



# TIN 'N BRASS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
ONTELAUNEE AACA  
OFFICIAL CHAPTER OF THE AACA



*Steve Moskowitz, CEO, National AACA  
2026 Convention*

## Can you hear me now?

The Verizon television commercials have made the slogan, "can you hear me now" popular. We think it is a question we all should be asking ourselves. Do our members hear us? Are we communicating enough? Do we provide club members, region members and chapter members with enough information to allow them to enjoy our clubs to the fullest? If we are not, we MUST.

We have long since passed the days when the club magazine and the regions/chapters newsletters were the only source to get the word out. Technology has made major inroads to the way we now get a lot of our daily information from the news to sports and yes to our club. We are now in a world that demands instant communication and the sources are vast. It is incumbent on all leaders to make sure we take advantage of the resources available to get our fellow members engaged.

Today, AACA has many methods of communication. We not only have our fabulous magazine but our monthly newsletter, Speedster, our website, newsletter, to this Rummage Box, Judges accounts, Facebook, Instagram, and email blasts. National wants to get the word out so news Informing is always close at hand. our members gives them a better experience and allows them to enjoy all that the club has to offer.

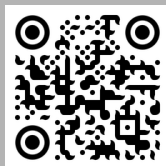
What are you doing to stay in touch with your fellow members? We have too many regions/chapters who do not have even a quality newsletter. Websites may seem daunting for some but national hosts them for free and can provide a template to start a site. If that is too big a challenge, there is always a Facebook page. Does your region have a method to call people or email them when something urgent is happening? You should have an emergency plan in place

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Zion's New Jerusalem UCC,  
Lenhartsville

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[ontelauneeaca.com](http://ontelauneeaca.com)



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@ontelauneeaca.com](mailto:newsletter@ontelauneeaca.com)

for the web - [webmaster@ontelauneeaca.com](mailto:webmaster@ontelauneeaca.com)

Need help? Your national headquarters staff, especially Pat Buckley can help you start a website or assist you with ideas for a newsletter. Others in our office can explain Facebook and other technology. Also, we have national directors that will be happy to assist you. So, you are not left without paths to better communication. We are certain that our local clubs will be much more vibrant if their respective clubs maintain an appropriate cadence of staying in touch with its members.

There are other ways to communicate and we are even investigating the idea of offering podcasts, thereby being able to deliver informative and entertaining material to our membership in an entirely new format. In changing times, AACA needs to change in order to communicate more with you, our members. While all of these communication "devices" exist, they are worthless if people do not take advantage of them. So please, do not ignore correspondence that comes to you by your region/ chapter or national. You will be better for it and your enjoyment of AACA will skyrocket!

~Steve Moskowitz

## From the Editor's Desk

### Making Our Website Work for Everyone

At our recent meeting, I introduced a topic that is becoming increasingly important for our club: website accessibility. Most people hear that word and picture ramps, curb cuts, or screen readers for the visually impaired. Those tools matter, but accessibility online reaches much further than that.

At its core, accessibility means that every member, regardless of age, device, or ability, can visit our website, find what they need, and leave feeling informed rather than frustrated.

### Simple changes, real impact

An accessible website uses:

- Clear, readable fonts at a comfortable size
- Strong contrast between text and background
- Logical page structure so visitors find information quickly
- Layouts that guide the eye rather than overwhelm it

When a page is cluttered, the text is too small, or navigation is unclear, the brain works harder than it should. People lose patience. They miss updates. Sometimes they stop visiting altogether. As we move more club communications online, event schedules, newsletters, and urgent notices, we cannot afford to lose members at the front door.

### What we are doing about it

Over the coming weeks, I will be working with our webmaster to conduct a structured accessibility audit of the Ontelaunee Region AACA website. Our focus will be on improving clarity, readability, and overall ease of use.

### How you can help

As you browse the site, take note of:

- Text that feels hard to read
- Pages that seem confusing or disorganized
- Information that takes too long to find

If something catches your attention, send us the page URL and a brief note. The faster we hear about a problem, the faster we can fix it.

*Our goal is simple: every member should be able to read, navigate, and use our website with ease. When information flows clearly, our club stays connected.*



~Cheri Dotterer

[newsletter@ontelauneeaca.com](mailto:newsletter@ontelauneeaca.com)

## President's Message

### On the Road Again

We've completed our first service project for 2026: the Ontelaunee Swap Meet. The weather was fairly good, and we had a lot of help from club members. Thanks to everyone who came out on Saturday and/or Sunday. You made the Swap Meet work and generated the income our club needed.

And now, the driving tour season gets underway. Our outings to many varied, interesting, and informative places have always been enjoyable: John Updike's childhood home, a wolf sanctuary, the Museum of Indian Culture, the Seltzer's smokehouse meats tour, just to name a few. Plus, we've already completed our first tour of 2026, an illuminating trip to the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing, which preserves and interprets the history of motorsports in our region.

If you have an idea for a place that club members might enjoy visiting, why not volunteer to put together a tour? It's not hard to do, and many club members will gladly help you. Three tours for this year are still open. Or, if you just have a place you think would be good to visit, let one of the officers or tour masters know, and someone else might want to put together a driving tour to go there.

I'm responsible for the Church Tour this year, and I plan to take us somewhere different on Sunday, June 7, to a Hindu temple in Schuylkill Haven. Hinduism is the world's oldest living religion, and its followers make it the third-largest faith worldwide and in the United States (where 3.6 million adherents live and worship). Hinduism encourages service to the community and the maintenance of sacred spaces. Worship and obligations highlight spiritual growth.

You'll find the registration form for the tour in this newsletter, and I'll say more about Hinduism and what we'll see and do on the tour in next month's edition.



~Tim Hinkle



The Hindu Temple in Schuylkill Haven

## From your Membership Chair

### NATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

We have four free memberships available to individuals who have never been AACA members. If you know someone who may be interested, please have them contact me. I will ensure they receive the necessary paperwork.

Those who take advantage of this offer must also join Ontelaunee. This is a one-year-only membership, so it is important to act as soon as possible to take full advantage of this opportunity.

### KEEP ME INFORMED

If you have any updates or corrections to your information in the future, please let me know so I can keep our membership records up to date. It is also important to keep your roster current by noting new members, as well as those who have passed away or chosen not to renew. Keeping our records accurate makes it easier for members to stay connected.

I rely on you to share these updates. If someone is in the hospital or on the sick list, I would appreciate it if you let me know. If a club member has passed away, I would also greatly appreciate a phone call.

### PLEASE REMOVE FROM YOUR ROSTER

Due to the non-renewal of the Region or National membership.

- William & Bernadette Abate
- Albert & Lesley Davis
- Thomas & Ginny Gatley
- John Heyer
- Kathy DeHaven (Tom Hudecki's wife)
- E. Fred Kriszat
- Michael & Jill Naugle
- Goldie Rhode
- Dalton & Jan Semmel
- Robert & Lisa Shettsline
- Mark & Denise Wagner
- Bryan Wagner
- Richard Ditzler
- Nora & Glenn Danenhower
- Carol Allen
- Raymond Fischer



Contact: Phyllis Peters

5265 Elgen Drive, Emmaus, PA 18049

610-965-9236 | phyllispeters@hotmail.com

## April Birthdays

- 4/9 – Kenneth Dages
- 4/13 – Susan Hinkle
- 4/22 – Thomas Kidd
- 4/27 – Michael Wolfe



## April Anniversaries

- 4/20 – Kenneth & Elsa Dages



# Happy Easter!



## Secretary's Report

President Tim Hinkle called the meeting to order on March 7, 2026, at the New Jerusalem Zion UCC Church, Krumsville, PA, at 3:00 pm, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. There were 28 people present.

Susan Manwiller gave the Secretary's report from the business meeting held on February 7, 2026. A motion to approve the secretary's report was made by Minnie Breininger and seconded by Ken Dages. The motion carried.

Lester Manwiller presented the Treasurer's report for February 2026. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Mike Wolfe and seconded by Cheri Dotterer. The motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership:** Phyllis Peters gave the following report.

*Sick List:* Members signed a get-well card for Audrey Merkel, who had knee surgery. Ray Huber had knee surgery, is doing well, and was at the meeting. A get-well card was sent to Elaine Baer, who has a meniscus problem in her knee. A get-well card was sent to Bill Weber, who had brain surgery. A "missing you" card was sent to John Heyer, but there was no response. A bereavement card was sent to Judy Fischer for the loss of her husband and the past president, Ray.

*Roster:* A list of all people who didn't renew should be in the April newsletter. Please keep your roster up to date with any changes.

*National Memberships:* Phyllis has 4 free National memberships available for anyone who would like to join and has not previously been an AACA member.

Phyllis read an article from the East Penn Press about the Emmaus Grundslow Lodge. They closed in January after 63 years due to declining membership, deaths, and the failing health of board members. They also had

increasing difficulty finding people fluent in the PA German dialect. Neil Merkel spoke about the Kutztown Lodge, which has the same problems. He said some lodges now invite women and speak in PA Dutch and English.

**Website:** Cheri Dotterer reported for Michael Dotterer. In February, 436 new users viewed the home page, swap meet, newsletters, feature articles, and calendar.

**Newsletter:** Cheri received the 2025 AACA Award of Excellence. According to Dave Anspach, our newsletter is missing articles from National, like from the Rummage Box.

**Activities:** Suzy McGovern was absent. She has enough bakers for the year but needs tour masters for three tours.

Bob Hobaugh reported on the Early Bird Tour from March 6. Eighteen people enjoyed visiting the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing in York Springs, PA. The Museum will help promote our show and have a table at DAF depicting Reading Fairgrounds racing.

- Apple Blossom Tour – Sunday, May 17 – Tour Masters Cheri and Jeff Dotterer going to Special Olympics Benefit Car Show at A.D. Moyer Lumber, Kutztown.
- Church Tour – June 7 – Tour Masters Tim and Sue Hinkle will have a guided tour of a Hindu Temple in Schuylkill County, followed by lunch at Manheim Diner.
- Picnic Tour – Tour Masters Neil and Audrey Merkel are looking into going to Dreibelbis Farm.
- Dog Days Tour – Open
- Three-Day Tour – September 11, 12, 13 – Tour Masters Mike and Donna Wolfe to Lukan's Farm Resort. Ten rooms have been reserved and are spoken for.
- Fall Foliage Tour – Open
- Applejack & Cider Tour – Open

**Leesport Swap Meet:** Lester gave a breakdown of income and expenses from the swap meet. He thanked everyone who helped. Discussion on whether to continue having a white elephant stand. Is it worth the amount of work when stuff didn't sell? There doesn't seem to be enough women. We can talk more about it at next month's meeting. Jeff thanked everyone who helped park. Having a separate entrance and exits helped. Thank you to Leroy Hinkle for making the signs.

**Das Awkscht Fescht:** Chairman Bob Hobaugh reported:

1. Received \$2400 from 3 sponsors toward tents.
2. The Eastern Museum of Motor Racing will promote DAF.
3. We need to update the registration form for the Spring mailing.
4. Mail registration forms before May 15 to save on mailing permit costs.
5. Will have a Ray Fischer Memorial at DAF. Ray was instrumental in getting race cars as a class in AACA.
6. Pontiac/Oakland will not be the feature car for 2027. Bob is taking recommendations for a feature car. We need a commitment from a feature car club before 2027 registration forms are printed for this year's Fescht.
7. Bob needs a third tent to handle day-of-show registrations.
8. Tim mentioned that the Dodge Charger will turn 50 in 2027.

**President's Banquet:** Nov. 15, 2026 – Tim Hinkle reports it will be held at Blue Mtn. Restaurant.

**Christmas Party:** December 13, 2026 – Leroy Hinkle reported that prices at NOVA have increased. After a lengthy search, Vas and Leroy found a balloon twister for entertainment.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Jeff said the Facebook page is set up and went live before the swap meet. It is under Ontelaunee AACA. Be sure to follow and hit like.

2. Although Lester was able to take credit cards at the swap meet with "Square" credit card processing, no one asked to pay by credit card. There are no monthly fees; there is a small transaction fee.
3. We will be accepting credit cards at DAF for day-of-show registrations. Details will be discussed with Amy.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Cheri spoke about the Software Applications Accessibility Act, a proposed bill in the Senate and the House that aims to ensure that digital platforms are accessible to people with disabilities. If passed, this would mean that everything on our website would need to be accessible to people who are blind, colorblind, or hearing-impaired. Membership forms and events would need to be accessible and paid for online. The Legislative person at AACA will be looking into it.
2. May 9, 2026 – Wheels for Victory Car Show at Kempton, PA. Neal Merkel will have flyers at next month's meeting.
3. The club received a thank-you card from Judy Fischer for the donation to the East Franklin Fire Dept. in memory of Ray Fischer.

Thanks to Donna Wolfe and Suzy McGovern for refreshments.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 pm was made by Cheri Dotterer and seconded by Bob Hobaugh. The motion carried. Next meeting is **April 4 at 3:00 p.m.**



~Susan Manwiller, Secretary



## Early Bird Tour

### Exploring Racing History at EMMR

On March 6, 2026, eighteen members of the Ontelaunee Region toured the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing (EMMR) in York Springs. Our tour guide, Second Vice President Mike Winslow, shared insights into the museum's mission to preserve American motor racing history, especially the "Pennsylvania Posse" and their race cars.

EMMR features sprint cars, midgets, quarter midgets, funny cars, straight-line racers, and stock cars—many of the same classes we plan to display at Das Awkscht Fescht this year. The museum spans 62 acres and includes three main sections plus a pole building.

The first section highlights sprint and midget cars from John Gerber's 1928 Dreyer through Lynn Paxton's 1980s sprint cars, including Tommy Hinnershitz's Miracle Power car. The second section includes dragsters, a Bruce Larson funny car, stock cars, and a scale model of the Reading Fairgrounds. The third section features motorcycles, a belly tank racer, a huckster truck, and a future Board Track exhibit.

In the pole building, members viewed Bill Elliott NASCAR racers, quarter midgets, and unique vehicles, including a center-seat 1975 Vega. Mike also shared his modified 1936 Ford.

EMMR was founded through the efforts of racer Lynn Paxton, with contributions from our late member Ray Fischer. Several members purchased books by Paxton and Gerber during the visit.

Following the tour, we traveled scenic back roads to Lyndon Diner in York, passing areas tied to both Florita's and my family histories. As always, the food was excellent, reminding us

that Ontelaunee tours come with one happy expectation—good fellowship and a great meal. As Leroy Hinkle said, "We came, we saw—let's eat."



~Bob Hobaugh

~Bob and Florita Hobaugh



Scan the QR Code with your phone to see a short video from the tour.

1. Open your phone app
2. Tap the link from Facebook that appears

## Classic Parts, Modern Searches Hunting for Parts the Old- Fashioned Way

For many years, local auto parts stores were all we had. Back then, many of those stores stayed busy and carried a huge inventory. That worked because parts were reasonably priced and often fit a wide range of vehicles. If it fit one year's Chevy, chances were good it fit several more from the same era.

Most of those stores were family-run businesses that offered real personal service. They were well known in the community, and walking through the door felt a lot like stepping into a Cheers episode, where everybody knew your name. The best countermen hardly needed to open a parts book. The numbers seemed permanently stored in their memory. Ask for a thermostat for a Dodge, and they would return it from the shelf in less than a minute with the part...and the gasket to go with it.



Sadly, chain stores like NAPA and Advance Auto pushed many of those independents out of business. That is not to say the chain stores are bad, but they do not offer that same hometown feel or the experience of dealing with an old, trusted friend. Even today, if you can still find one of the old independents in business, you are often better off shopping there than relying on a big-name store with a young counter person who may not even know what brand made your Galaxie.

**So what can you still get for old cars?**

You might be surprised. If the car is not too old, there is a good chance the local store may not have the part on the shelf, but can usually get it by the next day. Brakes, belts, hoses, water pumps, fuel pumps, filters, and other common wear items are often still available without too much trouble. Trim and body parts are another story, but many mechanical parts can still be found.

For cars from the 1960s and newer, parts are usually not a problem. For many 1950s vehicles, it is still possible to find most wear parts. For pre-war cars, however, you are generally down to marque specialists.

Here in Hamburg, Threns Auto Parts is about all that remains of the independents that once served this area. Threns was



formerly a Western Auto store and has remained family-run since 1937. Yes, they have modernized.

They use computers and stock bubble-pack parts on the shelves as the chains do. But they still offer something the chain stores cannot: a familiar face behind the counter, someone who will help you find the right part and give you the satisfaction of spending your money locally.

I would bet that if you look around, there is still a place like that somewhere near you.

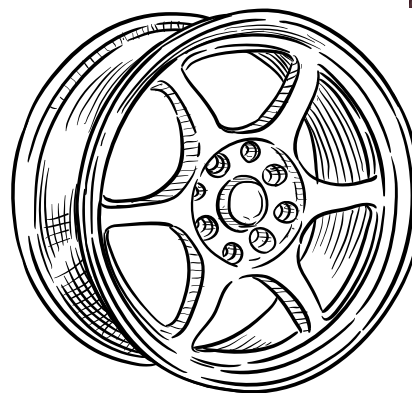
But do not wait too long.

Support them while they are still here, because we are losing more of these hometown parts stores every year.

Good luck, and have a great month hunting for parts.



~Jeff Dotterer



**2026 Officers and Board Members      2026 Committee Chairpersons**

- President                      Tim Hinkle
- 1st V. President            Michael Wolfe
- 2nd V. President            Leroy Hinkle
- Secretary                    Susan Manwiller
- Treasurer                    Lester Manwiller
- Board Chair                 Jeff Dotterer
- Directors                     Elaine Baer
- Shirley Schaffer
- Marilyn Roth
- Ray Huber

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

## 2026 Events

See [ontelauneeaca.com](http://ontelauneeaca.com) for details

Monthly Chapter 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

### April

April 4: Chapter Meeting

### May

May 2: Chapter Meeting

May 17: Apple Blossom Tour - Jeff Dotterer

### June

June 7: Church Tour - Tim Hinkle

## 2026 National Events

April 9-11, 2026

Southeastern Spring Nationals

Charlotte, N.C. • Hornets Nest Region

April 23-25, 2026

Annual Grand Nationals/Western Spring Nats

Las Vegas • Las Vegas Region

May 28-30, 2026 – Eastern Spring Nationals –

Indiana, PA – hosted by Shannock Valley Region

June 11-13, 2026 – Southeastern Fall Nationals –

Oak Ridge, TN – hosted by Volunteer Region

June 15-19, 2026 – Sentimental Tour –

Mechanicsburg, PA – hosted by Oakland-

Pontiac Worldwide Region

## Bakers for Meetings

APRIL

1. Barbara Todd
2. Barbara Koch

## Apple Blossom Tour



Date: May 17

Departure: Greenwich Elementary

Time: Arrive 6:45 AM

Leave: 7:15 AM

Destination AD Moyer Kutztown Car Show -  
Benefiting the Special Olympics Berks County  
Softball

Breakfast: Airport Diner, Kutztown

Tour Host: Jeff and Cheri Dotterer

Registration Deadline: May 8, 2026

**Guest Speaker:** Steve Reinert will be joining us at our April Meeting to share more about this event.

## Church Tour



Date: June 7

Departure: Cabela's, 100 Cabela Dr, Hamburg, PA  
19526

Meet: 8:30 AM

Leave: 9:00 AM

Destination: Vraj Hindu Temple, 51 Manor Road,  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

10:30 AM: Prayer service, information, & Tour

Lunch: 12:30 PM: Manheim Diner

1514 PA 61, Schuylkill Haven 17972

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2026

## 2026 Events in Eastern PA

April 12: Cars and Coffee

9 AM - 12 PM

Andre's Automotive Solutions LLC

820 State Street, Mertztown, PA 19530

April 22-25: Spring Carlisle, Carlisle, PA

May 9: Wheels for Victory

10 AM - 3 PM

Kempton Community Center

Benefits Victory Junction

May 9: Indoor/Outdoor Swap Meet

8 AM - 3 PM

Classic Auto Mall, Morgantown, PA

May 24: Berks Cars and Coffee

8 AM - 12 PM

Riverfront Federal Credit Union

2609 Keiser Blvd, Wyomissing, PA 19610



## Early Bird Tour Highlights



Diarama Reading Fairgrounds Race Track



Hiram Hillegass racecar - Ontelaunee Members



1932 Willys tow car



Chevy ZL-1 Aluminum Big Block



Bill Elliott's NASCAR Winston Cup Car



1957 Chevy late model racecar

## Swap Meet Thanks

Lester and Jeff would like to thank all members and their families who made the Ontelaunee Swap and Car Corral 2026 such a success. The day started with an inch of snow predicted, which never showed up. But the vendors did. So did you. A special thanks to our outdoor workers for a great job while enduring the cold. The club did well thanks to your commitment. See you there in 2027!

~Lester Manwiller & Jeff Dotterer

Cost Members including immediate family: \$25, 6-12 \$5, Under 6 Free

### Tour Registration Forms

Checks Payable to Ontelaunee Region AACA

Non-Members: Actual cost of the event

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## Apple Blossom Tour

Sunday, May 17, 2026  
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, May 8, 2026

Members' Names: (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Members' Names: (\$32) \_\_\_\_\_  
Children 6-12: (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_ Children under 6: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: Jeff Dotterer | 202 Donne Road, Hamburg, PA 19526  
dcparts@comcast.net | 610-914-4808 | Cheri 610-914-9919

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## Church Tour

Sunday, June 7, 2026  
DEADLINE: FRIDAY, May 15, 2026

Members' Names: (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Members' Names: (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_  
Children 6-12: (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_ Children under 6: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form to: Tim Hinkle | 712 East 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Northampton, PA 18067  
Home 610-262-8572 | Sue Cell 610-703-8456



Cheri Dotterer  
editor: Tin 'n Brass  
P.O. Box 354  
Hamburg, PA 19526

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# Ontelaunee Region

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

TO :



April 4: Chapter Meeting

**Antique Automobile Club of America**  
**Tin 'n Brass**