

TIN 'N BRASS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Journey through Time

Owner: Lester Manwiller,
Year: 1955
Make: Chevrolet
Model: Bel Air
Engine: V8 265
Transmission: Automatic
Exterior Color: Coral and Shadow Gray
Interior Color: Coral and Gray
Options: Sanders in the trunk

Tell me about your car.

I purchased the car from my father in 1997. He was downsizing and wanted to sell it. I couldn't see it leaving the family. I bought it and then restored it. I had somebody paint it the same color as it was when it left the factory.

Lester Manwiller's 1955 Chevy

Did you modify the car in any way?

No. It came this way as it was manufactured in Baltimore.

How many owners has your car had?

I believe two besides my father. He bought it used.

What is unique about your car?

1955 was the first year Chevy used box taillights instead of inserting them.

What are your future plans for this car?

Drive it. Have fun with it.

The Tin & Brass is the official publication of the **Ontelaunee Region of Pennsylvania AACA**. We are a chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America, Hershey, Pennsylvania. This newsletter is published monthly. Members may choose to receive the newsletter via email or postal mail. Any items contained herein may be reproduced if proper credit is given. *All articles are edited for length, grammar, accuracy, and composition.*

They will be used at the discretion of the editor and Region officers. Please advise the editor of all the corrections that are needed.

Articles are due on 2nd Thursday of each month.

Cheri Dotterer, editor

202 Donne Road, Hamburg, PA 19526
newsletter@ontelaunee.com

How far have you driven the car?

I drove it to Morgantown, PA, to the Chevy Nationals and the Strausstown Car Show last year. Otherwise, I trailer it, even to Hershey.

As an AACA member, what awards have you achieved with this car?

It received a second place at the Grand National event in Gettysburg in 2020.

Please explain the award system to me.

After receiving a first junior award, your car is eligible for a senior award.

Which national shows have you attended with this vehicle?

With this vehicle, I have only attended AACA shows in Gettysburg and Hershey. However, I have attended shows with other antique cars in New York, Vermont, Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, and West Virginia. My favorite thing to do is go on National Tours. I usually attend one or two each year, going as far south as Florida and Louisiana and west to Ohio. This year, I plan to go on the Eastern Divisional Tour in northern Maine in August.

Did you make it to California on a tour?

No, but that might be a goal. I want to attend the Route 66 tour. Next year, I plan on going on a tour in Maine.

If you were going to give a twenty-something-year-old some inspiration about cars, what would you tell them?

The technology is transitioning from old to new. Older cars can be worked on by hand, while newer cars require specialized computer equipment to work on.

What about life in general?

I like driving the old cars. I enjoy investigating how they were built.

When was the last time you drove the '55 Chevy?

Last summer.

When are you anticipating driving it again?

I will pull it out of the garage and drive it this summer.

Interview by Cheri Dotterer

A Message from our President**My Mom's Daily Driver**

If you are like me, you remember a time in your youth and the cars your family owned, perhaps your mother's car. For my dad, these cars were often ones he drove home and saved after they were traded in at the Chevrolet dealership, where he worked in the 60s. They usually had mechanical defects, which he would fix at home. Sometimes, after the repair, they would end up in the yard with a "For Sale" sign. In this case, the car was intended to be my mother's, as her previous one was on its last legs.

Degler Chevrolet was a booming little dealership for a small local franchise at this time. They sold a fair number of cars. My dad was one of the main mechanics at the dealership, and his specialties were tune-ups and carburetor repair. His time there spanned from the mid-1960s to the late 1970s. Over that time, he probably averaged at least two cars a year, purchased as dealer trade, and fixed them up.

My Mom's Daily Diver

continued

One day, they traded a sparkling '55 Chevy sedan with pastel '50s colors of Coral and Shadow Gray. The salesman made the new car sale because, to him, the '55 Chevy came in with a bad engine knock. The customer was told that its 265 cubic inch V8 had bad bearings. Pop listened to it run for a few minutes and purchased the car for \$200. They were glad to sell it. The wholesaler wouldn't have given them any more with a bad engine. Pop used the lift after work to repair it with permission. They were surprised when he lifted the car, tightened the loose converter to the flywheel bolts, and drove it home. The knock was gone!

As I said, Mom needed a car, and this sparkling 1955 Coral and Shadow Gray car was now hers. It also served as a rolling teaching tool for my brother and me. My older brother helped with the engine upkeep. For example, the dealership gave him the wrong camshaft when the engine required some upgrades, so we did that job twice—good experience for his apprentice. The bearings never needed a replacement. I was young. I got to polish the chrome with rubbing compound—lots of fun.

This '55 Chevy wore a lot of hats at our house. Mom used it for work. She was a cook at the Albany Elementary School.

The school was literally about a half mile away. It barely warmed up on cold winter mornings. It was also my ride to elementary school, even after she left the job there. It served as a driver trainer for my older brother, Dale. He took his driver's test in that very car. Pop offered him the car as his own. His answer was, "I don't want a pink car." Coral is very close to pink in color.

I remember another funny story about this '55 Chevy. Pop had taken it to a local body shop to paint the gray part of the two-tone over. After a few days, the body shop called and said he had better come down and have a look at it. This is in the early days of enamel paint, well before any catalyst was available. Well, that dark gray color was notoriously difficult to paint, and this guy ran the sides of it so badly that it looked like it was wearing a mustache as the metallic ran through the paint. Pop made them wash the whole thing off with gas and start over. That was possible if you got to enamel quickly enough in those days. Today's stuff has a catalyst; you could never do that.

The thing is, nobody knew it then, but yesterday's transportation car was destined to become today's timeless classic. We often forget that before they were our show cars, it started as everyday transportation.

In case you haven't guessed, my dad sold this very car as Lester's. He used it as his classic car. Yes, it's the very same car with just two completely different lives.

I sometimes wonder just what the original owner did with it, and what places did it travel to. Have a good month.



A Message from our Secretary

President Jeff Dotterer called the business meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. on April 5, 2025, at the New Jerusalem Zion UCC Church, Krumsville, PA., with a pledge of allegiance to the American flag. There were 35 people present.

Susan Manwiller gave the Secretary's report from the business meeting on March 8, 2025. Ken Dages made a motion to approve the report, which was seconded by John Heyer. The motion carried.

Lester Manwiller gave the Treasurer's report for March. Shirley Schaffer made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, and Tim Hinkle seconded it.

Committee Reports

Membership: Phyllis Peters reported 152 members as of tonight. New members are the daughter and son-in-law of Bruce Cronrath, Mark & Denise Wagner from Oley. They own Corvettes and

Camaros. Also joining is their son, Bryan Wagner, a college student. He has a 1990 Dodge Dakota. Planning to renew their membership are Bill & Sue Weber.

Deaths: A former member, Barry Hunsicker, passed away. He always helped at the Hamburg Swap Meet and DAF.

Sick List: A get-well card was passed for members to sign for Glen Danenhowe. Glen had been very active with Ontelaunee, including President and DAF Chairman.

Free National Memberships: Phyllis has three National memberships left. They are good until September.

Website: Michael Dotterer was absent. No report.

Newsletter: Cheri Dotterer has been receiving positive feedback for the newsletter.

1. She is looking for people to do interviews about their cars for May and June.
2. Phyllis asked that we put a reminder in the newsletter that we do not have meetings in June, July, August, and December.

Activities: Suzy McGovern reported that four masters are needed for the Fall Foliage Tour in October and the Applejack & Cider Tour in November.

·See newsletter for details and to register for the following tours:

Early Bird Tour -- May 4 (note date change) Tour master Suzy McGovern to Lake Tobias Wildlife Park.

Apple Blossom Tour -- May 18, Tour master Barbara Koch to Wolf Sanctuary, Lititz.

Church Tour -- June 8 or 22, Tour masters Jeff & Cheri Dotterer to attend church services where we have our meetings.

Picnic Tour – Saturday, July 19 (note date change) Tour masters Neil & Audrey Merkel. Tour followed by catered picnic in their garage.

Dog Days Tour -- August 17, Tour masters Mike & Donna Wolfe to WK&S Railroad. Train ride is handicap accessible.

Three/Four Day Tour – September, Tour masters Tim & Sue Hinkle.

Fall Foliage Tour – OPEN

Applejack & Cider Tour -- OPEN

Leesport Swap Meet: Lester reported the following for the 2026 Ontelaunee Swap Meet:

1. Try to get an indoor food vendor.
2. Talk to the Farmers Market for more heat in the building.
3. Money collectors can use nail pouches or fanny packs (4 available).
4. LeRoy Hinkle will redesign the exit signs. People will not be going out of the Entrances. Signs will be used to exit.

Das Awkscht Fescht: Chairman Bob Hobaugh was absent. Susan reported 489 registered vehicles to date, 575 last year at this time. Flea market spaces have been 143 so far, 163 last year. The Fescht mailing will be May 15.

Jeff reported there have been fewer vendors at flea markets than in previous

years. Jeff has been passing out flyers at the flea markets he is attending.

Lester reported that the workers' food has been ordered. The price remained the same as the last two years. Amy from the park told Lester they will plant two more trees donated as memorials. The large tree near the parking area for club workers has been taken down. Other trees deemed unsafe have also been removed or had their branches removed. A permanent aluminum fence has been installed along Walnut St.

President's Banquet: It will be held at Blue Mountain Restaurant. Jeff and Cheri are working on booking a musical group from Hamburg High School for entertainment. Christmas Party: Mike Wolfe had nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS

Jeff said he and Bob Hobaugh met with a representative from BCTV to discuss a program about our club that will be on Berks TV and YouTube. The program aims to encourage seniors to get out and attend events. She wants photographs of us on tours this summer, with group pictures of members and photos from DAF. The taped interview will be in September, with Jeff discussing our club activities and Bob discussing the Fescht. This will be good publicity for our club. If anyone knows of anything similar in Lehigh Valley, let Jeff know. Vas mentioned community events on 69 News.

Phyllis mentioned the live talk show on 69 News on Saturday morning. On another matter, Jeff will contact the Association of the Blind; they want to discuss their services with us.

NEW BUSINESS

Lester said it was brought to his attention that some members are concerned that we only charge \$25 for guests going on tours, rather than the actual cost, which would be higher. Member cost for tours is subsidized and set at \$15.

Vas said we should have a policy we can all live with. Cheri made a motion that non-members pay the cost of the event.

Mike Wolfe made a motion, seconded by Marilyn Roth, to table the motion and discuss it at a board meeting.

Minnie Breininger thanked everyone who came to the viewing for Carl, and for the cards, donations, and hugs.

LOCAL CAR SHOWS

May 10, 2025--Morgenland Union Church Car Show, 3120 Weidasville Rd., Orefield, 9 am - 2 pm

May 10, 2025—Wheels for Victory Car Show, Kempton Community Center, benefits Victory Junction Camp for children with medical conditions.

Thank you to Barbara Koch and Donna Wolfe for refreshments.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 was made by John Heyer and seconded by Mike Horning. The motion carried. Next meeting is May 3 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Manwiller, Secretary



**Susan
Manwiller**

Group Photos

We are looking for group photos from club events.. If you have any, email them to Jeff Dotterer. They are for the BCTY interview.

Upcoming Tours**Early Bird Tour**

Date: **May 4**

Registration due: May 1

Departure: **Strausstown Playground
7:30 AM**

Destination: Tobias Wildlife Park - 9:30 am

Military Discount with ID card - family not included

Lunch: \$20 Gift Card for the restaurant onsite

Tour Host: Suzy McGovern

Deadline: April 28

Registration form: Page 11

Apple Blossom Tour

Date: **May 18**

Departure: **Strausstown Playground
7:30 AM**

Destination: Wolf Sanctuary, Lititz, arrival 9:45 AM

Lunch: Kauffman's Barbeque, Bethel

Tour Host: Barbara Koch

Deadline: May 11

Registration form: Page 11

Church Tour

Date: **June 8**

Attending church: Zion's New Jerusalem UCC - where we have meetings- **10 AM**

Destination: Reading Planetarium - 2 PM

Lunch: Copperz, Hamburg - 11:30 AM

Tour Host: Jeff and Cheri Dotterer

Deadline: June 1

Registration form: Page 11

Picnic Tour

Date: July 19

Departure:

Destination:

Lunch:

Tour Host: Neil and Audrey Merkel

Deadline:

Dog Days Tour

Date: August 17

Departure:

Destination: WK&S Railroad

Lunch:

Tour Host: Mike and Donna Wolfe

Deadline:

Three Day Tour

Date: September

Departure:

Destination: Grand Canyon PA

Lunch:

Tour Host: Tim and Susan Hinkle

Deadline:

Fall Foliage

Date: October

Departure:

Destination:

Lunch:

Tour Host: OPEN

Deadline:

Apple Jack & Cider Tour

Date: November

Departure:

Destination:

Lunch:

Tour Host: OPEN

Deadline:

Three Day Tour Details

Ontelaunee Car Club members will be invited to take a three-day driving tour to the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania near Wellsboro, PA, at the end of the second week in September. Exact dates and logistics are being worked out, and enrollment and cost information will appear in the *June Tin 'n Brass*. Here's a basic outline of what's being planned. Leaving from Allentown, we will take a scenic drive to Scranton, where we will visit the [Electric City Trolley Museum](#) and [Trolley Excursions](#) and ride on a trolley.

After staying in the Scranton area overnight, we will drive to the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania to view the canyon from a scenic overlook at [Leonard Harrison State Park](#).

Then we will take a [covered wagon ride](#) down the Canyon, Tioga County. Following a visit to the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, which includes information about the Civilian Conservation Corps, we will stay in Wellsboro overnight.

On our third day, we will travel to Williamsport, where we will take a trolley ride through [Millionaires Row and Historic District—The Lumbar Heritage Region](#), North West & North Central PA.

Following lunch, one of many wonderful meals on the tour, we head home.

I hope you'll be able to join us.

Tim Hinkle

National Memberships

We have **Three Free Memberships** to give to potential members. To receive a free membership, the potential member can never have been a member of AACA. If you know anyone interested in becoming a member, please have them contact me. I will see that they receive the necessary paperwork. Those who choose to take advantage of this offer must also join Ontelaunee. This is a **one-year-only** membership. Take advantage of this offer today.

Caring for our members

If you know of a member who is hospitalized, unwell, or has passed away, please reach out to me. Your call ensures we can offer support and condolences. Complete the form on page 11, mail it in, and call Phyllis.

May Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary

8 Edward & Doris Umberger
22 Brian & Donna Stever
30 Matthew & Susan Manwiller

“

Some men take good care of a car; others treat it like one of the family.

– Evan Esar

Stay Connected with our Community

Membership Roster Updates

Please update **your** 2024 Roster with the following information:

New Rosters will be printed in 2027

Add

- Mark & Denise Wagner
70 Carriage Circle
Oley, PA 19547
- Bryan Wagner
70 Carriage Circle
Oley, PA 19547

NEW!

Rejoined

- Bill & Sue Weber
5563 Acorn Dr.
Emmaus, PA 18049

May Birthdays

5 Carl Heffner, Jr.
9 Herb Elsner, Sr.
10 Nancy Horning
18 Lester Manwiller
18 Lynn Yoder
20 Isabel Lenny
23 Dalton Semmel
27 Pattie Schaffer
28 Joshua Staack
30 Ron Bair

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Phyllis Peters

Membership Chair

2025 Officers and Board Members

President	Jeff Dotterer
1st V. President	Tim Hinkle
2nd V. President	Michael Wolfe
Secretary	Susan Manwiller
Treasurer	Lester Manwiller
Chairperson	Barbara Koch
Directors	Elaine Baer Shirley Schaffer Nancy Horning Ray Huber

Phyllis Peters | 5265 Elgen Dr, Emmaus, PA 18049
610-965-9236

2025 Committee Chairpersons

Activities	Suzy McGovern
DAF	Bob Hobaugh
DAF Registration	Susan Manwiller
Membership	Phyllis Peters
Newsletter	Cheri Dotterer
Swap Meet	Lester Manwiller
Website	Michael Dotterer

Reminder

Wheels for Victory: May 10, 2025:

Wheels for Victory Car Show at Kempton Community Center. All money benefits Victory Junction Camp for children with serious illness.

Wheels at the Grove: May 10, 2025

Morganland Car Show
3120 Weidasville Road
Orefield, PA

For Sale

1956 Packard Convertible

Needs restoration.
Lots of new parts included.
The car is located in Leighton.
(Estate of George Hahn)
Call Greg Bayer
941-799-9096

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN TOURING



- Display your Ontelaunee Tour Banner.
 - If you do not have one, you can purchase one for \$5.00 each from Phyllis Peters.
- If you have a CB Radio, we usually use channel 7.
 - Report problems throughout the tour.
 - Or, obtain the Tourmaster's phone number before departing on tour.
- Keep the tour moving by keeping the car behind you in sight.
- Tourmasters should always drive at a moderate speed, if possible, so that a tour can be enjoyed.

~Phyllis Peters

May Bakers

Sally Getz

Elsa Dages

2025 Events through Summer

See ontelauneeaca.com for details

Monthly Meetings are held at 3:00 pm.
Zion's New Jerusalem UCC,
1456 Krumsville Rd, Lenhartsville, PA 19534
Meetings are held January-May, September-
November
NO Meetings June-August, December

May

May 2-4 : Spring Englishtown

May 4 : Early Bird Tour

May 3: Club Meeting

May 16-17: Imports, Carlisle

May 18 : Apple Blossom Tour

June

NO CLUB MEETING

June 6-8: Fords at Carlisle

June 8: Church Tour

June 20-21: GMs at Carlisle

July

NO CLUB MEETING

July 4: Fleetwood Car Show

July 11-13: Chryslers at Carlisle

July 13: Picnic Tour

July 21: DAF Pin Find

July 28: DAF Stake Out

August

NO CLUB MEETING

August 1-3: Das Awkscht Fescht

August 1-3: Truck Nationals at Carlisle

August 17 : Dog Days Tour

August 21-23: Corvettes at Carlisle

August 30: Duryea, Boyertown

2025 National Events

May 1-3: Western Spring
Nationals/Grand Nationals, Tucson,
AZ

June 1-7: Vintage Tour (Pre-1932),
Southern/Eastern PA

June 19-21: Eastern Spring National,
WV

July 2-5: Central Spring Nationals,
Auburn, IN

July 24-26: Grand Nationals/ Zenith,
Dayton, OH

August 12-15: Eastern Divisional Tour,
Northern Maine

Thank you

Thank you to Berks Encore for supporting the Ontelaunee AACA and its upcoming events. They post our information for free.

Do you know another location we can post upcoming events? Please let Susan Manwiller know.

See the featured Camaros and Yamahas at **Das Awkscht Fescht**. August 1, 2, and 3. Enjoy the Corvettes! Register your classic car, rod, truck or motorcycle now at <https://awkscht.com/registration/>.



Photo credit: Bob Hobaugh

Tour Registration Forms

Cost Members \$15/Non-Members \$25/Children 6-12 \$5/Under 6 Free

Checks Payable to Ontelaunee AACA

Early Bird Tour: May 4

Members' Names: _____

Non-Members' Names: _____

Children 6-12: _____ Children under 6: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mail Form to: Suzy McGovern, 129 Dry Hollow Rd, Bernville, PA 19506 |
814-788-0801

Apple Blossom Tour: May 18

Members' Names: _____

Non-Members' Names: _____

Children 6-12: _____ Children under 6: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mail Form to: Barbara Koch 710 Carolina Ave Reading, PA 19605
610-816-5586 |

Church Tour: June

Members' Names: _____

Non-Members' Names: _____

Children 6-12: _____ Children under 6: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mail Form to: Jeff Dotterer, 202 Donne Rd, Hamburg, PA 19526 |
610-914-4808 |

Membership Updates

Members' Name: _____

Reason for update: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mail Form to: Phyllis Peters 5265 Elgen Dr, Emmaus, PA 18049 |
(610) 965-9236 |

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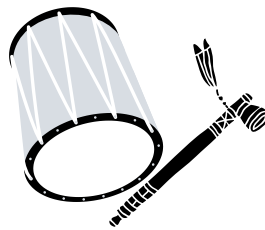
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO :



Ontelannee Region

We are dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of antique cars, trucks and motorcycles.



- May 2-4 : Spring Englishtown
- May 4 : Early Bird Tour
- May 3: Club Meeting
- May 16-17: Imports, Carlisle
- May 18 : Apple Blossom Tour

May 2025

Tin 'n Brass

Antique Automobile Club of America