington, IL 2:00 PM

August 12, 2026  
Green Hills Pub Lib  
Palos Hills, IL 2:00 PM

August 19, 2026  
Lincolnwood PL  
Lincolnwood, IL 6:30 PM

August 26, 2026  
Helen Plum PL  
Lombard, IL 1:00 PM

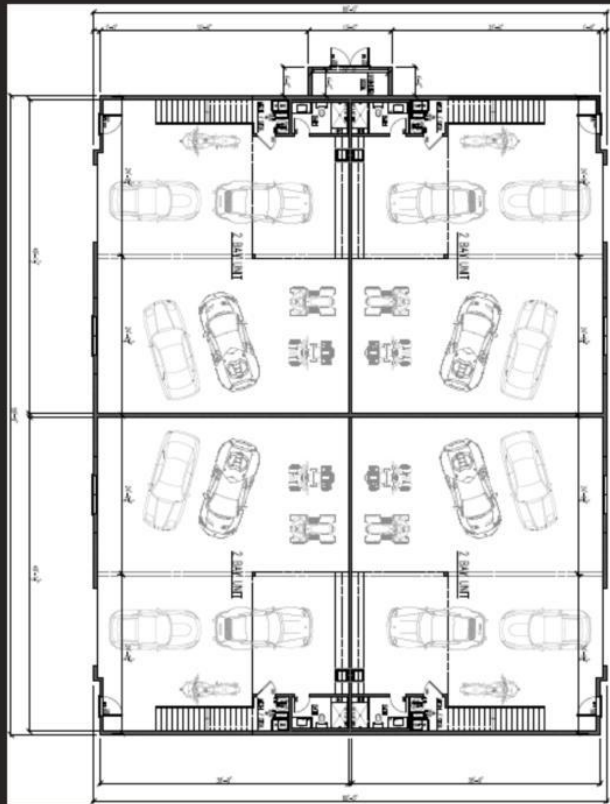
September 11, 2026  
Maine Township,  
MaineStreamers  
Park Ridge, IL 2:00 PM





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